Design Strategies for Need-Based Internet Web Sites in Counseling and Career Services: Technical Report 28

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Design of Internet Web Sites

- Resource-Based Web Site
- Need-Based Web Site

Resource-Based Web Sites

- Organized by
 - resources and services available
 - the structure of the organization
- Users select resources, services, or links to meet their needs

Advantages

- Fast access for experienced users
- Low development costs
- Short time required for development

Disadvantages

- Difficulty for novice users in selecting resources, services, and links that meet their needs
 - Assumes ability to link resources & needs
 - Difficult to predict outcomes
 - Uncertainty about when help is needed
 - May lead to random linking & site hopping
- Becoming overwhelmed with options
 - Emphasis on comprehensiveness

Need-Based Web Sites

Three levels

- 1. Index (home page) list of potential users (audiences)
- 2. Interactive clarification of needs (simulated conversation with a practitioner)
- 3. Links to resources and services related to specific needs

Site map and index provides fast access for experienced users

Need-Based Web Sites

- Elements of each link
 - Description (Not actual title)
 - Potential learning outcome
 - Recommendations on the use of resources provided as appropriate
- Number of links limited by working memory requirements and quality

Need-Based Web Sites

- User identifies need for example
 - beginning student selects a program of study related to interests
 - graduating student identifies employers recruiting for specific occupations
- Resources, services, and links are then related to needs

Aims of the Need-Based Design

- Provide easy access to relevant, high quality links that users understand how to use
- Promote effective use of relevant resources and services rather than promoting comprehensive access to all possible resources and services

Advantages

- Users only view resources and services related to their needs
 - Site appears smaller and easier to navigate
 - Users are less likely to be overwhelmed with information
- Users better understand how to use resources
- Users better understand when assistance is needed

Disadvantages

- Higher development costs
- Long time required for development
- Difficulty in applying the expert knowledge of counselors

