

# Toward a Catalogue of Existing Education and Outreach Material in the CERN IT Department – Step 1: Inventory

## Introduction

As the very first site of the planet was created at CERN, lots of web sites and other material have been accumulated. As a result, it is hard and confusing for the public to find exactly what they're looking for. That is, when not familiar with the environment of CERN, people might need some assistance so that they don't give up their searches. To give them the information they are seeking, we must improve search results and accessibility of the extensive material that exists.

## The goal

The goal of this project is to make this material much more accessible and attractive to the public. The first step requires retrieving said material and making a concise and clear structure to set it in.

## The Idea

The idea is to make a Catalogue to structure the material available to us. Namely, a place where all the links are collected, explained, and organized. A website could be an easy way to accomplish this. Also, if the layout and interface of the web site is functional and simple, any person could easily navigate through it and not get disoriented.

Firstly, making a Catalogue requires making an Inventory of what material already exists. To begin, it would be too complicated to retrieve all the material from each website, therefore it is more efficient to work with the links. The objective is to divide them into categories specific to a certain subject, carefully choosing interesting labels in order to captivate the users' attention and make them want to search even further. However, if there are too many categories, then it will take too many clicks to lead to one link. This must be avoided as the users might want to abandon their search mid-way. Therefore, the smaller number of categories and sub-categories the better.

Additionally, each link should be tagged with keywords related to the data they contain. This is important as it gives us the opportunity to change the categories' label and to shuffle the links without having to manually re-organize the whole catalogue. Furthermore, this approach allows us to change any outdated labels freely to keep up with the current state of events.

Below (see figure 1), is an example of how the home page could be structured. The first two categories must be Internal and Public. Such that the user is informed of the fact that there are links that are not accessible without a CERN login.

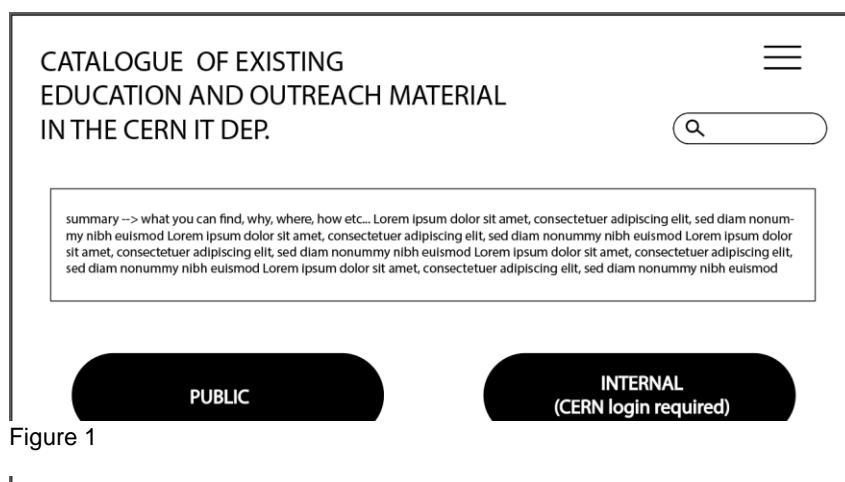


Figure 1

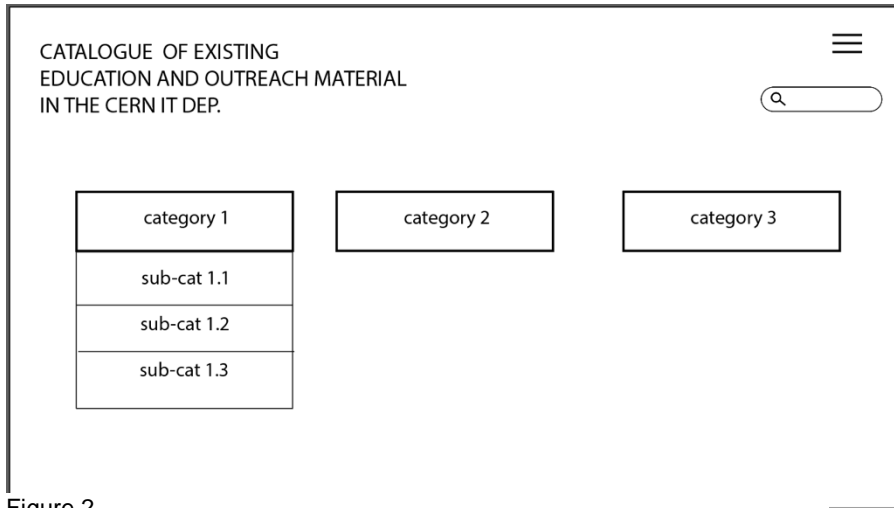


Figure 2

Pictured above (see figure 2) is the example of the page when the user clicks on Public or Internal. If one hovers with the mouse on top of the category, the sub-categories should appear.

