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

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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.
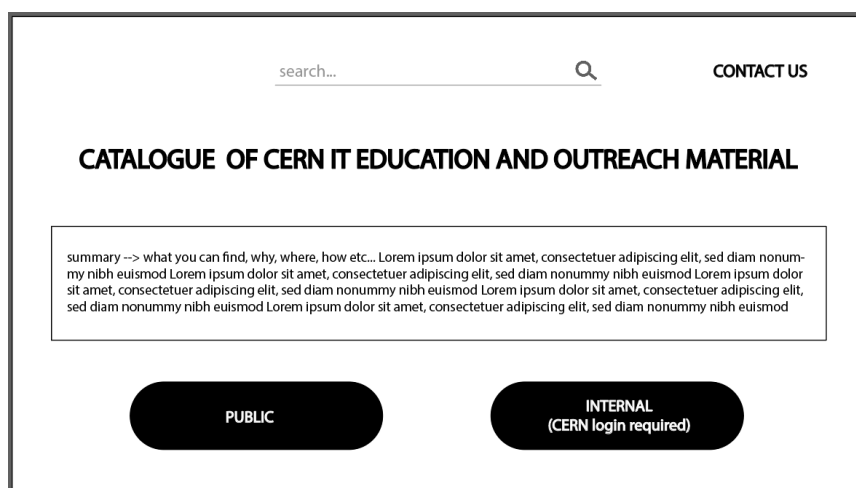
The Idea
The idea is to make a Catalogue to structure the material available to us. Namely, a place where all the links are collected, explained, and organized. A website could be an easy way to accomplish this. Also, if the layout and interface of the web site is functional and simple, any person could 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 Furthermore, this approach allows us to change any outdated labels freely to keep up with the current state of events.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. In addition, a brief but detailed text describing the purpose of the catalogue should be placed on the home page.

search... 🔍 CONTACT US

CATALOGUE OF CERN IT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MATERIAL

summary --> what you can find, why, where, how etc... Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod

PUBLIC INTERNAL (CERN login required)

CATALOGUE OF CERN IT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MATERIAL   search...   Q   ≡

