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6.813
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Heuristic Evaluations
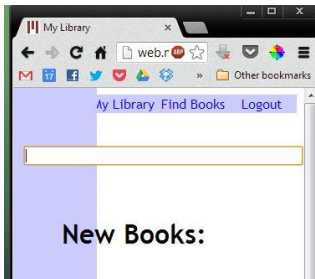
Group I'm Prototyping: **Book Club**

User Briefing: You're a high school student in search of a book to read. You want to know what your friends are reading, and you want them to read books you have previously read. This way you can bond over your shared reading experiences.

1. Window resizing hides options (*User Control & Freedom*)
   When you resize the window, the options at the top of the page are hidden and non-clickable.
   Severity: **Major**

2. Unclear Page Navigation (*Consistency, User Control*)
   When first arriving at the homepage, you do not know where you are, and when you navigate to other pages, there is no affordance for knowing your location on the site.
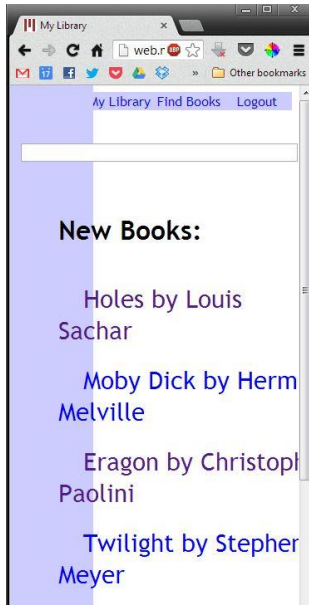   Severity: **Major**

3. Overlapping Text (*Aesthetics*)
   When a window is minimized, the text becomes overlaid onto the sidebar section of the page, making it harder to read
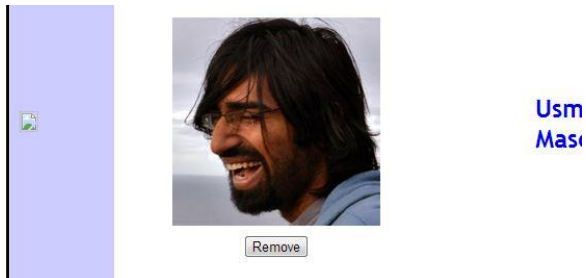   Severity: **Major**

4. Broken Links to Images (*Visibility of System Status*)
   On the sidebar in the "Friends" page, there are broken links to images that should be shown, and there is no substitute text in its place.
   Severity: **Major**

5. Unclear Searching (*User Control & Freedom*)
   On each page, it is unclear as to what the search bar looks for and what you can do with the selections that do show up in the results
   Severity: **Minor**

6. Useful Book Information (*Consistency, User Control*)
   The book synopsis page has all the key features and information that people would commonly want when researching books that they need. You might include links to purchase these books on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or another online marketplace.

Another useful feature could be friends who have also read the book, and their ratings of the book

Severity: *None*

Moby Dick

Genre: Adventure

Synopsis:

The adventures of wandering sailor Ishmael, and his voyage on the whaleship Pequod, commanded by Captain Ahab. Ishmael soon learns that Ahab has one purpose on this voyage: to seek out Moby Dick, a ferocious, enigmatic white sperm whale. In a previous encounter, the whale destroyed Ahab's boat and bit off his leg, which now drives Ahab to take revenge.

Rating:

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Add To Reading List

Recommend

Comments:

Add Comment

7. Option to Delete Comments (*User Control & Freedom, Error Prevention*)
   When a user posts a comment, there is not option to delete the comment and change it if they need to make adjustments. Helping the users prevent errors is key for every page with user input.
   Severity: **Minor**

Comments:

Add Comment

You: dfjknakd

8. Undo Delete Friend (*User Control & Freedom, Error Prevention*)
   When a user deletes a friend from their "Friends" page, there is no option to undo the action and get the friend back, unless you utilize the search bar and find the friend manually.
   Severity: **Minor**

9. Changing Status of Books (*Consistency, User Control*)
   If I were to search for a book on the website and add it to my library, there is no functionality which allows me to change the status of the books that I have selected to either "Reading," or "Already Read." This is assuming that when a book is added to the library, it joins the "Going to Read" queue.

