

Assignment 1: Website Planning

Experience as a Designer

As an instructional designer, I found this lesson difficult to design because I was so close to the content of the lesson. I know how I like to plan my websites and how I like to work with clients. This created a bias that which I had to move past before designing the lesson. Further I have been in the business of building websites so long that it took time for me to isolate why I chose the methods of teaching website planning beyond my personal experience.

Once I was able to move past the bias, I discovered the technology term for organizing a website, information architecture. This opened up a way of looking at website planning that I was both familiar with as well as learning about.

Overall, this lesson will be revised in the future. I feel there are still too many of my bias within the presentation. I also will need to incorporate aspects of how to plan for making the site accessible per the rules faculty must follow for instructional technology in the California State University System.

Experience as an Instructor

As a web professional, working with people to plan, organize and design a website is something that is second nature to me. I listen to the client, help the focus their needs, identify their potential users, and then take it all into account when organizing their site.

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I found putting myself into the role of the instructor difficult because it forced me to present more than my normal five minutes worth of instruction on what I need from the client usually done in a hallway. This role demanded that I teach faculty how to plan a website for themselves. To do this, I had to take my knowledge of how I normally work and break it down into pieces anyone could understand.

I found the first two activities easy to manage since I was not providing any feedback. The first two activities were based on individual ideas for what should be in the participant's website. I found the last activity difficult because it involved a group activity where the instructor interacts with the participants providing professional feedback. It was difficult because I needed to make sure that I did not give too much feedback and rewrite the participants website using my development methods.

After the workshop was complete, my participant provided me with some feedback on the handouts as well as praise on how much she learned. Even still I felt that I did not do as well as I could in bringing industry standard information architecture into the workshop. I will need to look at this in the future, as this lesson will be included in my project as a part of a web development series.