Selecting Web Site Design Features to Promote Learning

- Design
- Content

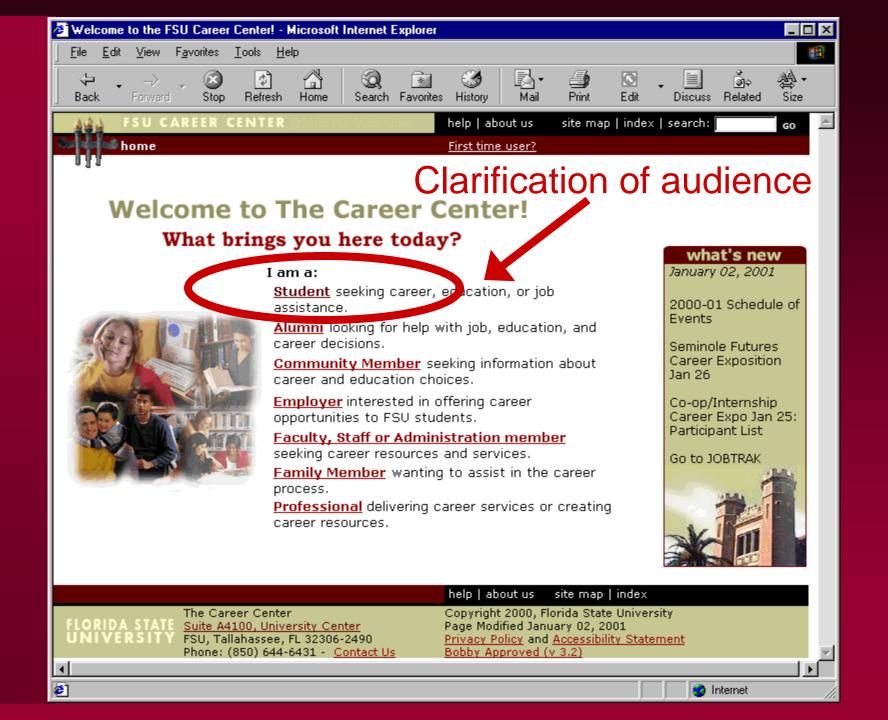
- Navigation
- Evaluation

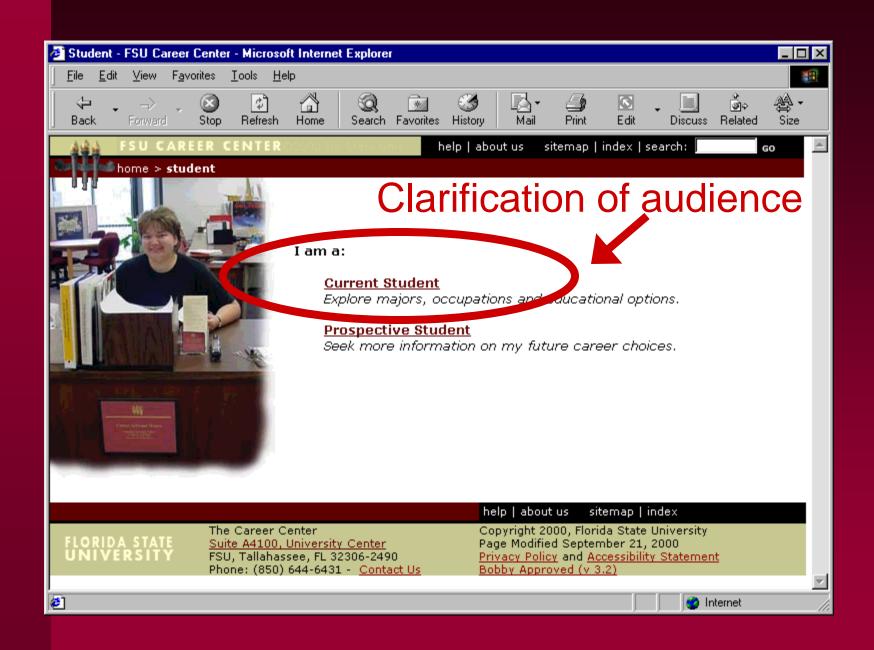
Design

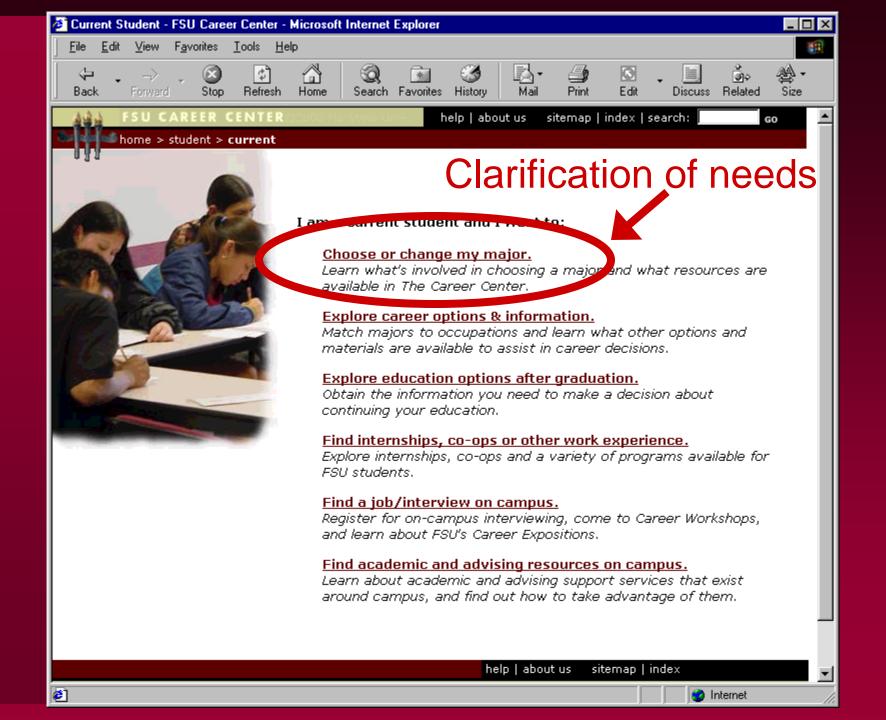
- Consistency
- Cognitive aspects
- Self-sufficiency
- Accessibility