Severity: **Major**

Reading:

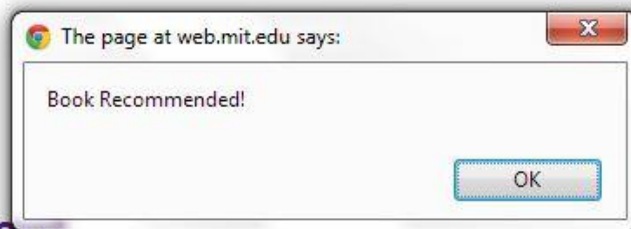Holes by Louis Sachar

Going to Read:

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

Already Read:

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

10. Book Recommendation Alert (*Feedback, Visibility of System Status*)
When a book is recommended to a friend, an alert pops up that lets the user know that an action has taken place on the page. It could be slightly more subtle, but the fact that it is in place currently is a good start.
Severity: **Minor**

The page at web.mit.edu says:

Book Recommended!

OK

is Fowl

11. No Help or Visible Tips for Assistance (*Help and Documentation, Feedback*)
On each page, specifically the starting page, there are no help, tips, or hover textboxes that provide additional information about what a user can do once on the page.
Severity: **Minor**

12. Link Colors in Menu (*Aesthetics*)
On the main menu bar, the links are colored blue, and on a light blue background the text can be slightly straining to read.
Severity: **Major**

Friends   My Library   Find Books   Logout

13. No Logo (*Aesthetics, System and Real World*)
The website has no logo or identifying characteristics that would help a user know where they are or even know what website they are using.

Severity: **Major**

14. Menu Items Change from "Books" to "Find Books" (*Consistency*)
    On the "Friends" page, the menu item "Books" changes to "Find Books". This is a
    consistency error that can easily be remedied.
    Severity: **Major**

15. Menu Items Change from "My Reading List" to "My Library" (*Consistency*)
    The menu items keep changing between pages from "My Reading List" to "My Library."
    Again, this is a consistency error that is easily fixable, yet crucial to the overall
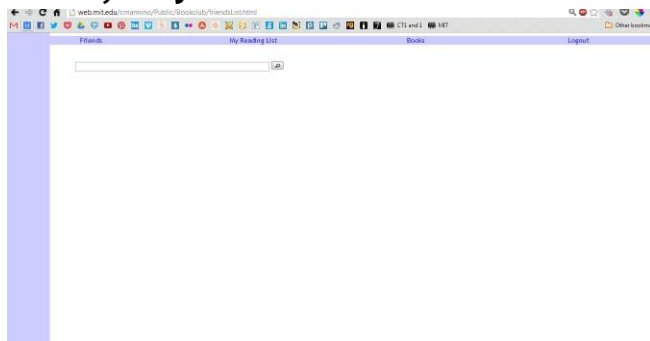   navigation for the entire website.
    Severity: **Major**

16. Unknown Actions for Friends (*User Control, Feedback*)
    Once all the friends have been removed, there is no text or help that would guide a
    novice user towards getting new friends, besides a search bar that has an unclear
    purpose: is it for books, people, or the entire site?
    Severity: **Major**

17. Friends Reappear (*Consistency, Efficiency*)
    When a user deletes the friends from the "Friends" page and navigates away, the page
    refreshes the friends that were deleted and when you return to the page, you must
    remove them manually again. There is no affordance for deleting all friends at one
    time, either.
    Severity: **Major**

18. Different Dialog Boxes *(Consistency, Aesthetics)*

On a book's information page, the option to recommend a book to a friend opens a pop up window unique to that one page, designed well but differently from all other dialog boxes on the website. Additionally, once you click on Recommend, the other dialog box appears.

Severity: **Minor**