

Lena Freeman

Comp Tech Spring 2015

Weekly Reports

Week 7: Sliders... still. Media organization... Still

During this week, I've been trying to figure out sliders that be able to display my media in a way that I feel represents my artwork well. I've had trouble with sliders stretching my images, and distorting the content. I assume that this is because my photos are all different sizes, and slider does not adjust to the image resolution, but continues to display images in a set format. I have come to the conclusion that I will have to change the sizing on my photos so that they are consistent with one another, and that the file size is more manageable for the sliders to run.

I've been working on resizing all of my images and managing my media. This has been a bigger task than I had originally imagined. I have over 150 individual images of my artwork and photography that I would like to use, and each one needs to be resized.

Tasks to complete:

Organize content

Think about creating a favicon

Create a sitemap

Fix Sliders

Week 8: Sliders... still. Media organization... Still. Galleries

During this week, I have been looking at adding plug-ins for galleries. I have been unimpressed with the way that the installed gallery displays my images. If the images aren't the same size, then they will not align on the page. I really would like to find a gallery option that has the lightbox option, but have yet to find one that is free.

I was able to arrange my images so that they are all the same size, and now the slider works.

Media management is still a challenge. I've been cropping photos, and have found that I'm losing some content. I need to explore photoshop, and how to crop photos that I do not lose content. I also need to figure out why my front page is not loading properly when I open my site. Something is not working and I have no idea how to fix it. My content is not loading, even though there is information saved on the page.

UPDATE: I found out how to crop my photos without losing content.

Tasks to complete:

Organize content

Think about creating a favicon
Create a sitemap

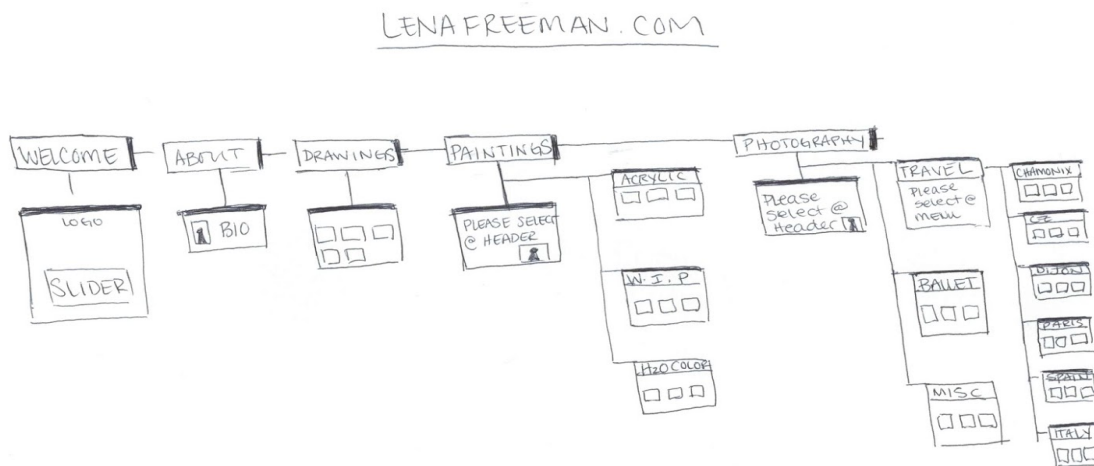
Week 9: Galleries, front page and favicon

During this week, I've been searching for galleries that have the lightbox feature. I haven't found any yet. I still have no idea what is going on with my front page.

UPDATE: Eric has helped me not only figure out my problems with finding a plug-in with a lightbox feature, as well as what was going wrong with my front page. Apparently, the front page content must be built through the Appearance Options.

Now, I need to upload my galleries again with the new plug-in, and alter the content of the front page slider. I also need to create a way to add a header to the front page that will serve as a logo. I have a design that I created in Adobe Illustrator that I would like to use, but I will need to see if the size will be appropriate.

I was also able to finish my site map.



Tasks to complete:

Create a favicon

Final Touches

Week 10: Front page, Favicon

During this week, I have started to put the final touches on my website, including uploading my logo (with the help of Eric). I've also created a favicon, and was able to upload it to my site with the use of a plug-in.

I'm really happy with the final product, but feel as though I might want to continue to add further content.

UPDATE: I did notice that after adding a favicon to my site, when I tried to access my site using my cell phone, the page would not load properly. I wonder if this is because of the favicon, or if something else is askew.

Tasks to complete:

Present to the class.

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Final Write-Up

Creating www.lenafreeman.com has been an enormous, and unexpected challenge. Originally, I had the intentions of creating a website based around my friend's activist art project. Unfortunately, due to irreconcilable personal differences, I chose to step away from collaborating with her. Aside from losing a friendship, this also presented a major challenge for me to figure out what it was that I wanted to focus a term project on. I decided to create my own website that would showcase my art. I have always considered myself to be artistic, but never felt comfortable with labeling myself as an artist. Yet, by creating a website that showcased my work, I was able to have the opportunity to become more comfortable with this term.

I realized through this process that it does present a bigger challenge as it would seem to also develop a website that would represent my work in a fashion that I felt reflected who I was and the aesthetic that I felt my art represented. Aside from the personal and emotional aspect of branding myself as an artist, I also had to learn a new platform that I wasn't entirely comfortable with. During the fall, in MMC I, I felt that I had learned quite a bit around the creation of WordPress blogs and ePortfolios. I went into this project with a false sense of security. Learning how to truly customize a website from the base up, rather than using elements that are already installed and available within a working template, was a much bigger challenge than I had anticipated.

I also realized that for my past projects, I have done very little to document the work that I have previously created. Most often when I create a painting or a drawing, I usually gift my work away without a second thought. I have only "sold" one painting, and been commissioned to do one mural. I have never promoted myself as an artist in anyway shape or form. Therefore, I never thought to create an archive of what I am capable of. Finding content for my site has been a challenge in itself. While creating my website, I've had to call upon friends and family to send me pictures of paintings that I've done for them in the past. This has been a huge lesson for myself as an artist.

Aside from content management, I have found that working in WordPress has been a steep learning curve for me as well. As I have mentioned before, I came into this class with the false sense of security in being able to create a website with little to no effort. I have learned that WordPress is far more complicated than I had anticipated. I've had to learn new terminology, new platforms, and new creative tools all within the span of 10 weeks. Beyond the steep learning curve, I feel as though (with massive amounts of help and encouragement from Eric and my fellow classmates), that I was able to create a website that showcases my work well. I do feel like I would like to continue to make adjustments as time goes on, such as adding additional categories and additional content. However, I do feel as though my site has come a long way, and I am proud of what I was able to accomplish this term.