

Unit 1

Theme and Purpose

The purpose of the site is to aggregate resources on the internet about Ancient Roman history and culture. It will provide enough information for someone to find these resources on different aspects of the Roman military, culture, and economics. The resources will range from historical recordings, to historical recreations, to imagined fictions.

Roman history is very rich because the land and cultures Rome ruled and influences were so diverse across Europe, Middle East, and Africa. There were many successes and many failures of the Romans that are not always well known. Much of this information is available on the Internet naturally, however, to consolidate it, I believe, would be valuable.

Roman history has always been a fascination for me, and until recently I've had to search through the internet to find entertaining resources to learn from. I have a good amount of them mentally stored in my head, and I feel like I should share them to save other people time and to encourage others to look deeper into a culture that rocked the world centuries ago.

Personas

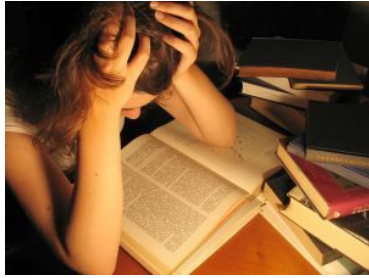
#1 Horatio the Hobbyist



Source: <http://www.vicus.org.uk/>

He is age 45, male, Accountant, and middle-income. Knows a good amount about Roman history from old movies and documentaries. Hasn't branched out beyond entertainment resources. He wants more structure to learning about Roman history, and has been having trouble organizing historical timelines in his head. He prefers structure and will crawl the site to find out as much information as possible, and likely return once or twice to click on all of the links to external resources.

#2 Silvia the Student



Source: <http://www.eyecare2020.com/>

She is age 20, female, and attending university or college for an Arts degree. She is tech-savvy, does not like reading books because it takes too long, and is a decent writer. She is currently taking a history class at her institution, she is writing her final essay on something relating to Rome. Her purpose is to extract a key piece of information to support her thesis, cite a legitimate resource (in this case a link to another site), and go to sleep as quickly as possible. She will never return to the site.

#3 Prem the Professor



Source: <http://www.eou.edu/mountaineer-magazine/>

He is age 55, male, and is a professor at a university or college teaching Roman history. He has received feedback that his students prefer media to extend their education and get them excited in the subjects he teaches. He is somewhat tech-savvy and has an extensive knowledge of Roman history, much more than the site can provide. His purpose is to find new media resources to help him teach that weren't around when he was learning Roman history. He will be looking for organization of the resource that fits his course structure including sorting by time and by category such as "military", "culture", "economics", "leaders", etc. He may come back once or twice to get the required links.

#4 Quinn the Questioner



Source: <http://blog.angelavithoukas.com.au/>

She is age 28, female, and works as a consultant. She needs answers immediately when she has a question related to anything. She has a very specific question like, “What year did the Gauls invade Rome?”. She is very tech-savvy, smart, and cares more about the content than the design of the site (as long as it looks somewhat legitimate). She will be satisfied with an answer that is on the site, or will follow a link to an external site where she thinks the answer might be. She will be using the Find function in her browser to scan for information. She will never return to the site.

Scenarios

#1 User asks a question on Google

Quinn the Questioner is on the bus on her way to work. She overhears a conversation and subsequently Google Searches on her mobile device for the answer.

- User receives search results, one of which is a specific page on my site
- User lands on the page, and scrolls down scanning for the answer utilizing a submenu or headings on the page OR
- User lands on the page, and use the Find function in her browser to search for the answer
- Once she finds the answer OR she finds a external link she believes may have the answer OR feels the site is irrelevant she leaves the site. She may return later if she has more time to look for the answer.

#2 User looks for general information on Rome out of interest

Horatio the Hobbyist is bored and on the internet researching his interests either on mobile or PC. He wants to learn more about Roman history because it interests him so he starts browsing websites that have a lot of information on them.

- User sees someone suggest that the site has good information
- User arrives on home page of the website
- User looks for a specific category of information such as “Military Tactics” or “Currency”

which can be found in the menu

- User looks through many pages looking for any topics that interest him and external links that may interest him
- He opens other tabs as he goes and comes back to the site later
- When he gets bored, runs out of time, or forgets to come back the site, he leaves the site.