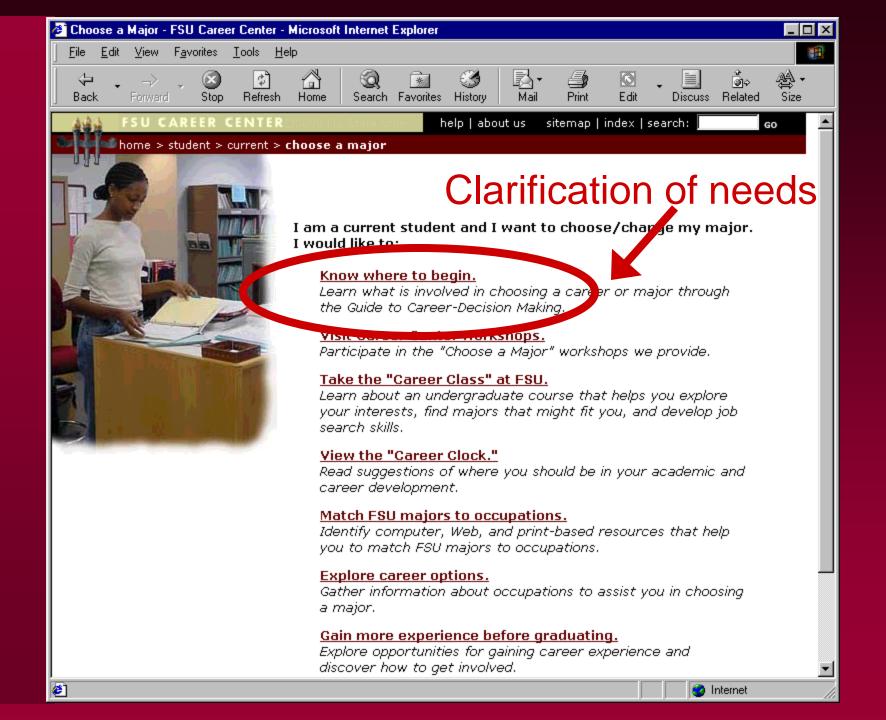
Design

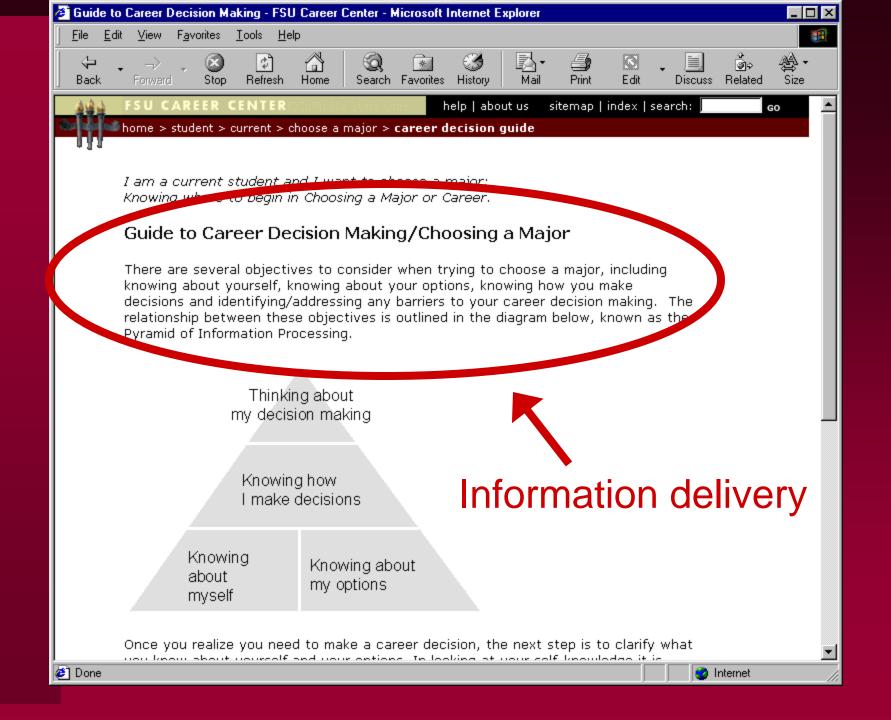
- Consistency
 - Templates
 - Clarification of audience, clarification of needs, and information delivery
 - Page design
 - Fonts, colors, styles, headers, footers, etc.





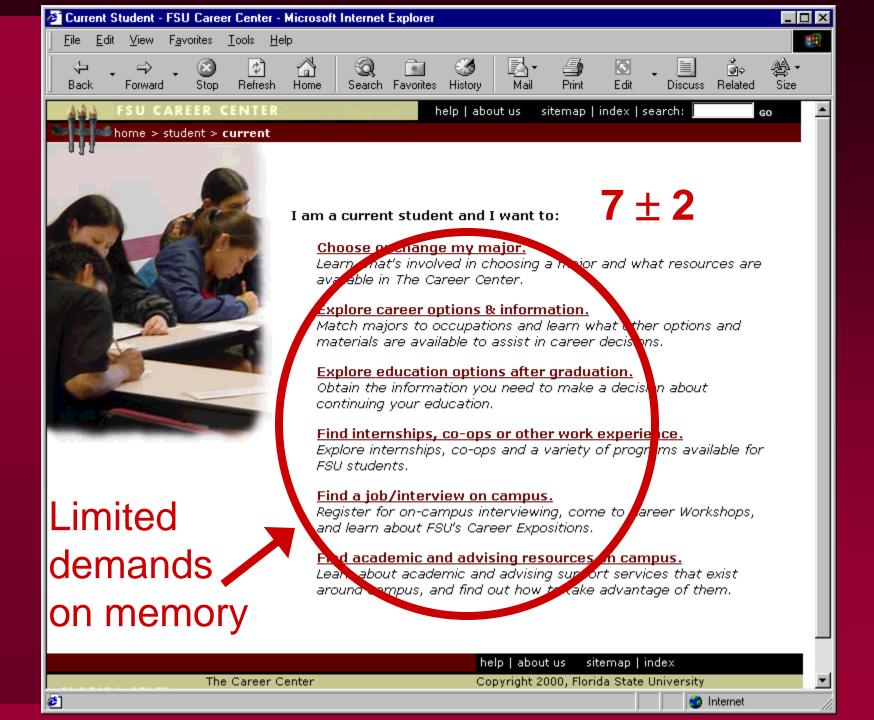






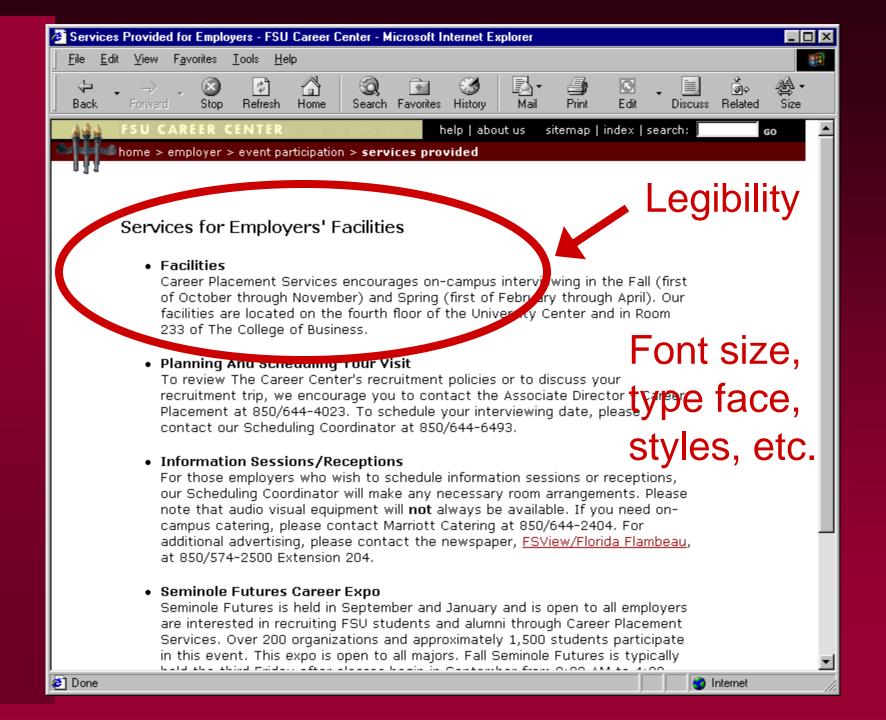
Design (Continued)

