

PLU Library Web Site Redesign

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Background

The library site has grown significantly over the past several years in content, number of links, and organization. But it looks like a second-generation site, being very list-oriented and linear. Much of this design has been intentional to maintain text-based access by Lynx for campus users not connected to ethernet and to provide ADA compatible accessibility by voice reading of text. But with the growth and increasing complexity, it has become more difficult to find information or move across information that is several levels deep.

Redesign Goals

- Develop stronger visual identity - Create more cohesive look, feel, and navigation on all pages through consistently placed banners, navigation bars
- Improve access to information - Flatten directory structure, improve page navigation tools, and provide better, more presentable site map
- Design for future HTML improvements – Prepare for incorporating dynamic HTML elements and cascading style sheets
- Keep graphic elements minimal - Maintain speed of loading, maximize screen space for information display, maintain text access for Lynx and ADA applications
- Keep all pages in a print safe area - No wider than 570 pixels
- Improve searching - Improve toolkit for searches on and off site
- Provide guided help - Provide self-guided, interactive wizard-like features as alternative access points
- Highlight new resources and services - Make prominent area on home page
- Design for Lynx and ADA - Maintain Lynx and ADA text access

Structure & Design

Home Page

- Prominent new resources and services with animated GIF
- Cycling .jpg images
- Search/jumping tools
- Link back to PLU home page
- Access to order forms

Second Level Pages

Banner

- 540wide
- Rolldown submenu
- Search tool
- Logo hot to library home
- Font face="Helvetica, Arial", size=2

Contents Margin

- 110 pixels wide
- Different background color
- Context sensitive, expandable, collapsible
- Unhighlighted link to show current location
- Title as H4, font face="Helvetica, Arial"
- Font: font face="Helvetica, Arial"
- Link to PLU home page at bottom

Body

- 430 wide
- Scrollable
- Header H3 face="Helvetica, Arial"
- Body text face & size = browser default
- "Maintained by" line
- "Date modified" line
- Link to comments & suggestions form

Internal HTML

- mailto
- owner
- meta terms