#3 User reads through information to get a general grasp of information

Silvia the Student is preparing for her essay and is trying to get a general grasp on a topic or time period. She searches terms like “Roman History 5th century”.

- User receives search results, one of which is a specific page on my site
- User looks for how the site is laid out in the menu
- User searches through the tabs and reads pages quickly to try to understand the gist of the content
- User categorizes Roman history by “culture”, “military”, “economy”, “religion”, etc. OR
- User categorizes Roman history by time period based on years
- User follows external links, reads briefly, and returns
- User leaves the site

#4 User is looking for information and a resource to cite

Silvia the Student is writing her essay and is looking for a specific quote or paraphrase to support her thesis. She is Googling relevant topics such as “Rome’s use of siege artillery against Egypt”.

- User receives search results, one of which is a specific page on my site
- User scans quickly to find the piece of text which was relevant to her search result
- User copies the text, and looks for a source to cite, following an external link OR
- User follows an external link to a more legitimate source
- User leaves the site

#5 User is looking for rich content in external links

Prem the Professor is looking Roman resources to augment his teaching and get his students excited about the topics he is teaching about.

- User sees someone suggest that the site has good information OR
- User receives search results, one of which is a specific page on my site
- User searches for a tab in the menu that is relevant to what information he/she is looking for
- User finds external links that are relevant, and opens them in a new tab
- User returns in search for more resources
- When enough resources have been collected, the user leaves the site

#6 User uses the site to consume embedded content

Horatio the Hobbyist wants to feel part of a communities and prefers consuming content on 3rd party sites. He prefers the design of content aggregators to content provider platforms such as YouTube. He is using a tablet and viewing the website in Facebook’s integrated mobile browser.

- User sees someone suggest that the site has good information OR
- A specific piece of content is shared on social media that interests him OR
- User receives search results, one of which is a specific page on my site
- User consumes initial content
- User browses through other content sections in the menu looking for videos
- User leaves the site, but notes the URL and returns later in hopes of new content

Further Requirements

Legal Constraints

Copyright law may be an issue for some pieces of content. For summaries of text on external sites, they need to clearly be cited and the link prominent so that users know where the information is coming from. Most content from larger content providers such as YouTube falls under its own licensing and allows embedding on content through their site.

Attribution Constraints

Since I am not the content creator, and it is an aggregator, users need to be able to trust the legitimacy of the site's content. This can be established with a good design and clear sourcing of information and by providing external links. This way the users can verify for themselves that the content summaries are accurate.

Scope Constraints

There is a massive amount of information available on Roman history. Choosing a scope that is broad enough to fulfill the defined users' needs and is narrow enough for one person to aggregate the content will be a challenge. An approach of starting with a single resource in each category and adding resources evenly distributed through each category would allow for a manageable increase in scope.

Site Map

Home

Graphical previews of some of the content on the site. For example, an image that represents the roman military with a link to the roman military page.

Categories

Military Page

Each of these category sub-pages contains information relating to the category in the form of text, photo, and embedded video.

Culture Page

Political Page

Economics Page

Leaders Page

Timeline Page

Vertical timeline with events (rows) indicating significant events in Roman history

