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Composing Digital Media

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For this project, I wanted to make a website that centered on an interactive literary magazine that featured intersectional books, authors, and topics. There would be a blog and forum where readers could discuss the latest news and literature related to feminist, economic, socialist, and political issues. There would be a book selected once a week that would be featured and a list of areas where there would be reading events. In my major, my peers and professors really emphasize the literary community. We often ask how we can expand it and make it more welcoming to other people. I believe that this website could have the potential to solve this issue.

I was not familiar with HTML and CSS at all before I entered this class. To be honest, coding is still overwhelming for me. However, I think I have gotten a better grasp at the program, Atom, as I have continued working on this project. First, I started off with a basic skeleton, including headers, an ordered list, and paragraphs. I broke down the summary of my project. After, I knew I wanted to add pictures, but I struggled with figuring out how to upload them. At first, I tried to follow at tutorial and uploading them that way, but it wasn’t linking to the source properly. In the end, I found out I could just add in the direct link. However, after adding in several pictures, I noticed that they were making the rest of the page off balanced, the words wrapping around the pictures at odd angles. I researched how to figure this out and realized that I needed to add the “float” command. Once I did that, resizing the width and heights of the pictures as well, they were all lined up neatly in a row.

Next, I knew I needed to add in <div> command. I added them around the paragraphs so they would have margins and be centered. I initially thought that divs would be difficult, but I found them to be one of the easier rules of the project. My headers seemed to be off a little as well, so I ended up adding the “text align” rule to place them to the left, and for the title “The Library Card” to be in the center. The website still felt like it was missing something, though, so I decided to add in a banner image. I looked up the code for that online, and found it very easy to insert and link it using #bannerimage. After resizing it multiple times, I felt that it was placed perfectly along the top part of the screen, a stark contrast of color against the gray wording.

I wanted to play around with design more, so I tried finding templates, but once I found one I struggled with unzipping the file onto Atom. The folders would appear, but I couldn’t connect the CSS files onto the HTML page. I eventually just gave up because it was too complicated, and I didn’t want to waste any more time on the project.

I think the most difficult aspect of this project was adding in the buttons. I thought they would be a nice touch to portray a more visual way with how the website would be organized, but their code for CSS had a lot more steps than I expected. For instance, I didn’t realize that I had to name the “button” different names, such as “button-two” so they wouldn’t all be the same color. Then, once I finally figured out how to add in the colors and sizes, I couldn’t get the CSS to connect with HTML. I realized that I hadn’t named the button properly on the CSS. It should’ve been “. button” instead. I also tried figuring out how to make them line up horizontally by using “float”, but no matter how many times I attempted to readjust them, I couldn’t stop them from all bunching up together. In the end, I let them flow down the middle instead. I also added inline elements such as “italics” and “bold” to some captions above them so that way the reader would know what each button stood for. However, I couldn’t get them be centered, even after I added “text-align:center”. I will have to do more research on how to do that for my final submission.

Finally, I had to add in a list of attributes for my pictures. I decided to link to the source where I found them which included the license. At first, I was having trouble with linking because I kept forgetting to close the “href” and I am still unsure how to add just a regular link without a rooted word attached to it, but in the end, I settled on the word “Source” as the hyperlink name. The finishing touch that I added to this project was to add a quote by the poet Rupi Kaur and link her name to her website. I figured that a quote by an author or poet could be added every day and a link to their site could be placed for readers to browse.

The contrast in my piece works by having text that is subtle in color and font, but then using pictures that are bright and colorful. I didn’t want my website to look tacky and I thought that this style grabbed the reader’s attention in a sophisticated, clean look. The organization flows downward so that the reader can easily follow the page, and the size and alignment is effective because I used margins to make sure paragraphs were contained and the pictures were placed horizontal along the text so that it would like they were blocking out the text. My sources for my pictures were all found through creative commons. They can be found listed below this reflection.

Unfortunately, I don’t think that my project exactly meets all aspiration criteria. I really would need to dedicate a lot of time to just learning code, especially flexbox, and with just all of my other assignments and work, I don’t have all that time to commit. It’s rather disappointing, considering so far, I’ve met all of the aspirational criteria for the other projects, but I suppose I’ll make up for it during finals. For the baseline criteria, I stated the purpose, the goals, sub tasks, and attributed assets in the content layer by explaining my inspiration and hopes behind the website. I added in <div> and <strong> elements in around my paragraphs and the button sections as part of my block-level and inline requirements. The CSS rules I wrote and revised were for all of them, including h2, p, div, and .button. I learned how to add colors, width, margins, etc. I incorporated headers and images, and as mentioned before, I used design principles.

For the aspirational criteria, I registered for a Creative Common’s License here: <a rel="license" href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/"><img alt="Creative Commons License" style="border-width:0" src="https://i.creativecommons.org/l/by/4.0/88x31.png" /></a><br /><span xmlns:dct="http://purl.org/dc/terms/" property="dct:title">Literary Website</span> by <a xmlns:cc="http://creativecommons.org/ns#" href="file:///C:/Users/Casey/Desktop/Web%20Page/index.html" property="cc:attributionName" rel="cc:attributionURL">Literary Website</a> is licensed under a <a rel="license" href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License</a>.<br />Based on a work at <a xmlns:dct="http://purl.org/dc/terms/" href="file:///C:/Users/Casey/Desktop/Web%20Page/index.html" rel="dct:source">[file:///C:/Users/Casey/Desktop/Web%20Page/index.html</a](file:///C:/Users/Casey/Desktop/Web%20Page/index.html%3c/a)>. It is listed under an Attribution 4.0 International License. I also included a link to Rupi Kaur’s page and the page for the sources where I got my pictures. I am still learning how to link multiple pages, use more than one non-default font, and “spot” color, but hopefully I learn those steps for my final draft.

Overall, I discovered how to use the minimal requirements for code for this class. While my website does not look like many of my classmate’s, I am still proud with how much I accomplished. I hope that it will only improve by the time I submit my final product for my portfolio.

Sources

File:The Yellow Wall Paper pg 1.jpg by Small, Maynard and Company. 1901. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Yellow_Wall_Paper_pg_1.jpg>

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<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/>

File:Emma Watson 2012.jpg by David Shankbone. 22 April 2012. https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en.

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