Advanced Usability Projects

Fall, 2008

1. Ongoing testing of Vignette's Content Management System

- UT digital humanities project
- The Fontaine Archive Usability Project

Usability engineering of several iSchool web-based applications intended to replace existing systems (equipment checkout, password reset requests and account requests)

8/21/08

To: Dr. Randolph Bias, University of Texas at Austin

RE: The Fontaine Archive Usability Project

The current website: www.fontaine.org

The Fontaine Archive is an archive of letters, diaries, photography, books and artwork of Virginia and Paul Fontaine. The website www.fontaine.org was created in 1992 to be an historical overview of only Paul Fontaine's life and painting and the beginning of a destination site for collectors of his work. The site was intended to provide, but didn’t finish, a complete inventory of his work.

The new website should be redesigned, likely in a Triptych motif, to accomplish the following,

1. A destination site for collectors of Fontaine painting and interested buyers.( essentially the original Fontaine.org plus a new area to buy works )
2. A destination site for art historians, museums and collectors researching post-WW II artists in Europe, needing primary material on the rebuilding of the art movements 1946-1956. (The Archive of materials created by Virginia Fontaine)
3. A destination community site for all the art collectors and families of the expatriates involved in the rebuilding, who are referenced in the primary material of the archive, a place where the current generation of these families can connect.

Triptych Motif
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.fontaine.org">www.fontaine.org</a></td>
<td>Research here</td>
<td>Art Auction News, Museum News, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Sample Photo Album</td>
<td>Ask Questions here</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buy his art here</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Website of Works for Sale</td>
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Key Technical problems
A. The www.fontaine.org, Section (1), was developed without CSS—that needs to be redone.
B. The Archive, Section (2), is *almost* entirely indexed in Access, and ideally should be searchable via the web—this hasn't been solved yet. Alex Addison was working on this, this summer. (* the database is about 60% finished, although the frame is there) The research idea is to allow users to research a name, place or date in any combination and find results in diary entries, letters, photography, books and gallery catalogs in a graphic view.