Media Page

Photo gallery of awesome Roman things

Tools

JavaScript Currency converter tool from denarii to CAD

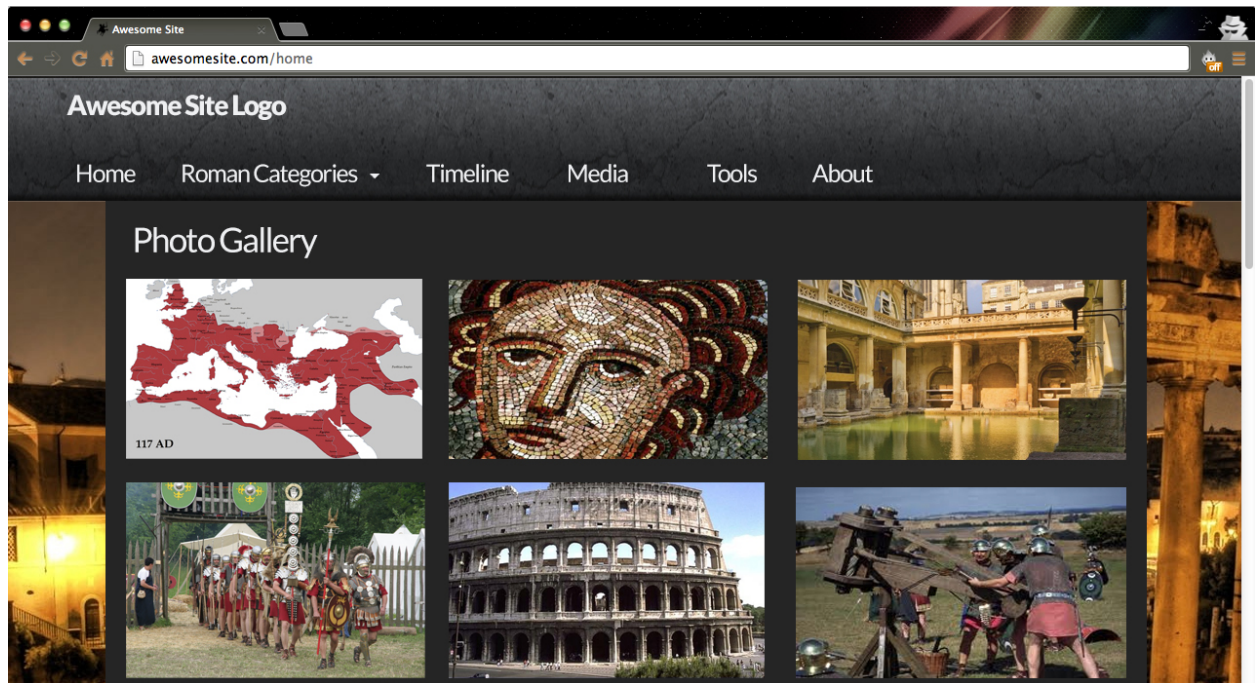
About

Explains the purpose of the site

Favourites

My personal favourite resources

