LSBU Research Open Case Study UX and UI Design

Challenge

In November 2015, London South Bank University (LSBU) asked me to improve the user experience and user interface of their institutional repository. The defaults provided by the repository software - EPrints3 - are very outdated as they use layouts, styles, and features commonly associated with early 2000s websites. While some institutions customised their repository with basic CSS styling, LSBU wanted to redesign the user interface and experience and make it more modern, streamlined, and easy-to-use. They also wanted to focus on accessibility and making page elements as responsive as possible.

Research Findings

Due to time constraints imposed by pending changes to requirements for open access repositories that took effect on April 1, 2016, I was unable to engage in a proper and comprehensive user research and design phase. Instead, I interviewed 4 users and relied on various articles and published resources that explored how users interact with repositories and their expectations of repository software. Alongside this research, I also conducted an analysis on how other repositories designed interfaces to work with the EPrints3 software. This research was crucial because the architecture of the software does cause some rather unique design and development challenges. For example, all of the pages are rendered on the server and changing the interface requires extensive use of JavaScript to re-render elements after they are loaded.

Solution

After discussing my research findings with staff at LSBU, I created low-fidelity wireframes to demonstrate a user interface layout that is more modern, intuitive, and user-friendly, and that is technically possible given the limitations imposed by EPrints3. The wireframe contains the following pages:

1) **Home Page:** the main landing page with a navigation menu and widgets showing latest research, the most popular research items, and recent items published by students

2) **About Page:** a page with general information on the repository

3) **Browse By Schools Page:** a page with a list of all schools affiliated with LSBU and links to see research outputs produced by that school's research staff and students

4) **Browse By Author Page:** a page with an A to Z list of all authors with items included in the repository

5) **Items From 2015 Page:** a sample search results page showing items with a publication year of 2015 and with functionality to allow users to filter results based on the last name of the lead author

6) **Items Where Author is "Abed, Dr. Samina" Page:** a sample search results page showing items where the lead author is 'Abed, Dr. Samina' and with functionality to filter results based on the item type

7) **Abstract Page:** a page with record information – including abstract, metadata, and statistics – and with functionality to allow users to download the article or share the page on their social media networks

These wireframes were subsequently revised after meeting with various stakeholders (e.g. LSBU's Brand & Media Relations team) and integrating their feedback. The revised wireframes were approved and were given to a team of developers to build the user interface and repository functionality.

London South Bank University

Search LSBU Research

| Home | About | Browse By Schools | Browse By Year | Browse by Author | Browse By Type | Student Showcase |

Latest Research

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Popular Research

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Student Showcase

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About LSBU Research Online

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Browse By Schools

School of Applied Sciences

Covers: sports science, forensic science, bioscience, food science, nutrition, bakery and psychology.

Arts and Creative Industries

Covers: film and media, arts and performance, creative technologies, creative approaches and interdisciplinary practice.

School of Health and Social Care

Covers: children's, adult, mental health and learning disabilities nursing, allied health professions, and social work.

School of Business

Covers: business, enterprise, accounting, finance, marketing, management and people.

School of Engineering

Covers: chemical and petroleum, mechanical and design, electrical and electronic engineering, computer science and IT.

School of Law and Social Sciences

Covers: education, law, politics, criminology, sociology, housing, planning, tourism and hospitality.

School of The Built Environment and Architecture

Covers: architecture, surveying, real estate, construction management, civil and building services engineering.

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Browse By Author

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |

A ...

Abed, Dr. Samina (5)

Ainslie, Mr. George (3)

Alexander, Dr. James (7)

Alexander, Dr. Rosanne (2)

Allen, Dr. Julianne (8)

Allenby, Dr. Roger (7)

Ang, Professor David (2)

Arsenault Dr. Karen (5)

Ashburn, Dr. Kaitlyn (3)

Ayre, Ms. Lesley (6)

Home | About | Browse By Schools | Browse By Year | Browse by Author | Browse By Type | Student Showcase

Items From 2015

Filter by author's last name:

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

A

Abed, Samina. (2015). Comparing local and online news coverage of the 2015 British general election. *Journal of Communication Studies*, *15*(2), 42 - 53.

Anderson, John. (2015). Representations of science on mainstream sitcom television shows from 1990 - 2000. *Journal of Television Studies*, *7*(1), 120 - 134.

London South Bank University

Search LSBU Research

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Items Where Author is "Abed, Dr. Samina"

Filter by type:

Article   Book

Article

Abed, Samina. (2015). Comparing local and online news coverage of the 2015 British general election. *Journal of Communication Studies*, *15*(2), 42 - 53.

Abed, Samina. (2014). Representations of science on mainstream sitcom television shows from 1990 - 2000. *Journal of Television Studies*, *7*(3), 120 - 134.

Abed, Samina. (2017). The framing of climate change in the 2016 American election. *Journal of Science Media*, *9*(1), 33 - 49.

Book

Abed, Samina. (2012). *Contemporary British Politics: 2000 - 2010*. London: LSBU Press.

Comparing local and online news coverage of the 2015 British general election

Abstract

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More Information

School:	School of Law and Social Sciences
Department:	Communication Studies
Date Deposited:	22 October 2015 16:47
Official URL:	http://lsburesearchonline.com/doc/123
DOI:	12.3456/lsburesearch.2015.000555

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Abed, Dr. Samina

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Department of Communication Studies

Review

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