INTRODUCTION TO WEBSITE USABILITY

Presented by Alicja Weikop

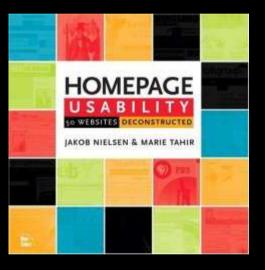


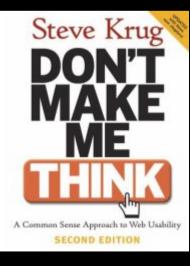
Proz.com Regional Conference 10th -11th Nov 2006 Edinburgh

Jakob Nielsen and Hoa Loranger Jakob Nielsen and Hoa Loranger, *Prioritizing Web Usability*, New Riders Press, Berkeley, ISBN 0-321-35031-6

Prioritizing Web Usability

Jakob Nielsen and Marie Tahir, *Homepage Usability:* 50 Websites Deconstructed, New Riders Publishing, Indianapolis, ISBN 0-73571-102-X





Steve Krug, *Don't Make Me Think! A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability*, New Riders, Berkeley, ISBN 0-321-34475-8

PRESENTATION

- WHAT IS USABILITY
- WHAT IS A HOMEPAGE
- WHO IS YOUR USER
- TYPICAL USER BEHAVIOURS ONLINE
- DESIGN GUIDELINES
- WEB CREDIBILITY
- USEFUL LINKS

WHAT IS USABILITY

Usability is a **quality attribute** that assesses how easy user interfaces are to use.

Usability is defined by five quality components:

- Learnability
- Efficiency
- Memorability
- Errors
- Satisfaction

WHAT IS A HOMEPAGE

- The homepage is your company's face to the world and often the first point of contact.
- Increasingly, potential customers will look at your company's online presence before doing business with you.
- Making sure your homepage is usable is a business necessity, not an option.

ROLE OF THE HOMEPAGE

- 1. Communicate
- What the company is
- The value of the site over the competition
- The products or services offered
- 2. Establish credibility and trust
- 3. Allow access to all important features
- 4. Define the style and navigation pattern of the whole site

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT

On the web, you often get only a few seconds to convince the potential customer to stay.

If they can't use your homepage or they don't understand the purpose or value of your services, they will take their business elsewhere.

Know thy user...



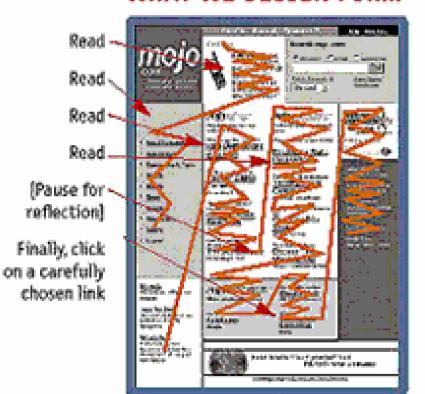


WHO IS THE USER?



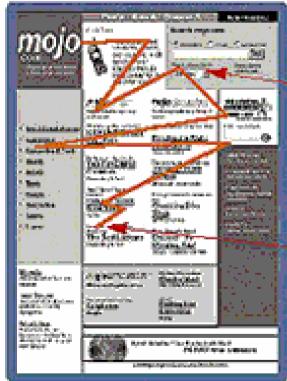


"billboard going by at 60 miles an hour..."



WHAT WE DESIGN FOR...

THE REALITY



Look around feverishly for anything that.

- a) is interesting, or vaguely resembles what you're looking for, and
- b) is clickable.
- As soon as you find a halfway-decent match, click.
- If it doesn't pan out, click the Back button and try again.

Usablity studies show that....

 Users spend an average of 1 minute 49 seconds on a website before deciding to move on.

Homepage viewing...

- Initial homepage viewing time (when homepage is the first page visited) is on average 25-35 seconds
- Time spent on the homepage decreases with every subsequent visit
- Only 23% of users scrolled the homepage during their initial visit (even fewer on subsequent visits)

Interior pages viewing...

