

Working title: Sachiko Goodyear's Online Portfolio - Alpha Test Report.

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Subjects:

Three people took part in the test. The first tester is a teacher's aide in a preschool. The second tester is a professor at a community college who teaches Philosophy both on campus and online. The third tester is an owner of a small eLearning company.

Think Aloud Tasks:

View my resume, view my portfolio, and contact me.

Summary of Think Aloud

All three testers found the resume and portfolio and were able to contact me via email. The first two testers were able to locate everything easily. However, following an external link on a side menu, rather than following the task immediately lost the third tester. From the get go he was completely out of my site and on the SDSU website. When he finally got back to sachikogoodyear.com, he commented that the index page intro was too lengthy and should be shortened so as not to require scrolling. He also viewed the site on a PC through Internet Explorer and found that the top navigation bar was on two lines (rather than one on Safari), which was also confusing. He suggested there should be a links area on the top with "home", "sitemap", "contact us" and "search", that contact us should be separate from the main navigation. I disagree because the site is too small to have more than one main navigation bar. Also, a sitemap and search are not necessary for a small site. He suggested adding a breadcrumb trail so he knows exactly where he is in the website at all times.

Summary of Post- test Interview

All testers found that the external links on the side menu were confusing because they did not know what they were clicking (SDSU?) or why. Since they are external links, they led the testers out of the site so that they did not know where they were at all times. Everyone liked the image and the black and white theme. "Not confusing, smooth and streamlined design." Tester suggested shortening my email and domain name to something easier to remember and spell.

Findings to be Implemented

As a result of the alpha test, I will make the following changes:

- Fix the navigation bar on the top of the site so as to appear the same on all browsers
- Test the site on all browsers
- Eliminate the external links as they aren't immediately relevant to my website and confuse the visitor.
- Just have one navigation bar for the website.
- Redirect sachikogoodyear.com to goodyearlearning.com. Update email address.
- Shorten text on index.htm so that no scrolling is required.
- Consider adding breadcrumb trail if time permits.