Media computing COM1407

1. Introduction

The CA has two parts, a Team based development of a website accompanied by a report, and a peer review of another team's site. The planning part of the web site design should be performed jointly, and the subsequent implementation of the web site using XHTML with CSS should be divided so that each person gets an equal share in the development process. All students must use XHTML (including forms) in their part of the site, and use CSS for layout (which may in part be developed jointly). You should aim to maintain a strong separation of content and presentation, and to work as a team to produce a standards-based site which has a consistent look and feel.
The second part of the assessment will be a peer review, using design criteria detailed in the lectures, of the web site designed by another team.
The first part is worth 24% and the second part is worth 6% of the marks for the module.

2. Assignment details

The aim of the assignment is to produce a website for a local (fictitious) museum which has decided to present an online exhibition and an online shop for souvenirs, as well as providing information about the museum itself and to organise volunteers who work at the museum:

- The online exhibition should contain multimedia representations of various everyday objects, along with commentary about the objects, presented in a structured way that will maintain the interest of a varied audience.
- The online shop should provide detailed product information and images, and a shopping cart (which need not be functional).
- The volunteer information should present a timetable in tabular form, and a form to allow volunteers to sign up for slots in the timetable.

The website should make use of client-side scripts to enhance the interactivity of the pages, whilst remaining accessible according to the principles laid out in the lectures. Whilst this would be an excellent application for a Content Management System written with server-side scripts, you are not expected to write any server-side code – XHTML forms for submission of data may point to placeholder pages, which detail the intended purpose of the a server-side feature, without implementing it.

Special attention should be given to the accessibility and navigation within the site. Navigational aids such as menus, breadcrumbs, site maps and themes for subsites should be used where appropriate, and all pages should be developed with accessibility for a potentially diverse audience in mind. Conformance to the WAI's Web Content

Accessibility Guidelines is highly desirable. Features such as metaphors, diagrams and image maps may also enhance accessibility.

A number of different types of pages are needed, for instance museum artefact descriptions, souvenir information and shopping cart checkout pages, location map and details, navigation aids such as site maps, help pages and order forms (though you should not feel required to include all of these features if inappropriate to your design). It is better to concentrate (usage aspects and design aspects being the most important characteristics) on fewer pages rather than having many pages with poor content and information. It is however necessary for each project to include web forms in some manner.

3. Assessment

The graphical quality and quantity of pages on the site are not the main areas to be assessed. The focus for assessment will be on design, adherence to standards, and usability aspects. Technical considerations such as appropriate use of media and scripting will also be part of the assessment. Any use of scripting not covered by workshops or lectures will not be included in assessment. You should aim to produce a site conformant as far as possible to current web standards, which works well in a wide range of browsers. If, for pragmatic reasons, you find you must stray from the standards, then you may consider the target browser to be Internet Explorer, though code adapted for Firefox is also accepted.

Grade A: Writing and composition of report is excellent. The web site has a clear focus and utilises design theory and practice presented in lectures in a concise manner. Forms code, stylesheets, tables and scripts are very good and add to the effectiveness of the design. Code validates against current web standards, with only a few minor warnings.

Grade B: Writing and composition of report is good. The web site has a clear focus but does not utilise design theory and practice presented in lectures in a concise manner. Forms code, style sheets, tables and scripts are good but do not in all places add to the effectiveness of the design. Code validates against current web standards with warnings and a few errors.

Grade C: Writing and composition of report is not perfect. The web site does not have a clear focus, and design theory and practice presented in lectures have not been properly implemented properly. Forms code, style sheets, tables and scripts contain minor errors. Code validates against current web standards with some errors.

Grade D: Writing and composition of report is lacking. The web site does not have a clear focus, and design theory and practice presented in lectures cannot be seen in site. Forms code, style sheets, tables and scripts contain substantial errors. Code does not validate against current web standards.

Grade E: Writing and composition of report is lacking, sections may be incomplete or missing. The web site does not have a clear focus, and design theory and practice presented in lectures cannot be seen in site, parts of site missing or incomplete. Forms code, style sheets, tables and scripts contain major errors or omissions. Code does not make any real attempt to adhere to current web standards.