PUBLIC

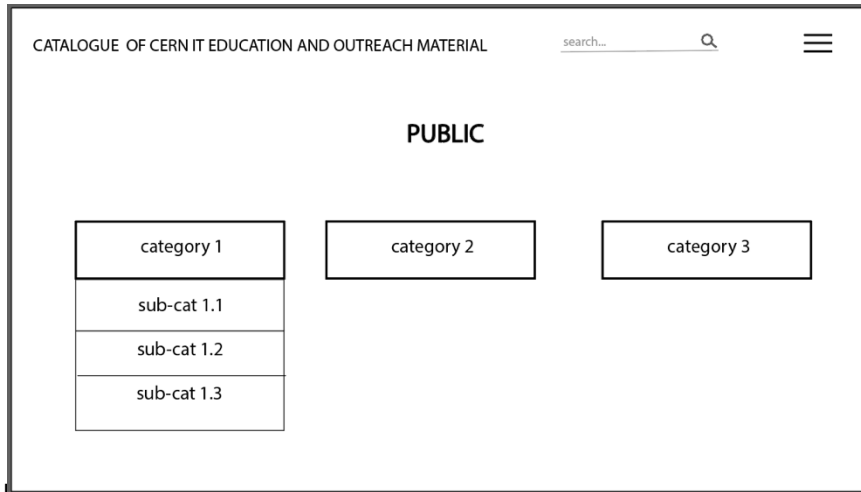| category 1 | category 2 | category 3 |

sub-cat 1.1
sub-cat 1.2
sub-cat 1.3

Figure 2

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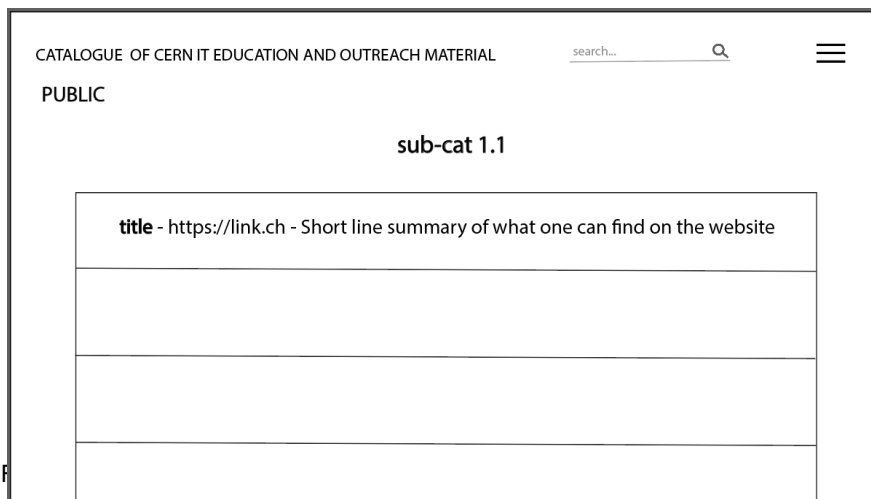

CATALOGUE OF CERN IT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MATERIAL   search...   Q   ≡
PUBLIC

sub-cat 1.1

title - https://link.ch - Short line summary of what one can find on the website

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, such that the user has a more visual representation of the content.

Title

https://link.ch

Detailed summary of what can be found on the link
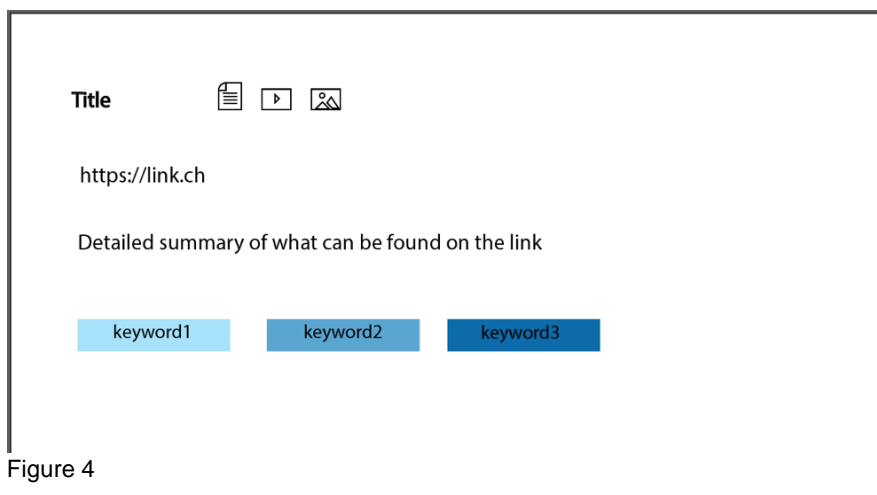
| keyword1 | keyword2 | keyword3 |

Figure 4

The Public and Internal pages 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.

Attention should be brought to the already existing strict CERN guidelines[1] on designing websites which will be helpful in the implementation step. In the appendix you can find a color palette (see figure 5) that is a good candidate for the website and is already used for the academic training website[2].
Then, as additional information for the user, an events calendar of CERN IT's scheduled events could be potentially added next to the "contact us" section. It should be decided whether it will work as an anchor link that automatically scrolls down to the calendar on the home page or a page for itself.
In the appendix, there are also pictures that could imbedded on the website as a visualization of the IT department[3].
A section for users' feedback at the end of the page should be made.

Conclusion
Since data visualization is largely a matter of taste, the esthetics part of the website could be disputed. However, this is the 1st 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, I recommend that this be done as soon as possible to get CERN users' feedback.

References → what would interest me on a label regrouping some links
~~Services → which ones do I think are look for labels~~
Look for labels for cat
Some refs
History ..> how to make a sub cat with a history worthy things OR flag

Indication for duration for vids ?

Thing where we want feedback on the site

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[1] https://design-guidelines.web.cern.ch/guidelines/guidelines-cern-websites

[2] https://academictraining.cern.ch

[3] See https://gillescollides.wordpress.com/2012/09/24/strangelscentre-de-calcul/ or https://cds.cern.ch/record/2788598#