

A MISSIONARY'S JOURNEY WEBSITE

A Missionary's Journey Website:

Come and Pray for Us

Part A: Description of the proposed website along with the reason for its selection

The proposed website is for a church in order for users to visually see updates of individuals that are currently on missions. The word 'missions' in this context is "a vocation of a religious organization, especially a Christian one." (Merriam Webster) This often involves sending individuals and groups called missionaries, across geographical boundaries." (Merriam Webster) With this, the website will be a place where these missionaries can update their vocation in real time for the individuals who still reside in Canada can read about news of the missionary's situation and be able to see various photos at a cost-efficient and time-efficient manner. This is assuming if the missionaries have Internet available where they are.

The purpose of this website is to create an online platform instead of the "booklet" alternative as it has been overdone and can be expensive and wasteful overtime as most readers will skim over the booklet and throw it out once they are done. With a website, it provides and ensures the functionality which viewers can be assured regular updates as well as having the ability to share/to send the website link on other social media platforms. This allows the circulation to be more flexible rather than a physical booklet where it requires individuals to subscribe in which overtime mailing/shipping costs can grow overtime. Also, the physical platform will allow users to directly contact the missionaries without going through other medium.

Part B: Prototyping technique(s)/tool(s) selected and reasons for its selection

The prototyping techniques used ranged from sketching on notebook (low fidelity) to a rough mock-up on Balsamiq (medium fidelity). Firstly, I utilized sketching and drawing rough paper diagrams of the proposed website in order to promptly write down all brainstormed ideas before I forget (Figure 7 & 8). During this time, I would be reflecting and thinking about the interface for the website throughout the week and write down ideas and small illustrations. Afterwards, I sat down and looked through my notes and ideas. Then I compiled the ideas and began to sketch out a rough paper interface for each page and/or functionality for my proposed website. Having multiple sketches, I then proceeded to transfer and build my paper interface into a rapid prototyping and mock-up program called Balsamiq (mock-ups in appendix). This program allowed me to then use placeholder icons and assets in order to properly scale down or up all the content that would be on each following webpage without having to design graphically and

digitally just yet. Moreover, at the moment I do not have any specific content compiled or collected and so using this program allowed me to put placeholder items in order for me to observe and analyze if what I sketched on the paper interface can be actualized and to function on the website. All in all, I noticed that using low to medium fidelity prototyping techniques helped me save time and work more efficiently over a course of time rather than only jumping into the medium fidelity prototype method which I believe would not have worked in my favour. The reason for this is because it is difficult to build an idea directly from my mind rather I learned that it is important to write notes and draw out ideas as I go in to gradually build on an idea step by step and it will allow me to reference back to a diagram as I may not be continuously working on the same project every single day.

Part C: Description of the expected users and how the website addresses the information needs (i.e., tasks) of these users

The first type of user would be the church members and/or congregation that the missionary wants to keep updated. For these users, they will be able to browse through the individual's profile and what they have been currently working on in a more seamless and concise manner. Rather than just having text to read through in a pamphlet, the users will get to interact with the timeline and be able to see photos and videos in each time entry on the individual's designated timeline. As it works in a chronological order, the user will be able to follow from the oldest entries (from the left) to the most recent posts (to the right). This format will be able to save pages of entries, rather it allows the timeline to be dynamically changed throughout the years and also having record of past entries on the same webpage instead of referencing back to several booklets.

The second type of user would be the online community who are unable to access and receive the physical copies of a booklet/pamphlet. In this case, users who are in other parts of world will be able to have continuous updates regardless of where they are. Also, with the language functionality, the website will be available with limited number of translated languages in order to reach wider audience rather than printing the same pamphlet in different languages. Moreover, using online translators is more efficient and can enable future expansion if a certain language translator (i.e. expert) is unavailable.

Part D: Description of at least five distinct functionalities your website will supportFunctionality One: Language translation for text on webpage (Figure 1)

With this function, I wanted to be able to reach various audiences who may not be able to read English fluently. By doing so, it provides an option for the user's language of choice if they have trouble reading all content in English. For this function, I utilized a dropdown menu on the top-left section of the page in order for the user to see the option almost immediately to increase the efficiency rather than placing it at the bottom of the page. I wanted it to be as easy for the user to interact with, so I kept it with simple drop-down menu thus making the functionality learnable. The user must click on the icon first to be able to look at the language options available to them.