- 60 % of initial page views were on interior pages (house with many doors metaphor)
- Users who visited an interior page first spent there on average 45-60 seconds
- Users read more content on interior pages

Searching behaviours

SERP – Search Engine Results Page

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 In 93% of searches, users only visited the first SERP (ten results)

Only 47% of users scrolled the first SERP

Where users click on the SERP

Position in the SERP	No of clicks
#1	51%
#2	16%
#3	6%
#4	6%
#5	5%

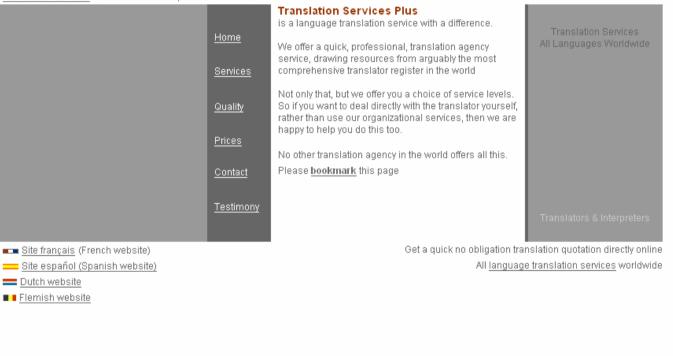
Scrolling

- Most users don't scroll pages
- Homepages are scrolled the least, SERPs and interior pages the most (42%, 47%).
- When they do scroll they only scroll through 1.3 screens worth of info

1. COMMUNICATE SITE'S PURPOSE

1.1 Show company logo...

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1.2 Include tagline that summarises well what the site or company does...



1.3 Emphasise how you differ from your competitors/ what the site does that's valuable to users...

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1.4 Emphasise the key tasks so that users have a clear starting point on the homepage...







2. COMMUNICATE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

2.1 Group corporate information: About Us, Employment etc in one area...

About UsSome of our ClientsTestimonialsSpanish Translation QualityTranslation PricingRequest a QuoteTranslation for MilesWork with UsContact InformationTranslation TopicsPress Releases

Corporate about asian absolute mission statement testimonials press releases work for asian absolute contact us

About Translation Central

Directors :: Clients :: Client Comments :: Policy Statement :: Newsletter

2.2 Include a link to About Us on the homepage

2.3 Include Contact Us on the homepage

Home

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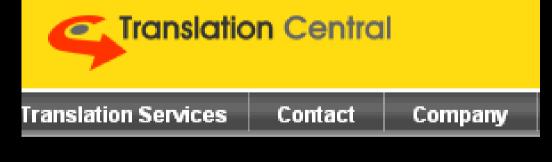
About us

Document Translation

Website Translation

Software Localization

Contact us



3. CONTENT WRITING

3.1 Web pages have to employ **scannable text**, using

- highlighted keywords
- meaningful sub-headings
- bulleted lists
- one idea per paragraph
- the inverted pyramid style, starting with the conclusion
- half the word count (or less) than conventional writing

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Website Translation

Translation and website localizations



Software Translation

Application, video game, graphic, GUI Translations ...



Packaging/POS

Solutions for wholesalers & distributors, ...

3.2 Speak the customer's language

3.3 Avoid redundant content

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3.4 Don't use weird, made-up words, puns or phrases

3.5 Avoid exclamation marks, UPPERCASE LETTERS, or W.E.I.R.D E.F.F.E.C.T.S

4. USING HYPERLINKS

4.1 Make sure links look clickable

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Mission statement

Mission statement

Before being a matter of words and languages, translation services are above all a matter of trust, quality, and responsibility.

ion statement

Before being a matter of words and languages, <u>translation services</u> are above all a matter of trust, quality, and responsibility.

Welcome to Exolangue.com English to French translator

Welcome to Exolangue.com English to French translator

ssion statement

4.2 Make links specific and brief

4.3 Don't use constructions: <u>Click here</u> for a quote but <u>Request a Quote</u>

ANGUAGES

GES QUALITY FEES PRESS WEBSITES DICTIONARIES SOFTWARE TOOLS

4.4 Differenciate between visited/unvisited links by means of colour

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4.4 Open links in the same browser window