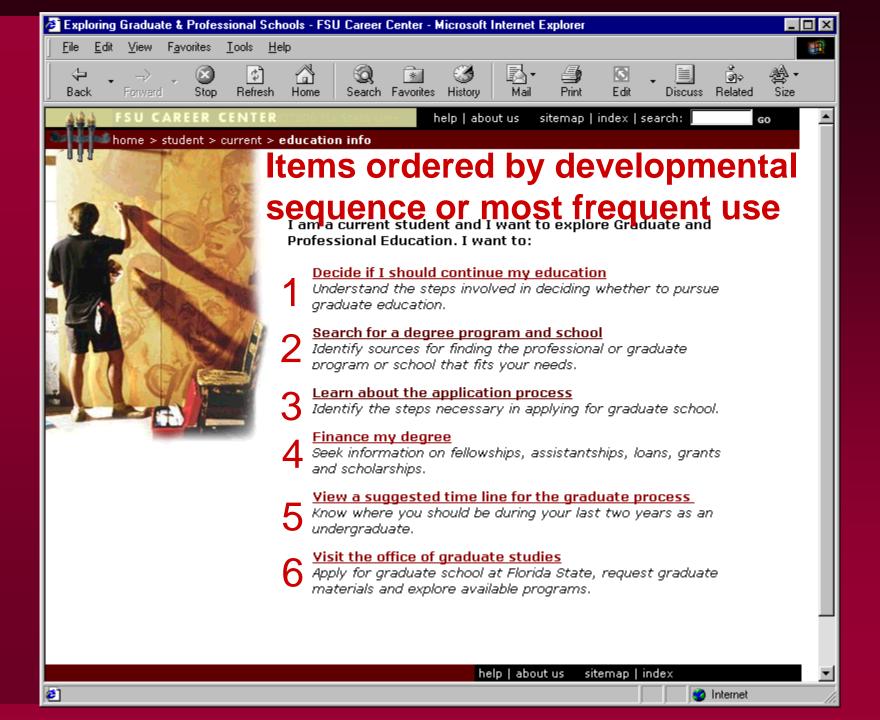
- Cognitive aspects
 - Limited demands on memory
 - -7 ± 2 options on any page
 - Browsability
 - Grouping and classifying similar information or items
 - Readability
 - Language level appropriate for audiences served



Design (Continued)

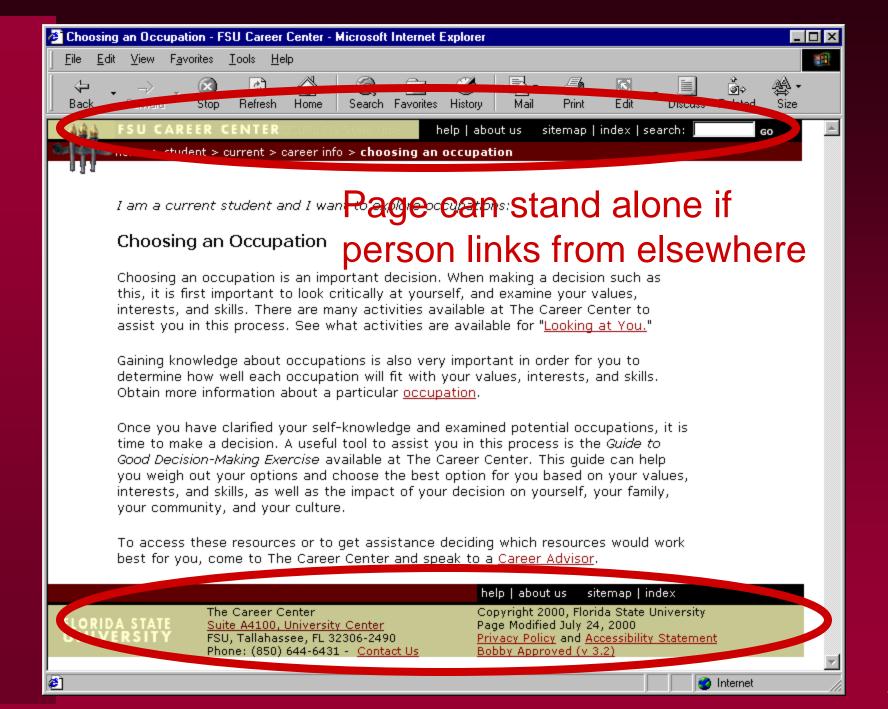
- Cognitive aspects (continued)
 - Legibility
 - Font size, type face, colors, etc.
 - Items ordered by developmental sequence or most frequent use

