Jessica Runge

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Intro to Web Dev.

Kueter

Website Review Comparison Evaluation

My goal is to create a website to house the curriculum for the new ASL program within my school district. The program is exploding with popularity and with new staff prospects, we will need to all be aligned in the years to come, that is why I researched two other ASL curriculum sites that are popular within the Deaf community. The websites I reviewed are ASL Pro and ASL University. I specifically looked at the lesson/curriculum pages to be even more specific to what I am looking for with my website. These two sites have similarities, differences, strengths, weaknesses, and can reach an array of people.

ASL Pro (<http://www.aslpro.com/lesson_plans/shared_lesson_plans.html>) and ASL University (<http://lifeprint.com/asl101/lessons/lessons.htm>) both have the same goal, to inform others of the Deaf community and to grow American Sign Language, ASL. Having authors that are highly involved in the Deaf community by being born into it and being Deaf or Hard of Hearing themselves is a great benefit they both share. Also, they both organize their lessons in a manner that is easy to access the information. How they set up this organization process was a bit different though.

The first difference I noticed was ASL Pro has a dark background, dark blue, with light blue and white writing while ASL University has a light background, white, and uses black and blue for the writing. ASL Pro had more clutter and ASL University had a simplistic approach that I appreciated. Focusing more on the organization of information, ASL Pro lists their lesson in no particular order while ASL University lists their lessons in order from beginning level to high-level lessons. And while this is the biggest difference they have it is their biggest strength and weakness, in my opinion.

In ASL University, all the lessons are numbered and easy to follow. Each lesson has a detailed outline of what needs to be taught and what resources to use for each. ASL Pro does not do that but instead just lists parts of lessons, like a game or assignment, and lets you create the lessons or implement them where you see fit. My ASL program goes from ASL 1-5, one being the basic level and 5 being an independent study. Having that detailed outline with ASL University is nice to be able to supplement their lessons into our curriculum outline for the year based on the level. With education, it is easy to see which site I would like to replicate mine off of, ASL University, but there are also others who use these sites who might find ASL Pro to be more beneficial.

Situation Number 1: An agency or company wants to offer American Sign Language classes to their employees or community. These tend to be set up to meet once a week for two months. Their purpose is to spread awareness of the Deaf Community and the basic use of ASL. They do not need an in-depth detailed lesson from levels one through four but rather a basic introduction to the community and sign language. ASL Pro would be a great site for them to pull the basics from and be able to manipulate the materials into a schedule that fits their specific community or work needs. For example: they are a company that just hired a Deaf individual. They will want to teach them the basics of introduction and then vocabulary that relates specifically to the company and job.

Situation #2: A new administrator is hired and is a part of the curriculum building for a new ASL program. We need a detailed, timely, and focused plan. In their research they comes upon both sites and refers both of them to the ASL dept. With having specific requirements we have to meet as a department, they pick both apart and integrate them into the curriculum. This then allows the department to utilize the 1:1 instruction and refer students to links within the websites.

While both ASL Pro and ASL University are sites that can be used for ASL education, after looking at the similarities, differences, strengths, weaknesses, and how they can reach other people, I would choose to use ASL University as a great example of what I want my site to resemble.

PEER REVS

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I am glad you mention ASL University's clear design. I also appreciate the simple layout and basic black text on white background. It seems easy to over-design websites, and it seems like the may be what's gone on with ASL Pro. I agree the biggest distinction is the organization of the information. It makes ASL U seem very practical and ready to use, but your situation # 1 did a great job of contextualizing when ASL Pro might be more useful. Overall I do agree that ASL U is a better example to strive towards. It is simple, and practical, and this is a case where I believe the information being delivered by the website is the important part. It is better to have a basic and effective website to provide access to that information then anything unnecessarily over designed.