**POST**

**Introduction**

This evaluation report includes reviews of two instructional design portfolio websites created by [Lila Azouz (Links to an external site.)](http://www.lila-azouz.com/) and [Kathy Cannon (Links to an external site.)](http://kathycannon.com/portfolio/index.html). The portfolios were evaluated using a Dell PC running Windows 10. The web browser used was Google Chrome via an institutional internet connection.

**Design and Development**

From a design perspective, the two portfolios are quite similar. Both authors subdivide their sites into logical pages that the user may easily navigate. Lila Azouz’s site provides additional links to pages containing her work in educational gaming and evaluation, whereas Kathy Cannon provides additional pages to her work in e-learning and website design. Both navigation menus provide links to a resume, an e-learning portfolio, and contact information. When multimedia is included, it is clear they have a function in demonstrating the skillset and capabilities of the instructional designer. Both sites use a white background and blue text to create an experience that is easy on the eyes to read, and not cognitively taxing. Overall, both sites provide the user with an intuitive navigational experience that is neither confusing nor cluttered.

**Content**

The content on the portfolio pages is appropriate to the page titles. For example, both portfolios have a “Resume” page that each leads to the authors’ respective curriculum vitae. In Lila Azouz’s portfolio, the resume page contains embedded contact that links to her LinkedIn page, while Kathy Cannon’s provides her information right on the page as well as in a PDF attachment.  Lila Azouz also includes a link to a PDF of her resume, but it is password protected. Although I appreciated the LinkedIn access because it provides the user with more information and another way to contact her, I did not quite understand why the PDF of the resume was locked out. I think as a potential client that might dissuade me from hiring her. What I liked about Kathy Cannon’s resume was that it was links to the webpages of institutions where she worked and links directly to a portfolio of her work. It provided an additional avenue to other parts of her website beyond the navigation menu.

For the most part, the links were up-to-date and functional in Lila Azouz’s portfolio. Those that failed were because they were password protected, so the lack of functionality in those cases was intentional. Kathy Cannon’s site appears to be out of date and has broken links within her portfolio page. For example, one of her projects provides a link to PowerPoint slides she used in a poster session. If a user clicks the link that says, “Go to presentation resource site to get the full set of eight slides”, it leads to a “Page Not Found” error message. Additionally, the link to the homepage leads the user to a page that simply says “kathycannon.com, yo!”, which I found unprofessional and odd. Overall, both portfolios do not ask their visitors to dig for information, as the available artifacts were two or fewer layers deep. Out of the two sites, Lila Azouz’s would be more likely to encourage a user to return, due to the interactive nature of her content and the fact that it was current and did not contain any dead links. It was clear she has an intended audience for clients looking for someone with experience in gaming and assessment, whereas Kathy Cannon’s did not have a clear audience.

**Credibility**

The authors from both sites provide their credentials and contact information and it is easy to locate. Kathy Cannon provides citations and links to other institutions with whom she has collaborated, while Lila Azouz uses a password-protected page to restrict her copyrighted material. Kathy Cannon includes dates on her material, but Lila Azouz’s dates of creation are either difficult to find or non-existent. Finally, neither author has any glaring spelling or grammar mistakes in their respective portfolio.

**Scenario 1**

The user is a potential employer who found my portfolio by clicking a link on my LinkedIn page. They wish to view my instructional design projects, needs analysis reports, and publications to determine my qualifications and skillset. Artifacts and examples of work are available no more than two clicks deep on the “Portfolio” page, and they are able to experience the full features of all of the interactive examples. They are able to contact me for hire because my e-mail address is clearly displayed on the “Contact Me” page, or they access and complete the form that sends messages directly to my e-mail.

**Scenario 2**

The user is an assessment novice, who found my portfolio by YouTubing “Learning Assessment” videos. They clicked the link to my site from within the video information page to find out more about how to develop an assessment plan. All of the instructional content and materials related to best practices in student learning assessment are available no more than two clicks deep on the “Learn About Assessment” page. If the user has questions, they are able to contact me using the form that sends messages directly to my e-mail.

**RESPONSES**

*Tammy Browning*

Hi Devon,

First off, I love that you picked doing a portfolio for your project. Smart idea:) I really like the two websites that you picked to evaluate.

Kathy Cannon’s design and layout are very nicely organized.  It is easy to navigate and has all the features you would expect a portfolio would have.  I like that it has navigational tags that link directly to certain content since the page is rather lengthy. The content of very clean and from an accessibility standpoint seems to be assessable.  The one thing I noticed is the some of her links were broken. A couple of things that I was not crazy about, although, Kathy has her home page where it was easy to navigate, I think it is still too much content on the front page. For example, I think breaking this into separate pages linking to the content or subdirectories (I am not sure this is the right terminology) would be a lot nicer read.

Lila Azouz’s portfolio website was very nicely put together and you can tell current. It was easy to navigate and as a potential employer was visual appealing.  She is very descriptive in what she has to offer and makes herself marketable by being able to link to her some of her projects. I like her drop down hover links.   I really like that Lila had provided the Linkedin option for potential employers to learn more about her. She provides her Twitter account as well which appears to mainly be for educational purposes. Nicely done.

Overall, I really like both the websites Devon picked to evaluate and it clearly pertains to her project.

*Lauren Kortas*

Hi Devon!

Both websites you selected to evaluate are well organized and free of clutter.  They are easy to read, especially in relation to the colors and fonts which were selected.  Both sites are logically organized into main sections and their corresponding subsections.

Kathy Cannon has sub sections labeled horizontally across top once you click on the main link associated with it from the navigation bar on the left hand side of the screen.  When you navigate to a sub section I find the link to return to the top of the page to be helpful and reduce scrolling.  There is also navigation links at the bottom of each page.  Having a PDF version of the resume for download makes it useful for potential employers to print her resume.  The preview of websites on the Web Design Portfolio page when you hover over the associated link is a nice touch.  However, some links are broken which leads me to believe the site has not been recently updated.  Another clue is the copyright date is 2003-2011.  The part I dislike the most is that the home tab goes to a page that says kathycannon.com, yo!  I found this off putting especially since the rest of the site is no nicely done.  Another downside is that when you attempt to send an email it tries to open an email program which is not configured for my computer and does not navigate to a page where her email might be found.

I really like the home page on Lila Azouz’s website.  It is clean, crisp and uncluttered.  Adding a photo of her artwork on the home page and a section on her artistic side is a nice touch.  Lila notes that all the paintings on the site are her creations.  Another section I enjoyed was the About Me, it gives a personal touch to the page as well.  Lila has her sub sections in a drop down hover over menu.  I personally prefer the drop down sub sections as they appear more sleek.  This site has a newer copyright date of 2016 leading me to believe is has been updated more recently than Kathy’s website.  Another upside to Lila’s website is that the Contact Me page has a form to fill out and submit.  What I did not like about this site is the password protected sections.  The PDF version of her resume and the subsection labeled Portfolio Copyrighted Content require a password to access the information.  Unless it was required for a course I would remove the password protection so it is easier for potential employers to download and print her resume and access all information on the website.

Overall you chose two well organized sites to help guide you for your final project.