Functionality Two: Ability to select range of dates for an entry (Figure 2)

By providing the ability for the user to select a time range, they can have options of either navigating through the entries either through the timeline or an expanded entry. With this design, only the dates that are already entered for that specific individual are available. Also, there is an option for the user to go forward or go backwards in timed entries with the following links.

Functionality Three: Scroll through timeline to see overall work over period of time (Figure 3)

With this functionality, it allows the user to have the option of seeing the missionaries vocation through a period of time. As some users may only want to quickly glimpse at the entries in an overarching manner, this function will let them scroll from left to right in a chronological manner that is sensible. When the user clicks a date, they will be linked to the designated entry as shown in Figure 2.

Functionality Four: Clickable/Hovering profiles for users to read through (Figure 4)

By using clickable profiles, it enables the users to scroll through all the individuals who are currently on missions if they only preferred to see that or they can click on the designated image for each individual in order for a textbox to pop-up. With this pop-up, it provides the information about the person's name, length of time in their location and a brief description of their mission and how they have personally been doing so far. In the profile page, the user will hover over the missionary's profile image in order to access their brief biography as the background has a lower

transparency level then it switch back to 100% once the cursor leaves the image. When the user double clicks the image, it will take them to the missionary's individual timeline page.

Functionality Five: Allow users to send comments and questions to the missionary (Figure 5)

With this functionality, I wanted the ability for the users to send comments and questions directly to their chosen individual as some users may be curious about what they are doing. Moreover, if the missionary may be asking for some advice and encouragement in their entries, it allows the users to be part of the missionaries' experience as the users are able to provide real-time support. Rather than making a 2D booklet, it actually allows users to interact with the missionaries themselves.

Functionality Six: Provide links for users to connect on missionary's social media platforms (i.e. Instagram, Facebook, Weibo, Twitter, WordPress, etc.) (Figure 6)

The last functionality is a webpage for each of the missionaries' social media platforms that they are available on. If users want the option of following the individual more closely, they have the option to as this page will compile all their social media links where there may be more photos and videos available to see. Each icon represents the link to their social media platforms and also each icon placed in their section will work.

Conclusion

All in all, the reasons how my design satisfies Nielsen's five components of usability is how most option-related functionalities are in dropdown menus that already have the available selections and the design is simple and straightforward as the timeline entries work in chronological order. With the first reason, it does not require the user to memorize the options and by already providing the options it will create a more efficient experience rather than allowing the user to make spelling errors that the database may not understand. By making it more efficient, the time range selection option will be faster in order to perform the task of searching the entry. For the second reason, I chose a timeline for the user to navigate through as naturally most humans work in a chronological order (left to right) when it comes to time. With this, the timeline makes navigation in this page straightforward with minimal errors as users are only able to click on dates that appear on the webpage. In terms of learnability, it is easy for

users to accomplish the tasks/functionalities for the first time as it mainly requires them to input with the mouse cursor and not having to type except in the Comments page. In the Comments page, I allowed user to fill in two things which is their name and their e-mail. In this case, users are responsible for checking the spelling errors as this is their own personal information. By minimizing the input level, the user only will navigate the website through one peripheral that is the mouse. In terms of aesthetic design, I tried to keep it as simple as possible such as the colour scheme due to the prototyping technique chosen. I wanted the user to be able to understand the overall website first before improving its appearance.

References

Missionary. (n.d.). Retrieved June 5, 2018, from
<https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/missionary>