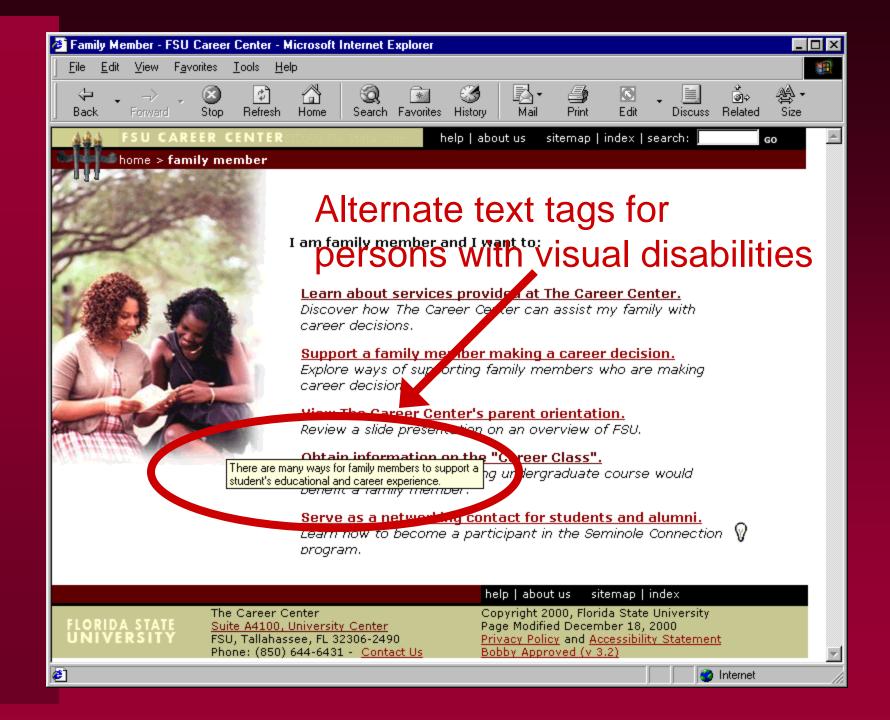




Design (Continued)

- Self-sufficiency
 - Page can stand alone if person links from elsewhere
- Accessibility
 - Alternate text tags for persons with visual disabilities
 - Selecting colors for persons with color blindness