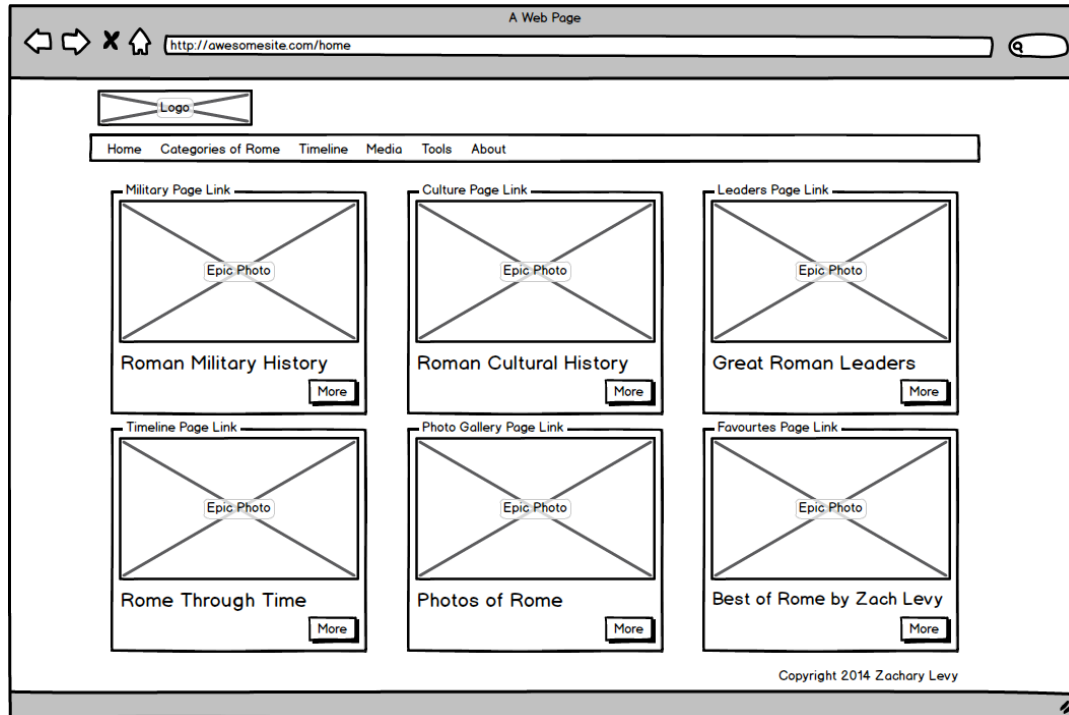
Mockup



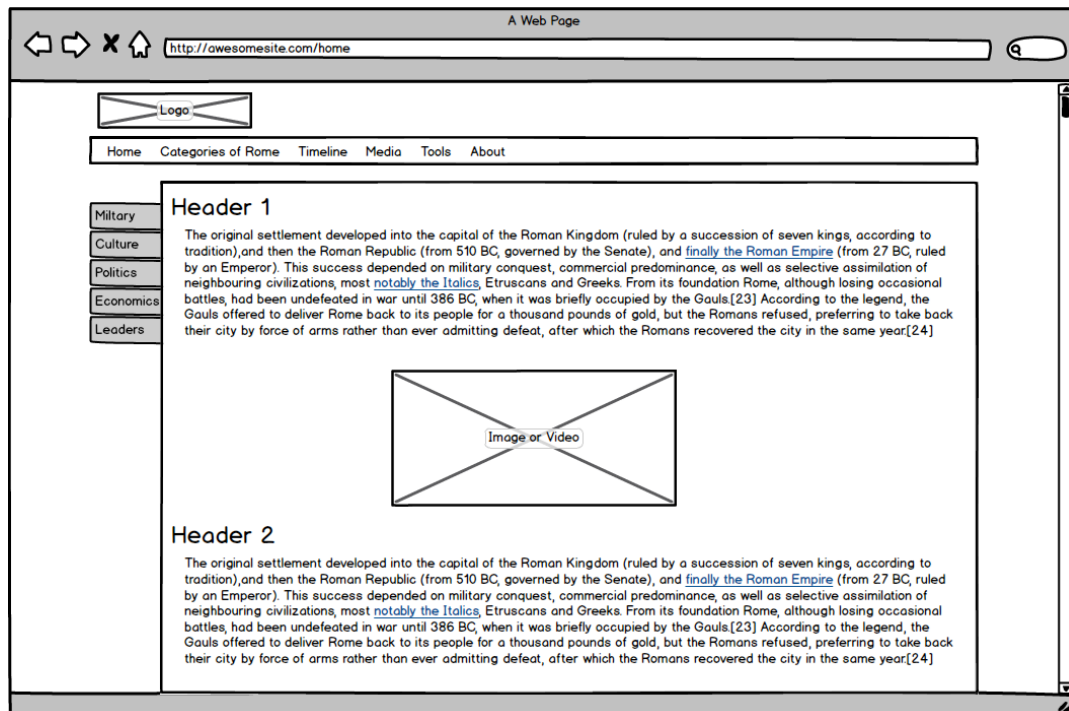
Images sourced from
<http://wikipedia.org/>
<http://blog.divabelle.com/>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/95572727@N00/>