Appendix

Figure 1: Functionality One – Language Translation

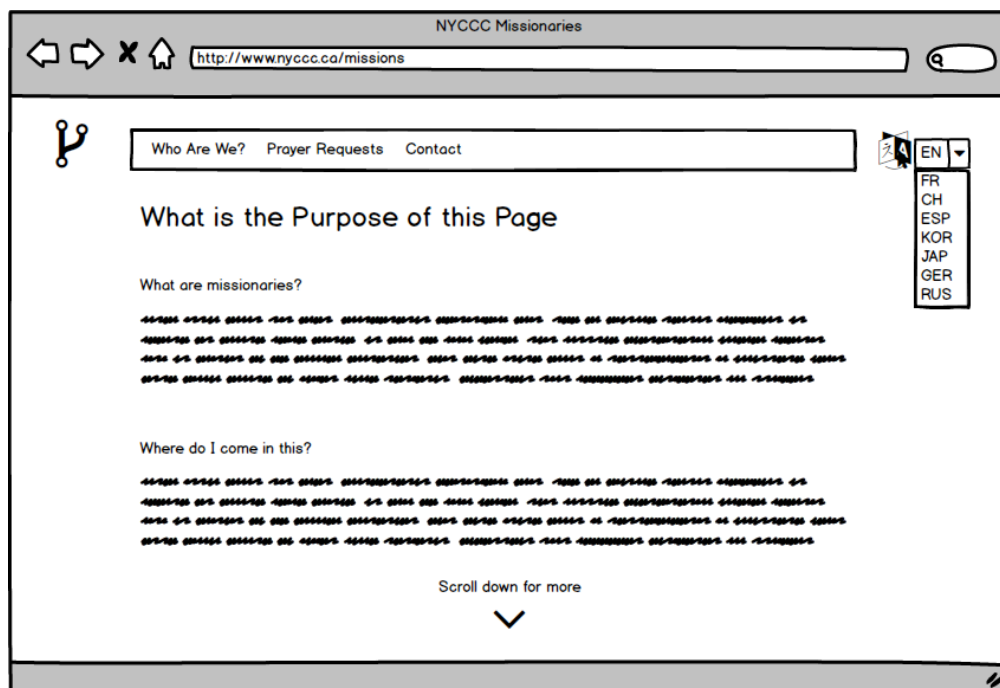


Figure 2: Functionality Two – Ability to select a time range

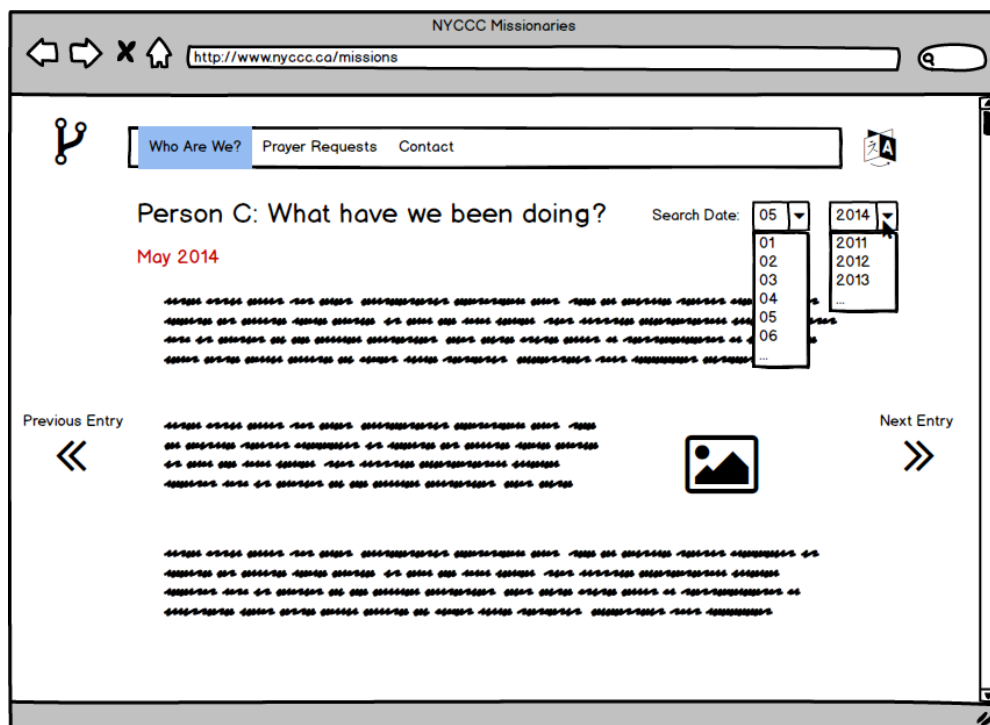


Figure 3: Functionality Three: Timeline Entries

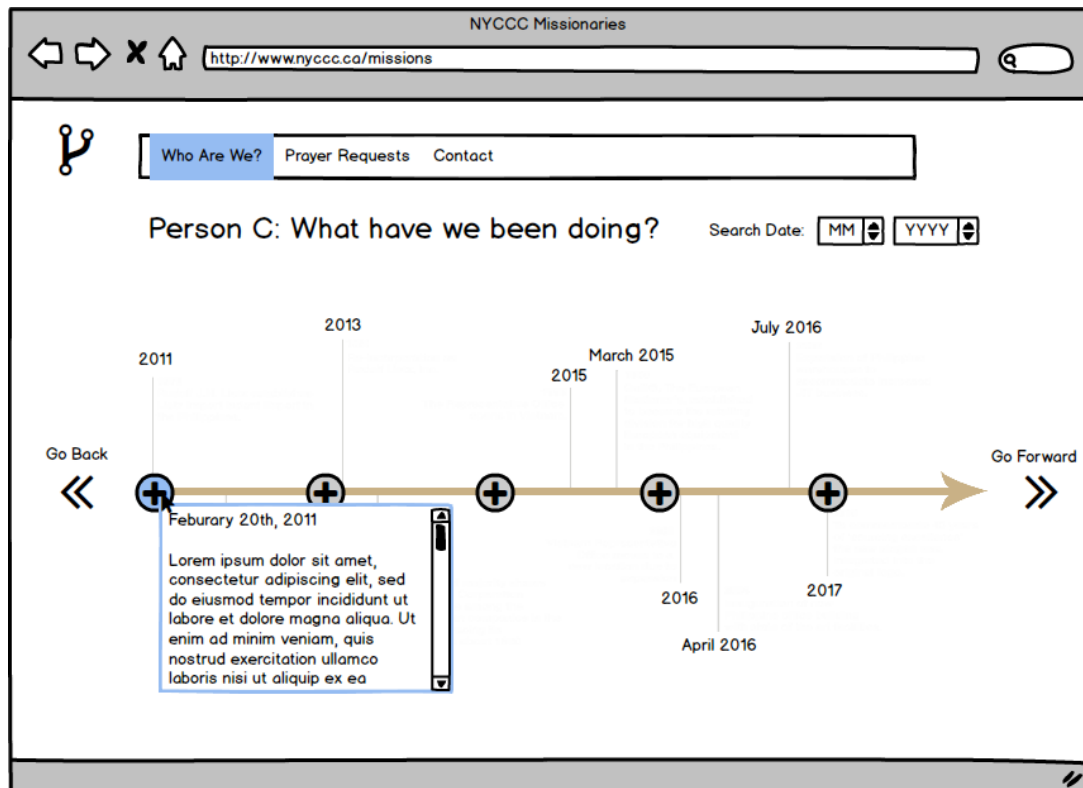