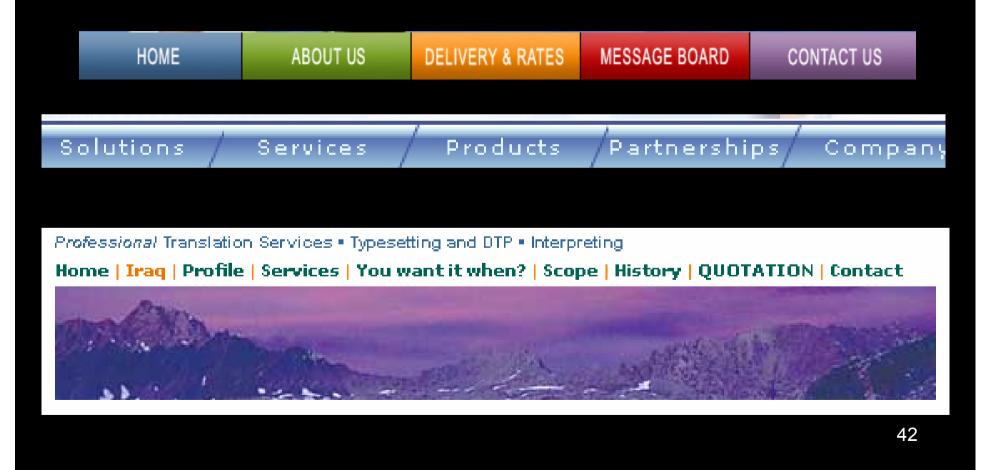
Exception: PDF files or similar (Word, Excel etc)

5. NAVIGATION

5.1 Locate the primary navigation in a highly noticeable place

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5.2 Group items logically and use clear labels – match the structure to user expectations



5.3 Don't create redundant navigation areas



Company

- About WTB
- People
- Testimonials
- Quality process
- Languages
- Samples

Company

About WTB History and background information of WTB

<u>People</u> Professional and personal background of WTB staff

Newsletters What is new at WTB plus valuable articles

<u>Testimonials</u> What our clients say about our services

<u>Quality process</u> How our workflow process reflects our quality approach

Contact Information

Phone: 519-256-8897

Toll Free: 1-877-PICK-WTB

Email: web@wintranslation.com Employment Current job openings plus freelancer registration

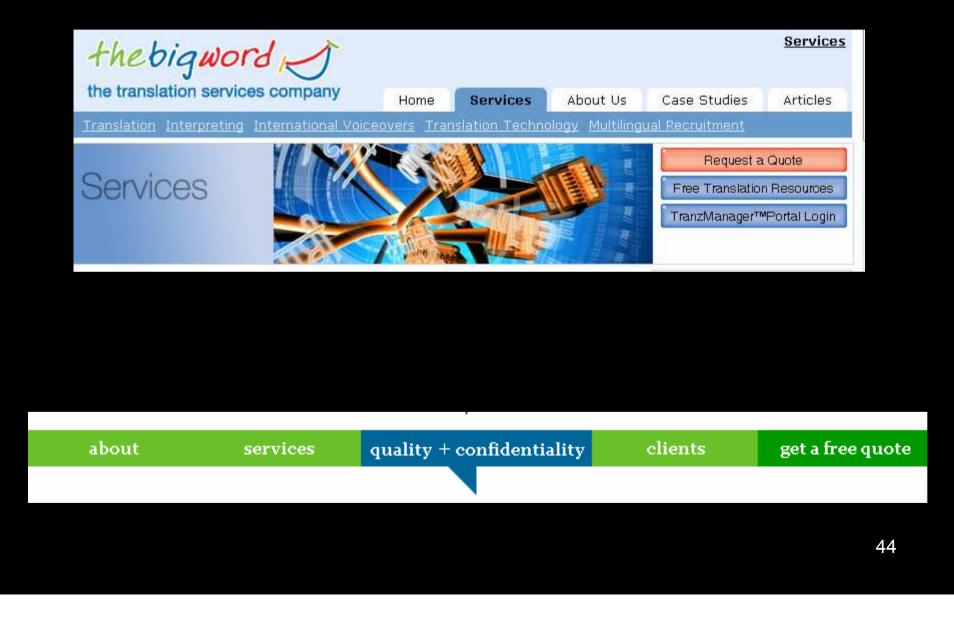
Languages List of languages we provide translation services in