Wireframes

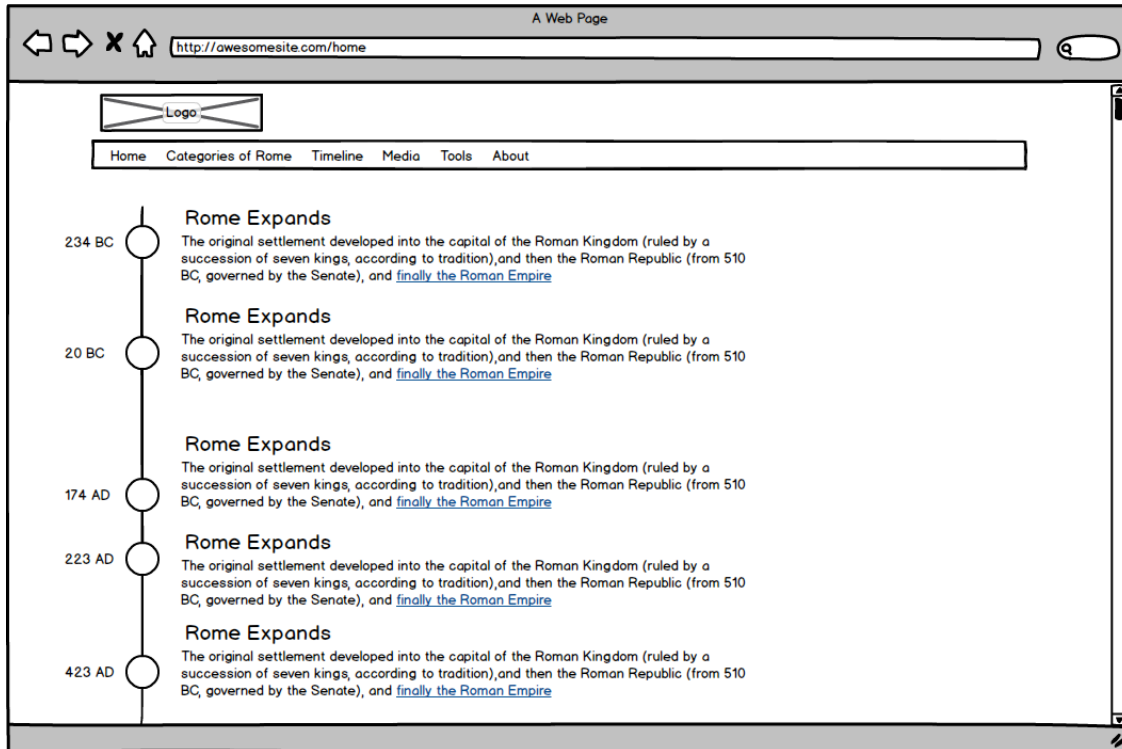
Home Page



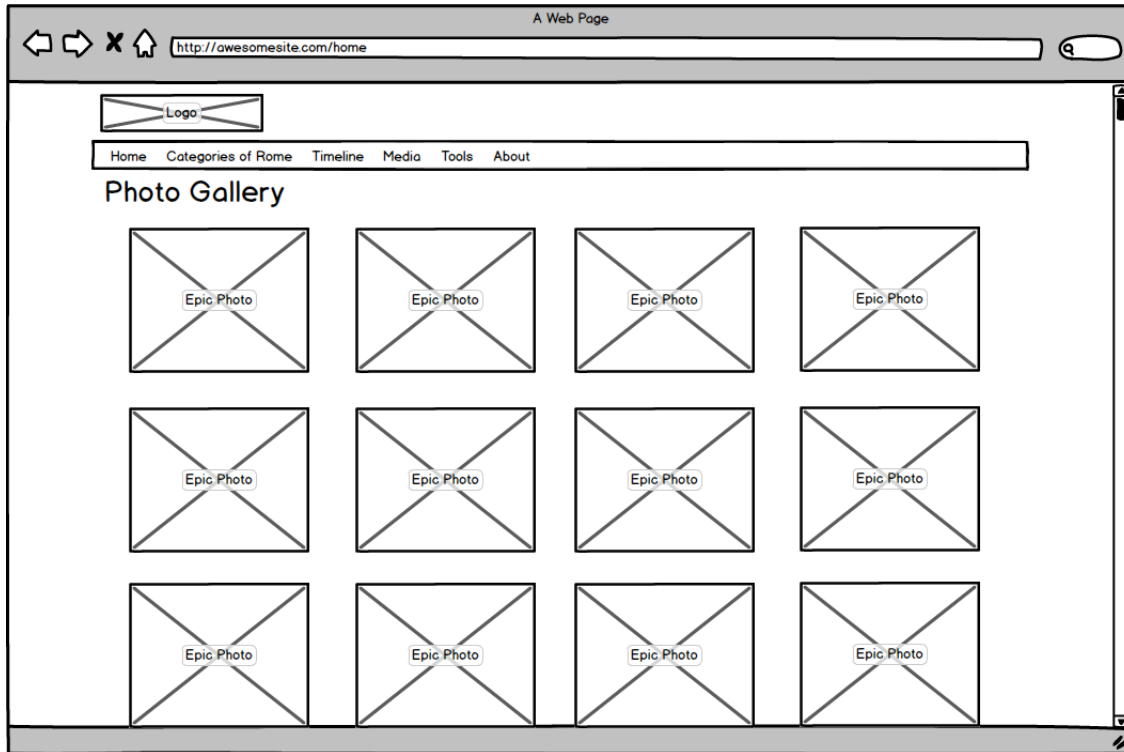
Category Page (dynamic)



Timeline Page



Media Page



Tools Page