Figure 4: Functionality Four: Profiles of Individuals

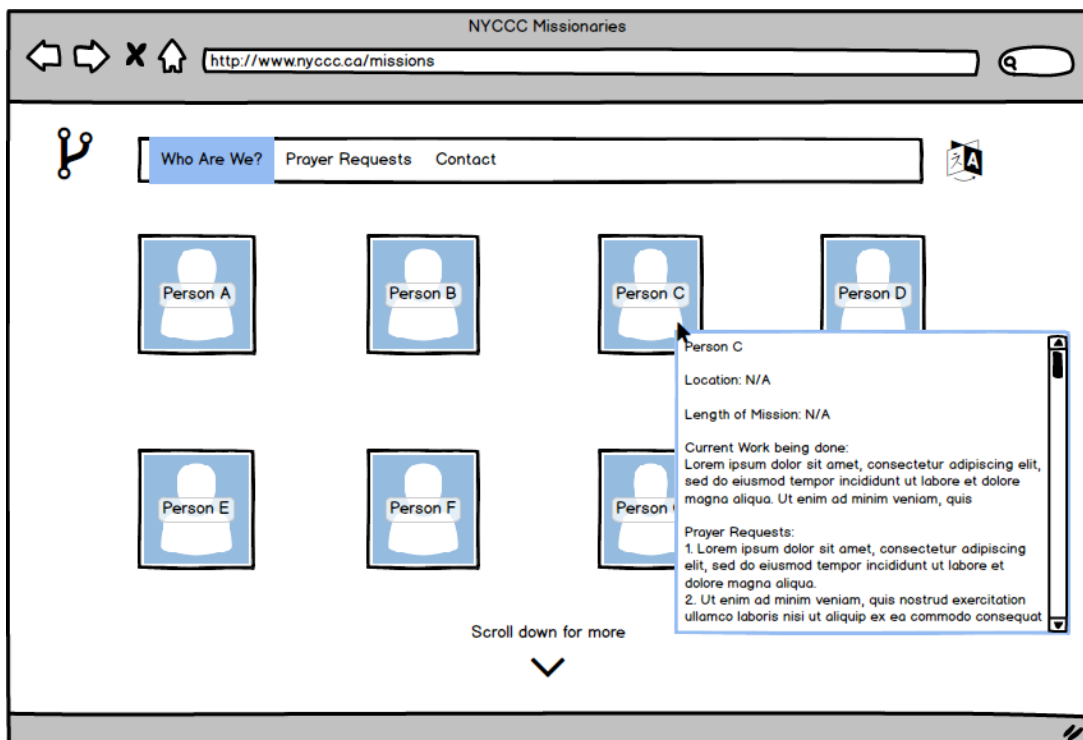


Figure 5: Functionality Five: Comment and Questions Submission

NYCCC Missionaries

http://www.nyccc.ca/missions

Who Are We? **Comments** Contact

Do you have any comments or words of encouragement?