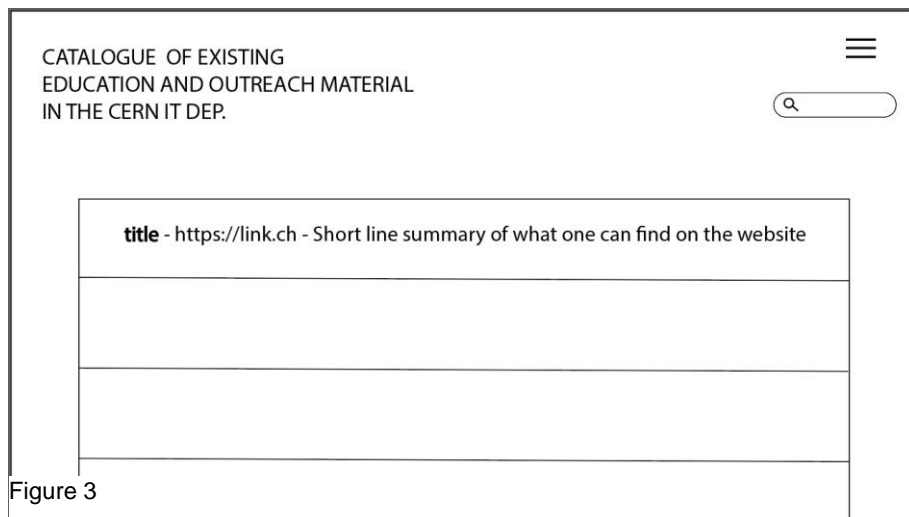


Figure 3

Next, if one clicks on a category a list of links should appear. There should be the title of each link, the link itself, and a short line summarizing the content of the link (see figure 3). When clicked, more details about the link can be added and the keywords must be visible as in the picture below (see figure 4). A good addition would be to place icons describing the type of multimedia that can be found on the link.

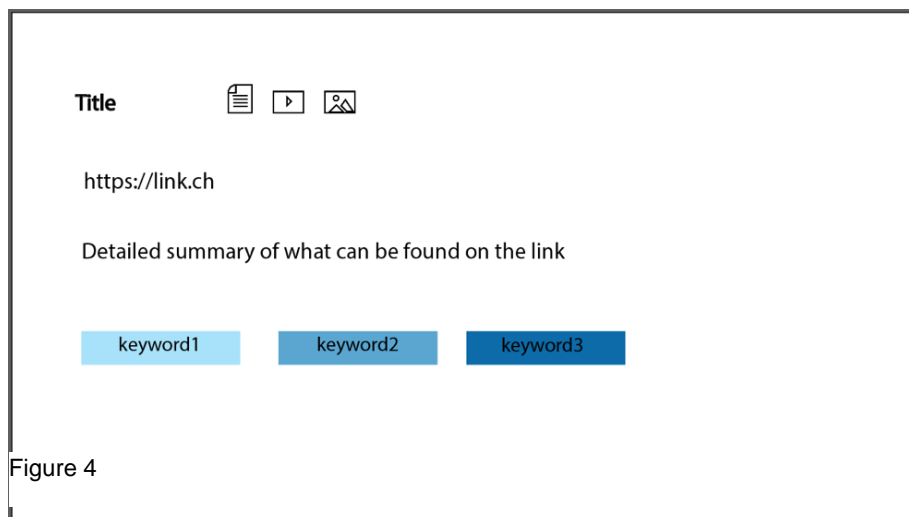


Figure 4

The and pages

Public Internal will have

similar features. The only thing that changes are the labels and the accessibility of the links. Concerning the internal links, it should be specified that there are different levels of security. That is, some require a CERN login and others require for you to be connected to the CERN internal network.

### **Conclusion**

Since data visualization is largely a matter of taste, the esthetics part of the website could be disputed. However, this is the 1<sup>st</sup> step to putting order into CERN's intricate network of information. Therefore, it is crucial that the website or the structure chosen, remains simple and practical and stays true to its primary function: accessibility. Lastly, all this should be done as soon as possible to get CERN users' feedback.

<https://design-guidelines.web.cern.ch/guidelines/guidelines-cern-websites>