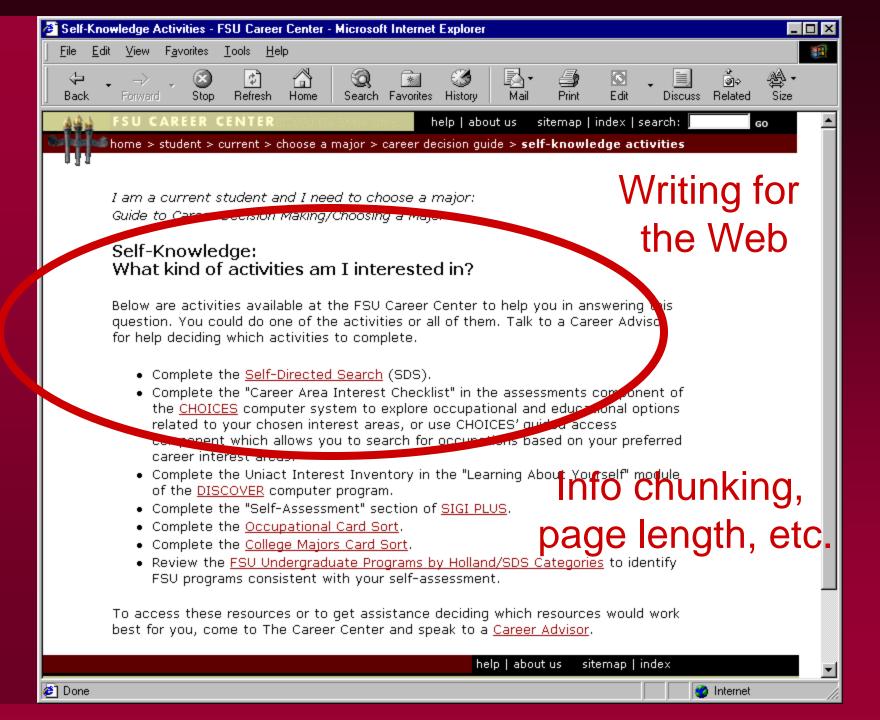


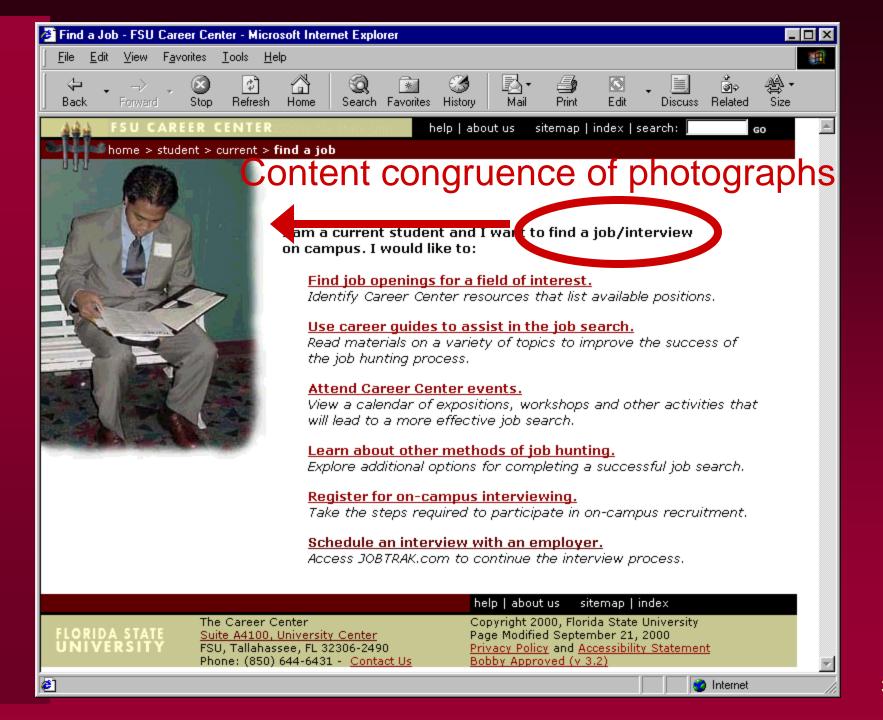
Content

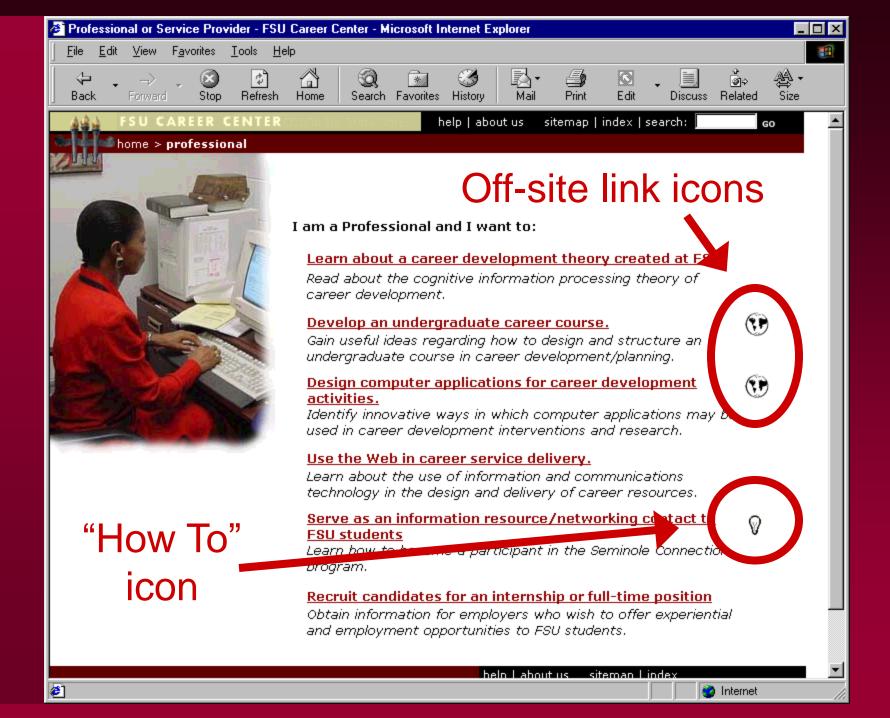
- Writing for the Web
- Graphics
- Help
- Organizational information
- Time-based features
- Place-based features

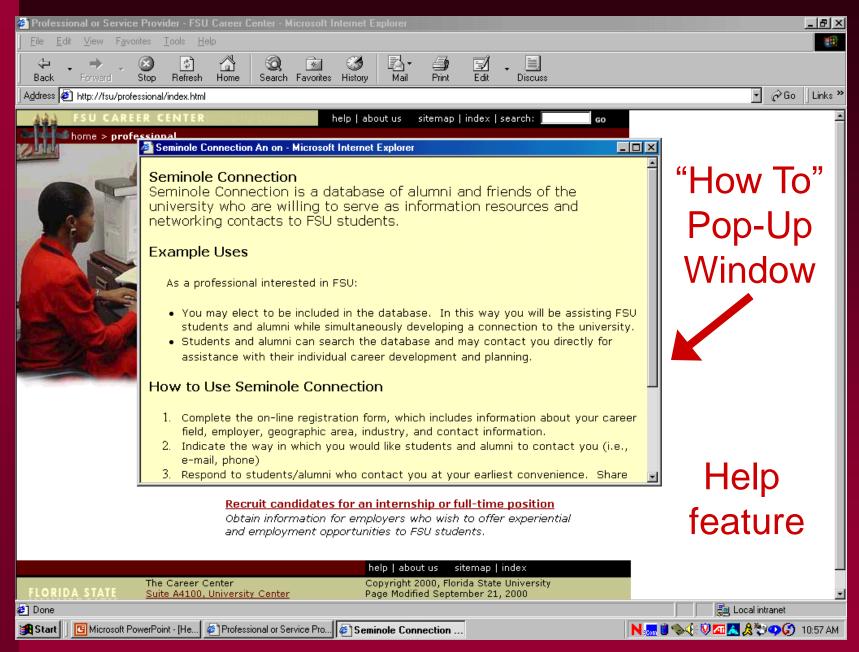
Content

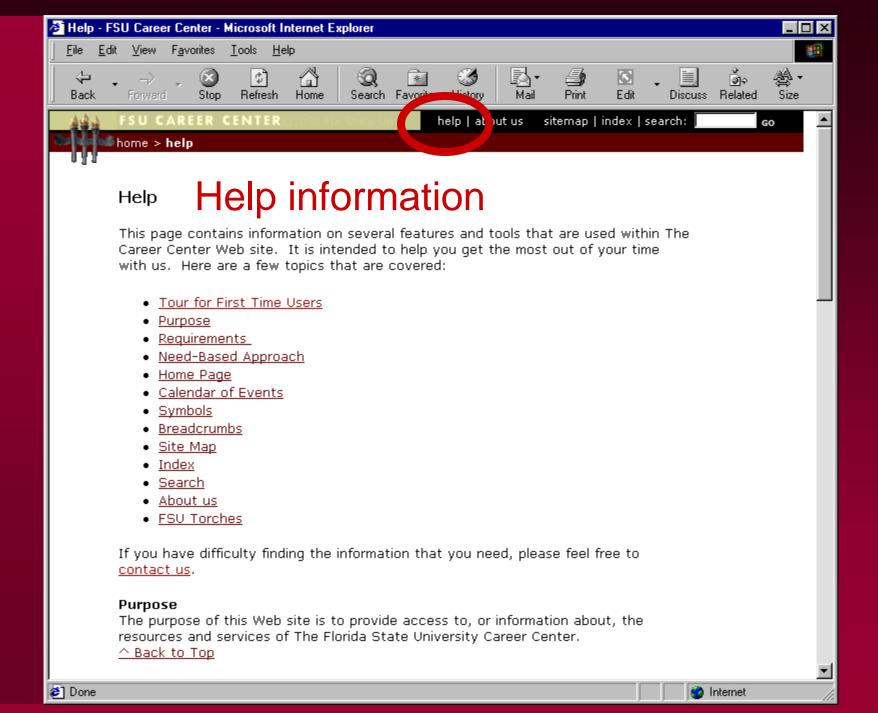
- Writing for the Web
 - Info chunking, page length, etc.
- Graphics
 - Related to content, short download time, sensitive to diverse audiences
 - Icons/symbols
 - Photographs
- Help
 - Help information, first time user orientation, how to pop-up window (sequence and use information; circumstances when help is needed)