Please leave any comments or questions below:

Enter your name: John Doe

Your email: john.doe@emailaddress.com

To Whom: Person C
Person A
Person B
Person C
Person D
...

Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis iste natus error sit voluptatem accusantium doloremque laudantium, totam rem aperiam, eaque ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odit aut fugit, sed quia consequuntur magni dolores eos qui ratione voluptatem sequi nesciunt. Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, adipisci velit, sed quia non numquam eius modi tempora incidunt ut labore et dolore magnam aliquam quaerat voluptatem. Ut enim ad minima veniam, quis nostrum exercitationem ullam corporis suscipit laboriosam, nisi ut aliquid ex ea commodi consequatur? Quis autem vel eum iure reprehenderit qui in ea voluptate velit esse quam nihil molestiae consequatur, vel illum qui dolorem eum fugiat quo voluptas nulla pariatur?

200 characters

Submit

Figure 6: Functionality Six: Social Media Platform Links

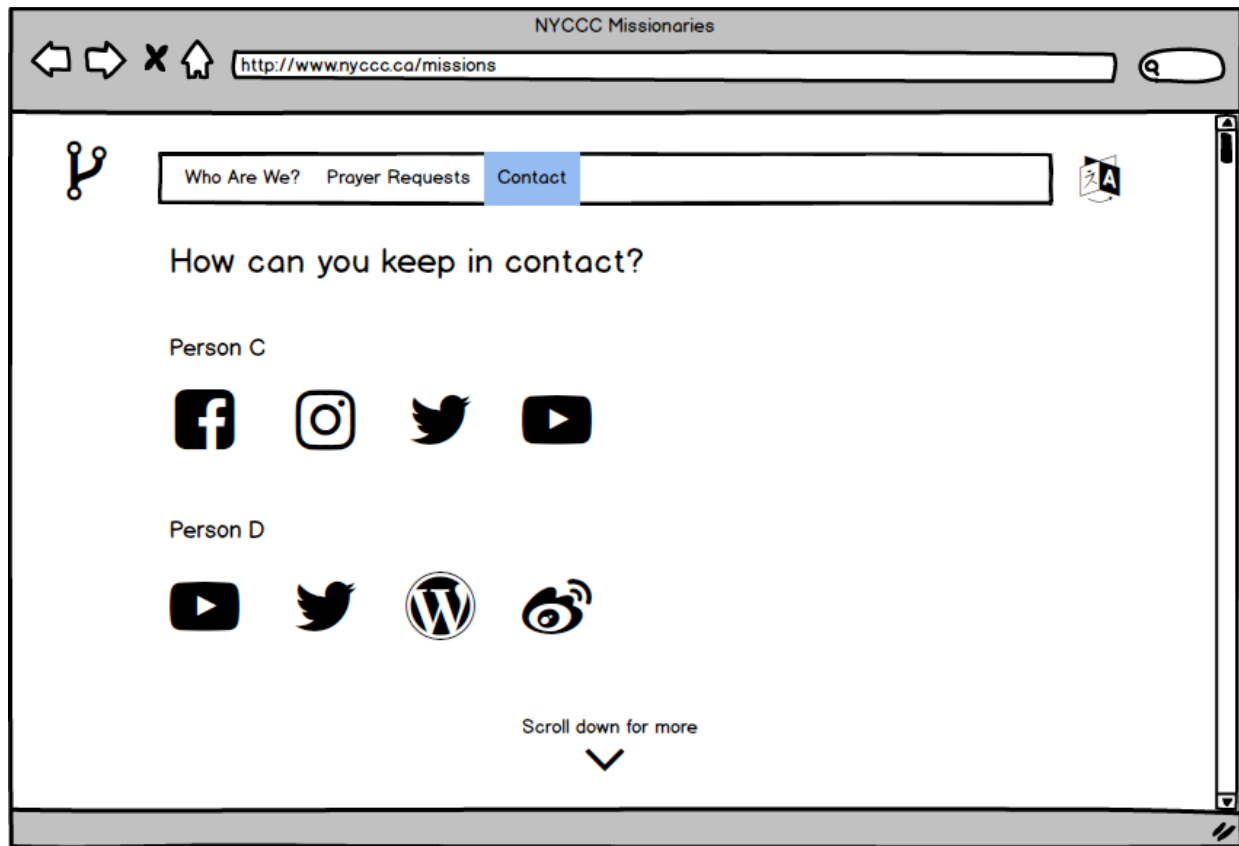


Figure 7: Low Fidelity Prototype – Sketching

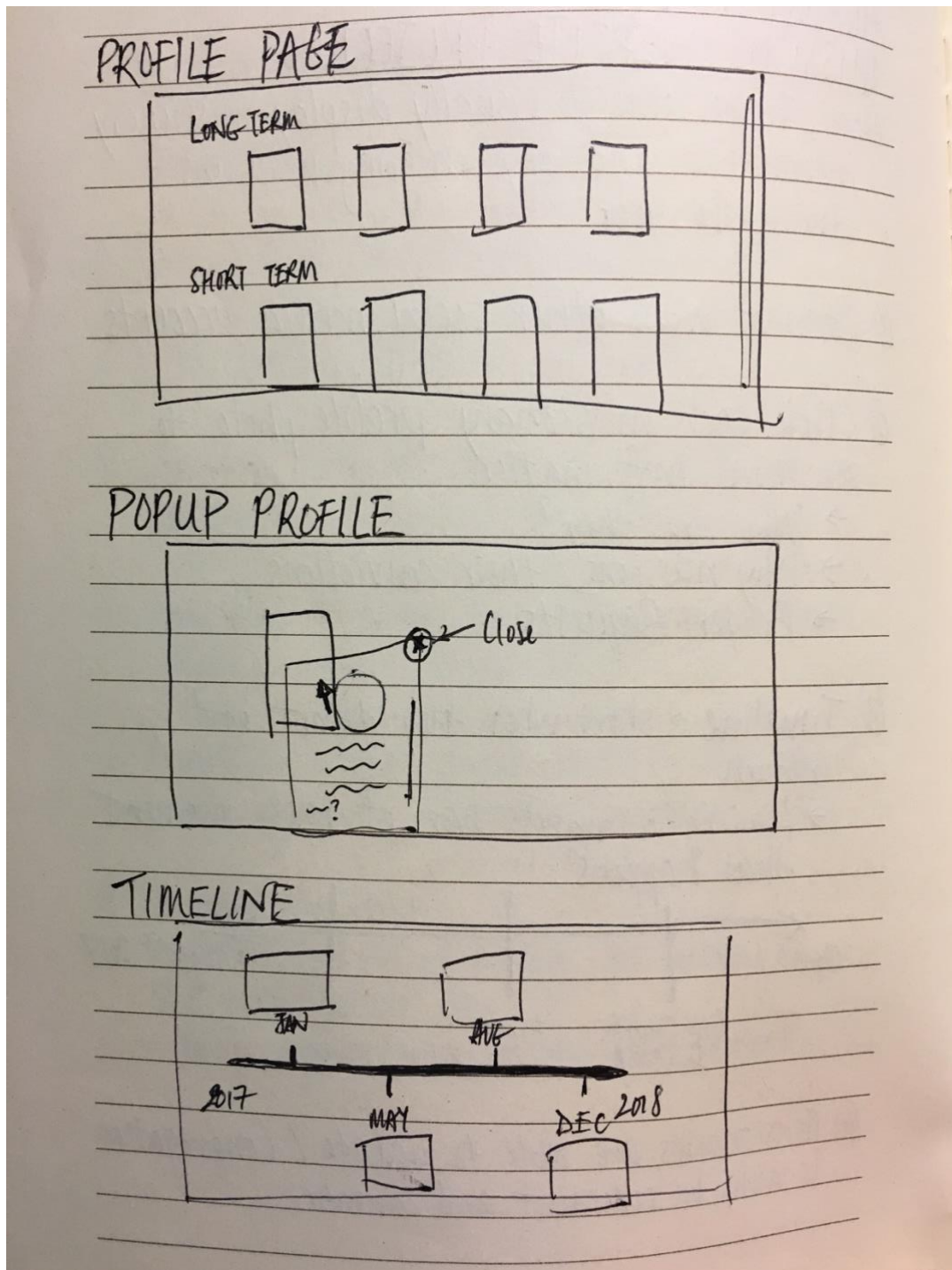


Figure 8: Low Fidelity Prototype – Diagrams/Illustrations

