

Proj1 Writeup

Home:

We took issue with a number of design elements in the standard home view. We found the entire top portion of the layout (the description, greeting, and Facebook link) to be wholly unnecessary. The “What’s Hot?” section was over-emphasized, and the clickable links under each Hot song entry indicate that they navigate to the artist’s page and not the song’s lyric page, which seems like an oversight considering most users would presumably want to see the lyrics of the popular songs, and not the artist’s other songs. The other main feature of the site, the search function, was shunted towards the top corner, which would be understandable in a different view but not on the website’s home page. Finally, we found the site’s color scheme to be a bit dull.

Our design choices were a direct reflection of these assessments. We removed the upper half of the home view and confined the Hot songs to a smaller section that can be browsed manually through arrow buttons. We then devoted most of the space to a search bar, as we felt that the purpose of the sites warranted such an emphasis on the search function. As far as color was concerned, we opted for a more reddish scheme, as red is generally a more excitable and energetic color.

Search:

For this view, we especially saw an opportunity to introduce more images and color variation into the webpage, since the original AZLyrics Search page is devoid of anything other than text. Our idea was to incorporate images of album covers to accompany the artist names and song titles, to provide a more dynamic view of the results when a user is searching a keyword. We also aimed to present the information in a style that is easier to understand and navigate, so we grouped each song in its own mini sub-section by adding a rounded border around each song and the album cover corresponding to it, and adding space in between each song item to create a more structured and organized view and to visually group the elements to make the layout easier to read. We also felt the original Search view was slightly lacking in the information it provided, so we decided to add the year the song was released under the song section, and well known songs performed by each artist under the artist section.

In general, we enlarged the font size and made some of the subgroups narrower so that no text would run on for too long, which we felt would disengage the user. Instead, we allowed the text pieces to grow vertically instead of horizontally so that we could preserve the format that is easier to read.

Artist:

Similar to the search view, we wanted to make it easier to clearly navigate through the webpage, so we grouped the songs into bigger items that are aligned throughout the page, rather than clumping all the songs together as small text. We also wanted to add a more visually dynamic aspect, which is why we included the album covers that accompany each song. We placed the album images in the top left corner of each song item to provide a sort of preview or introduction to the song, and then also included the year it was released. We also wanted to present a longer preview to the lyrics to have a greater balance between images and text. Because of the formatting of song lyrics and how each line is generally shorter than a sentence, we shaped each song item to be longer vertically than horizontally so that we wouldn't waste white space and so that we could still maintain an organized frame and structure to the list of songs.

Lyrics:

The standard lyric view had sufficient information but was otherwise visually underwhelming, and our chief consideration when redesigning this page was to create a more cohesive style - such that it did not simply look like a jumble of text. To achieve this style, we chose to include the song's album cover art, which was both visually interesting and helped to anchor the information to a common source. We recolored and increased the size of the song and artist names, and grouped them closer together to merge them into a "header" under which the lyrics could be placed. In this way, we were able to create a natural hierarchy of information for the page.

Another change we added to the lyric view was to left-align all of the text, including the song and artist names. This was primarily due to the fact that centered alignment makes it more difficult to read a large amount of text (such as complete song lyrics), though we felt that this change was also more visually appealing. In a similar vein, we shifted the entirety of the view closer towards the left margin of the page to achieve a cleaner look.