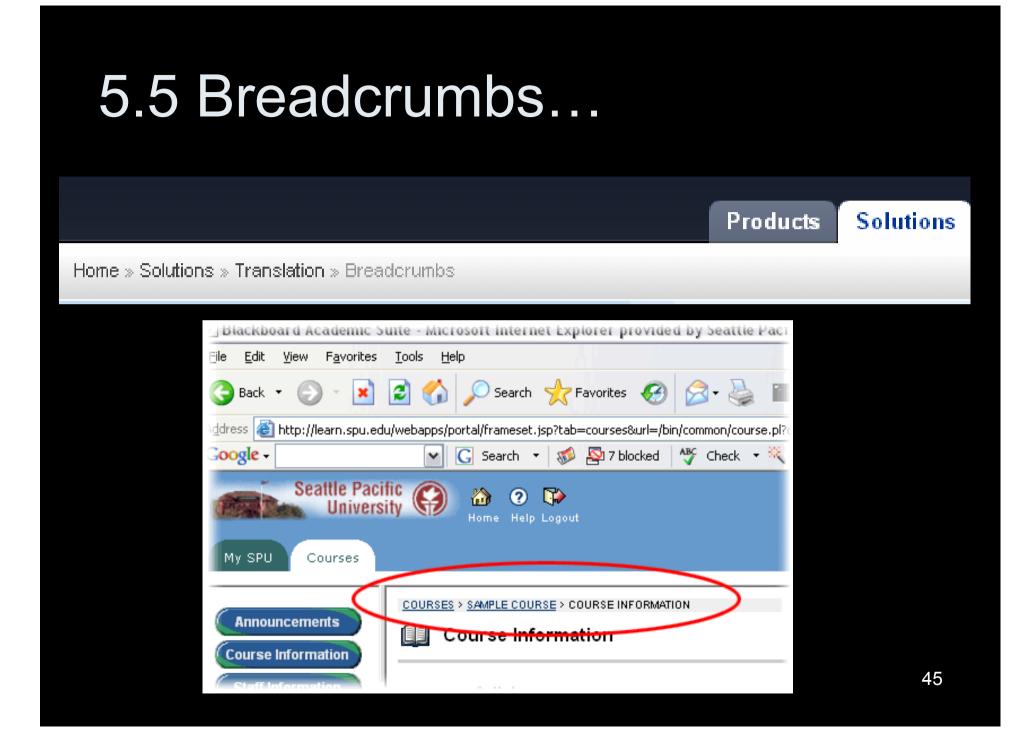
<u>Fields of expertise</u> Areas where we have accumulated considerable experiences

Samples

Our past translation and typesetting samples in various language pairs

5.4 'You are here'





6. USE OF GRAPHICS

6.1 Use relevant graphics, not for pure decoration









6.2 Edit photos to be the right size and quality



6.3 Beware of "banner blindness"

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6.4 Avoid using animation, unless it is useful

6.5 Never animate critical elements such as your logo, tag line or main headline

6.6 Avoid animated intro pages

7. GRAPHIC DESIGN

7.1 Use high contrast for better legibility

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7.2 Limit the use of styles

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7.3 Use the right fonts

 Opt for fonts which are available on your customers' computers and are easily read on the screen.

Most recommended ones are: Arial, Georgia, Trebuchet MS, Verdana

- Sans serif fonts look better on the screen
- Recommended text size for a general audience is 10 -12 point

7.4 Follow existing Web conventions

"Users spend most of their time on *other* websites."



Jakob Nielsen

7.5 Avoid visual noise

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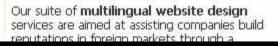
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8. WEB CREDIBILITY

The design itself can communicate trustworthiness in four ways:

- Design quality
- Up-front disclosure of information
- Comprehensive, correct, and current
 content
- Connected to the rest of the Web

Features which increase credibility:

- 1. Make it easy to verify the accuracy of the information on your site.
- 2. Show that there's a real organization behind your site.
- 3. Highlight the expertise in your organization and in the content and services you provide.
- 4. Show that honest and trustworthy people stand behind your site.
- 5. Make it easy to contact you.

6. Design your site so it looks professional (or is appropriate for your purpose).

7. Make your site easy to use -- and useful.

8. Update your site's content often (at least show it's been reviewed recently).

9. Use restraint with any promotional content (e.g., ads, offers).

10. Avoid errors of all types, no matter how small they seem.

Would you trust them...

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

We are recongized by the New Zealand and Japanese Imigration Departments for translations of all documents needed when applying for visas, permets, residencey.

That's it for now...

<u>http://www.usability.gov/pdfs/guidelines.html</u>
- web design and usability guidelines

www.useit.com – Jakob Nielsen's homepage with lots of articles on usability

World Usability Day – 14th November