

Design brief for prototype University Museum search interface: Wrappers 2

Introduction:

The search will be delivered as part of a 'destination site' (likely url www.universitymuseums.org.uk) to advocate and promote the value of UK University Museums and to give easy access to information about the content of the world-class collections of University Museums, for a range of stakeholders/audiences, including: researchers, learners, teachers and funders inside and outside Higher Education. The brief is informed by stakeholder consultations and discussion with lead UMG rep Guy Baxter, University Archivist, University of Reading, undertaken by Collections Trust as part of Wrappers 2; and the UI developments initially proposed by Gooii for the project.

Site structure and features:

It is expected that the site structure will be simple i.e. similar to <http://www.umisearch.org.uk>, with a homepage; about page, results-pages and record-pages.

The home-page will present a simple search and subject-based access point to University Museum collections/items and a brief paragraph about the headline value and impact of UK University Museums.

The about page will give further info about University Museums, (copy to be provided by Guy Baxter of UMG/University of Reading)

Search-result page features should include: access to more advanced search options, filters for refining/expanding searches (including by subject & period) and display options; and provide the ability for users to save searches and selected items, share search/results via email and social-media and compare at least 2 results.

Record page features should include: the ability for users to save items into sets, share records via email and social media; access 'more like this'; and 'visit this collection'.

User-profiling (not requiring registration) may be provided to enable searches to initially be constrained by collections and subject.

Site design

The design of the site should be highly visually engaging and celebrate the diversity of *world-class collections* in UK University Museums e.g. the homepage could include a set of images (selected from University Museum collections-content, either pre-selected or randomly generated from images from University Museums, within the Culture Grid, and / or a visualisation of the scope of the content of University Museum collections e.g. by subject).

The design should also indicate the relevance of University Museums to all high level subject areas i.e. the Arts; Science, Technology and Mathematics; and the Humanities; and the common goal of University Museums to support research, learning and teaching; and wider participation in and impact of Higher Education.

Brand values and ideas for graphic-content to be represented can be gained from

http://umg.web.its.manchester.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/UMG_Advocacy.pdf and the websites of UMG and UMiS: <http://www.umg.org.uk> ; <http://www.umis.ac.uk/> .

The websites of leading UK University Museums may also be a useful reference point for brand values & design e.g.

<http://www.ashmolean.org/>; <http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/> ; <http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/> ;

<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/> ; <http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/> ;

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/hunterian/>; <http://www.reading.ac.uk/about/about-museums.aspx> ;

<http://www.scva.org.uk/>;

Logos that must be included on at least the homepage are those of: UMG, UMiS, JISC, HEFCE, Scottish Funding Council, Culture Grid (available from each organisation's websites).

Browser/ Device compatibility

The site should display and fully function for at least the latest 2 generations of IE; FFox; Chrome and Safari on both desktop and portable devices (tablets and phones)

Response to brief:

Approx 3 initial design options should be offered for UMG (Guy Baxter) to consider and comment upon to inform a single design option to be taken forward.