

Project Abstract

I PRO 333- Spring 2008

Interactive Web Site Module Design for the Museum of Science and Industry

Goal: Provide users of the Museum of Science and Industry website with science-based interactive flash modules. Modules are based on an eighth grade curriculum and supplement existing and future exhibits at the museum.

Organization/Tasks:

I PRO 333 was divided into 3 design teams; each team had a design team leader, content manager, designers, and developers.

<i>Team Role</i>	Genetics Team	Machine Team	Energy Team
<i>Team Leader</i>	Daniel Price	Marc Huh	Monica Smith
<i>Content Manager</i>	Elizabeth Moss	Marc Huh Joe Carden	Susan Mallgrave
<i>Designer</i>	Eri Suzuki	Joe Kaiser	Andrew Hofland
<i>Developer</i>	Kristina Lakiotis Daniel Price	Patrick Aubin Janusz Nosek	Joe Nicorata

I PRO Team Leader: Hannah Cho

Teaching Assistant: Anna Wilkins

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amy Stolley

Critical Issues:

Working with previously developed modules from last semester has been one of the greatest challenges. Major directions for this semester came from two sources: module feedback from the Museum of Science and Industry and user testing results from 7th grade students at Sheridan Math and Science Academy. Team members have had to find a balance between reflecting the museum's feedback (which came from the perspective of a professional web developer) and the user testing results (which represented the perspective of our intended middle-school users), while simultaneously incorporating our own ideas to develop the modules. To further ensure the quality and usability of the modules, we conducted two additional user testings, one at IIT and another at Haynes School.

Additional data from these user testing also had to be reflected on our modules.

Conclusions:

This I PRO has progressed remarkably well. Members of the team have come from diverse disciplines (including computer science, engineering, architecture, psychology, and technical communication), and have used their specialized skills to develop each module. Each team took the best ideas and content from the previous module and refined the user-experience and coding structure of the module to present a polished, professional final project. By frequent communications with the museum and multiple user testings, all three modules have developed to a stage where we feel comfortable handing them off to the museum.

Next Steps:

The completed modules will be handed off to the Museum of Science and Industry. The museum will incorporate the modules on their website after necessary modifications and improvements.