Department of Information & Communication Technology
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Human Computer Interaction (ICT3152)
Assignment 01 - Report

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Table of Contents

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to analyze all the government university websites of Sri Lanka and evaluate the top five university websites which gives the better user experience.

Gathering information which is needed is done by visiting individual sites by a desktop browser respectively and evaluating their user experience as a personal individual experience.

The top five university websites which gives the best user experience **as per my own experience** was,

1. University of Kelaniya.
2. University of Visual and Performing Arts.
3. University of Sri Jayewardenepura
4. Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
5. University of Jaffna
   According to the order they have arranged.

The user experience of a website can be different for one person to another because of the personal matters and how they look at the specific site. Overall user experience can be measured by a survey, which can be done by a sample of people who visit those sites.

1. University of Kelaniya

URL: https://www.kln.ac.lk/
Access Date: 2022-02-23

Positives

- Small top bar which contains essential information and language changes.
  - Users can quickly change site language.
  - Contact details are highlighted if anyone needs to contact the university.
- Dynamic cover image.
  - Cover image is replaced when there is a special occasion or event. It acts like a wallpaper to the site. When the cover image is fully viewed, the menu bar becomes transparent to give a better view of the cover image to the user.
- Clear menu bar.
  - Menu bar is clear and divided into groups.
  - The menu bar has automatic dropdowns when the mouse pointer reaches the area.
- Good Structure.
  - Structure is good and easy to navigate.
- A nice image above the footer.
  - It's not common to see an image before the footer.
  - It gives an attractive finishing to the page.
- Simple footer.
  - Footer is simple and does the job.
  - It gives a simple look to the user instead of a complex set of navigation links.

Negatives

- Theme color is hard for eyes.
  - The site is using yellow and maroon colors as theme colors, because of the University theme colors.
- Some sections are not fully optimized.
  - The tiles under the Kelaniya Events section display a "Wait for updates" message when there is no data to display. It can completely remove the tile instead of displaying something like that.

2. University of Visual and Performing Arts

URL: https://vpa.ac.lk/
Access Date: 2022-02-23

Positives

- Animated, smooth navigation bar.
  - Navigation bar has smooth navigation which gives users a dynamic experience.
  - It has auto dropdown menus which are categorized under topics.
- Good animations.
  - Overall, the site has smooth and attractive animations.
- Cover size is good.
  - Cover image size is good, and it changes according to time.
  - The text above the cover image also has transition animation.
- Good icons.
  - Icons have good resolution and do not get blurred when zooming in.
- Perfectly partitioned.
  - The site is well partitioned with a horizontal line which has the topic at the middle.
  - Some sections can be clicked to visit relevant pages.
- "Top" button on the footer bar.
  - There is a "top" button at the bottom of the page to quickly navigate to the top of the site. It reduces time on navigating the site.

Negatives

- Theme color is very hard for eyes.
  - The theme color combined with maroon and red colors is very hard to human eyes.
  - While the icons also use the same colors as their background, it became more difficult for the user to keep eyes on the site for a long time.
- Slow loading.
  - Site loading is comparably slow.
  - Most probably the reason is using a lot of animations.

3. University of Sri Jayewardenepura

URL: https://www.sjp.ac.lk/
Access Date: 2022-02-23

Positives

- Dual menu bars which contain different selections.
  - There are two navigation bars which give different selections to the user.
  - The top bar provides links for main pages, and the second bar has navigation links through the site.
- Auto resizing logo.
  - The logo is automatically resizing according to user navigation.
  - Logo and the below navigation bar auto shrink when the user navigates to the button part of the site for giving more view space to the user.
- Clear icons.
  - Icons are good and have good dpi.
  - Icons clearly represent the idea which it meant to be.
- Well Partitioned.
  - The site is well partitioned for better user experience.
  - Site users horizontal lines to partition sections.
  - Has good, consistent font styles and sizes for topics.
- Clear fonts.
  - The site uses a variety of web fonts to give a pleasant and clear experience to the user.
  - The site uses sans fonts, which clearly display on modern displays.

Negatives

- Theme color is not so attractive.
  - The mix of yellow and maroon colors is not giving a good visual impact on the user.
  - Maroon color is used a lot for backgrounds, which gives a more bad impression. Theme colors can be used on borders instead of backgrounds.
- Huge cover image which covers a lot of view space.
  - The cover image is oversized, and it has a low resolution. It gives a bad impression to visitors.

4. Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

URL: https://www.sab.ac.lk/
Access Date: 2022-02-23

Positives

- Theme color is okay.
  - The designer used the maroon color effectively while keeping the user experience good.
  - Maroon color is used for borders and the lines instead of backgrounds.
- Good dual navigation bar.
  - Navigation bar is separated to two for clear deviation between main pages and navigation.
- Perfectly sized cover image.
  - Cover images are sized perfectly, and they have an auto transition effect.
  - Cover images can be slides using small arrows which are present at the both sides of the cover image.
- Clear selection buttons.
  - Selection buttons are very clear and placed at a good place to attract user attention.
  - Button icons give a quick impression to the user before reading the text.
- Well categorized.
  - The site has good compartmentalization, and it simplifies the user experience.

Negatives

- Site footer is too complex.
  - The site footer is oversized and too complicated with a lot of links.
  - Complex footer is ignored by many users because it takes a lot of time to read its content.
- Some buttons are odd looking and not animated.
  - Site buttons do not look like a button and do not give a dynamic experience because of the lack of animations.

5. University of Jaffna

URL: http://www.jfn.ac.lk/
Access Date: 2022-02-23

Positives

- Great theme color.
  - Theme color is good for the human eye, and the developer used it very effectively with the site design.
- Clear animated main buttons.
  - Main selection buttons are clear and get user attention. They also have nice animations which give a live loot to the user.
- Simple and clear design.
  - Overall design is very simple and clear for the user.
- Very straightforward.
  - The functions are presented to the user directly without any diversions.
- Fast loading.
  - The site is loading fast and displays the content to the user very quickly.

Negatives

- Not a full sized site. (Looks old)
  - The site is not optimized for wide screens.
  - Because of that, the overall user experience is getting bad.
- Not so informative.
  - The site is not informative, while it uses a very simple layout. A new user may be confused about the links, which don't give an idea on first impression.

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