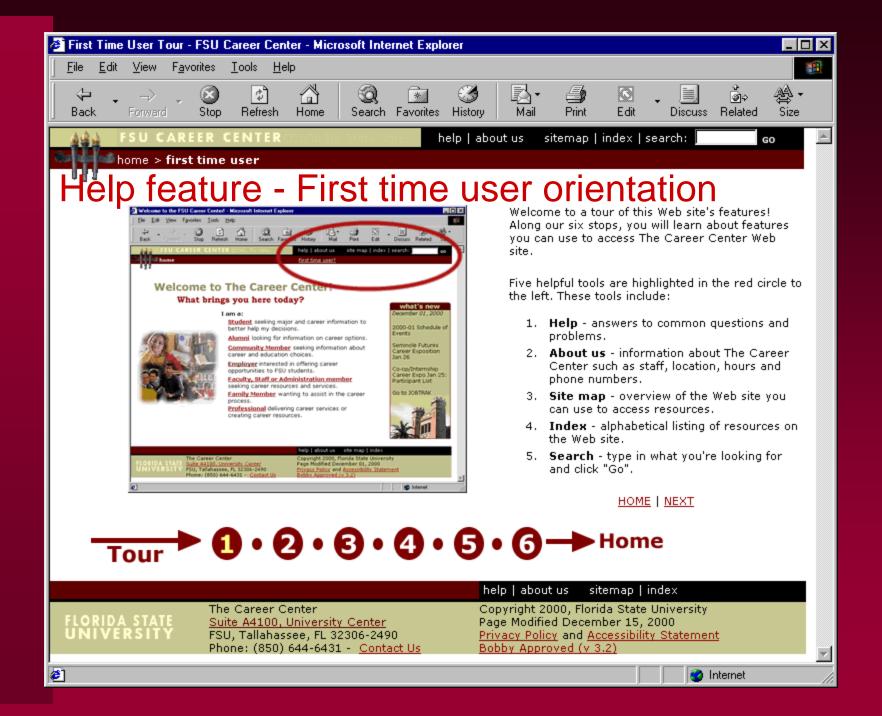






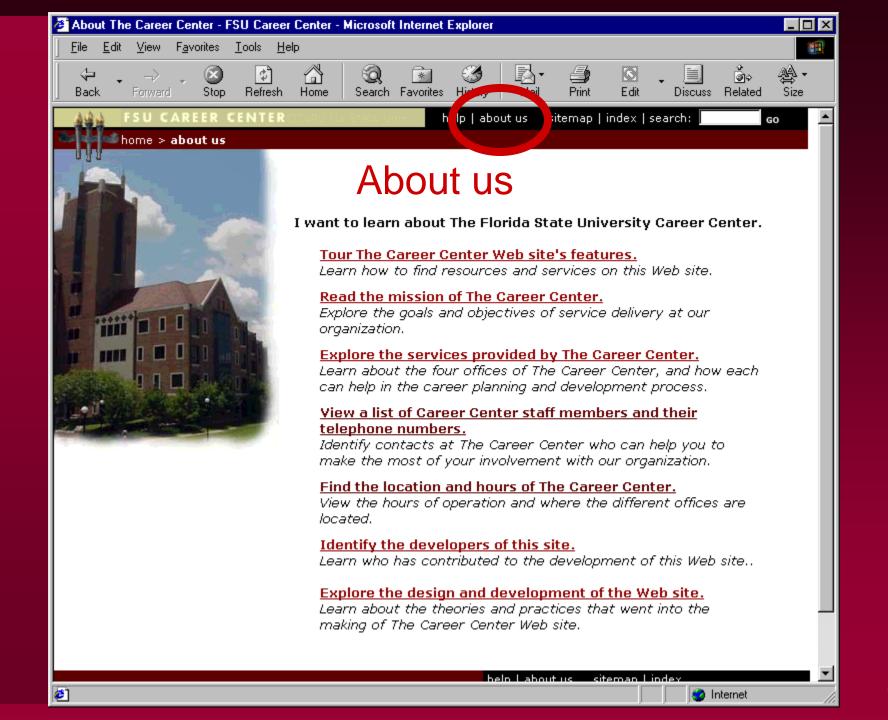


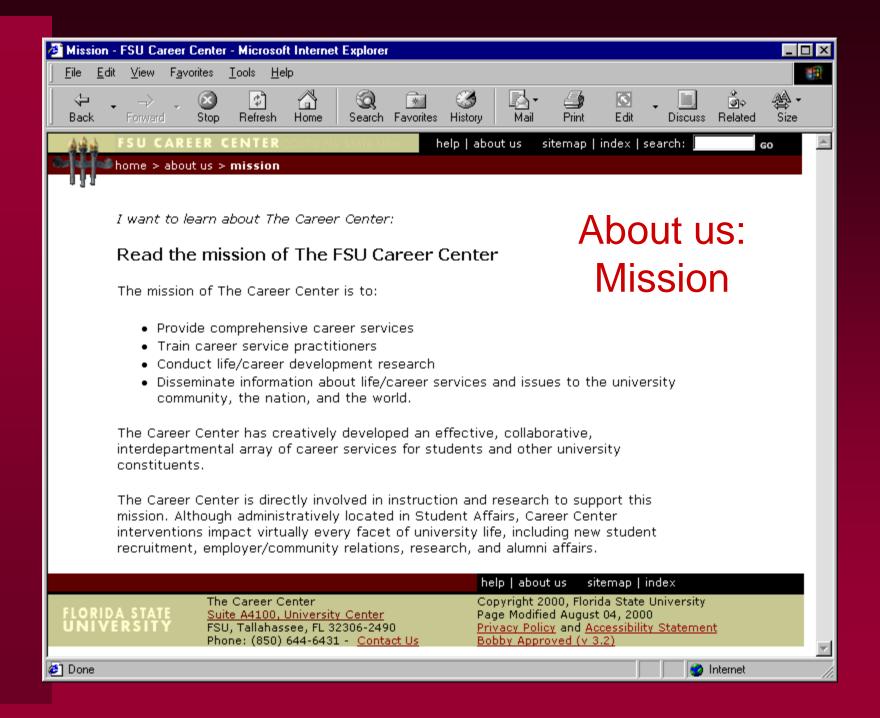


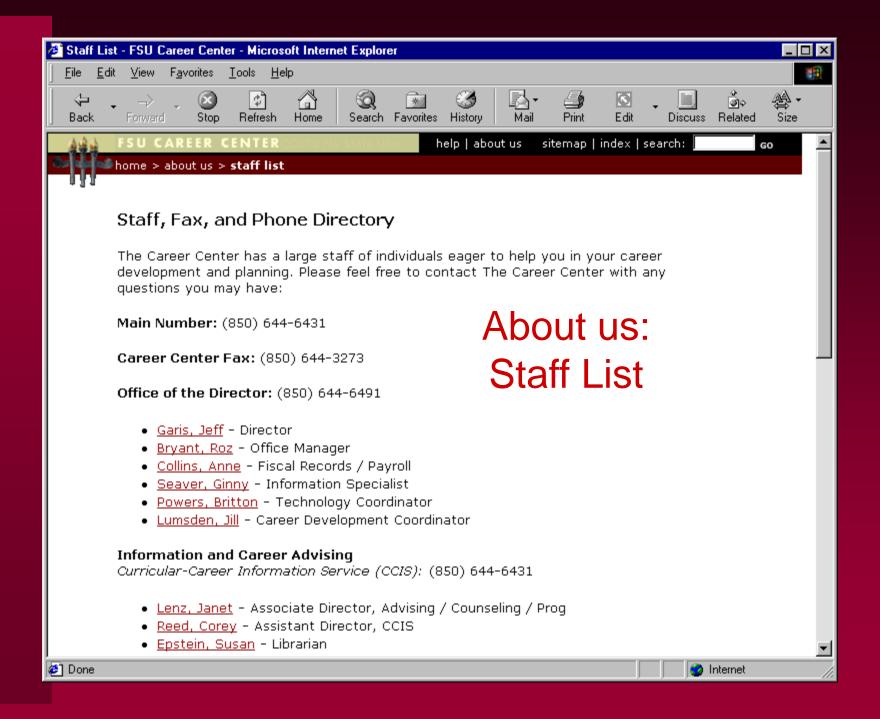


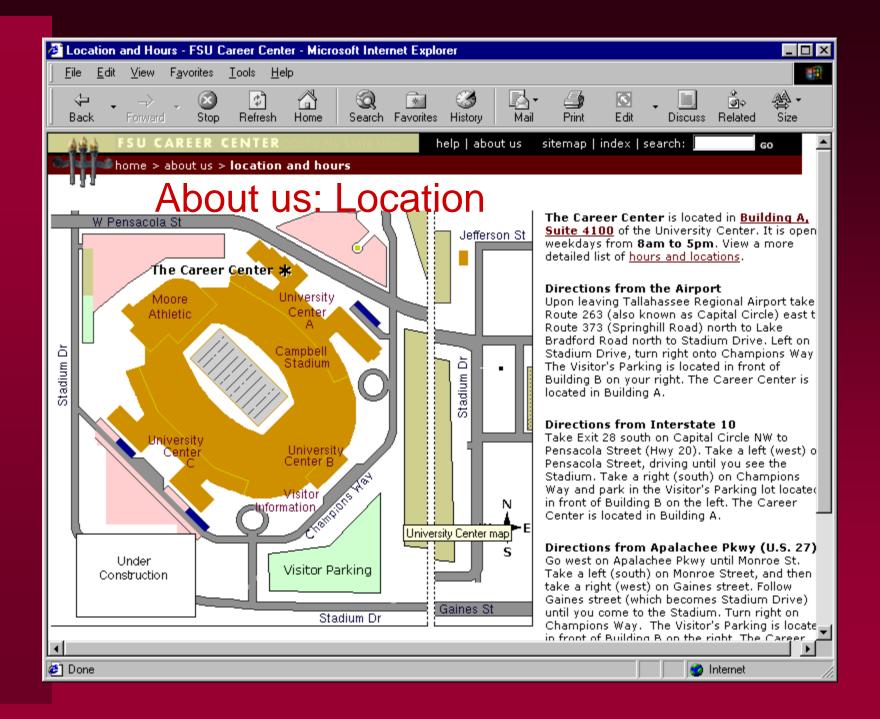
Content (Continued)

- Organizational information
 - About us, privacy policy, contact information
- Time-based features
 - Calendar, what's new, page modification date
- Place-based features
 - Maps and images of physical environment











The prototype design for this site was created by:

Scott Arkin, Darrin Carr, Jill Lumsden (not pictured), Megan Minvielle, Julia Panke, Britton Powers (not pictured), Jim Sampson, and Stacie Vernick

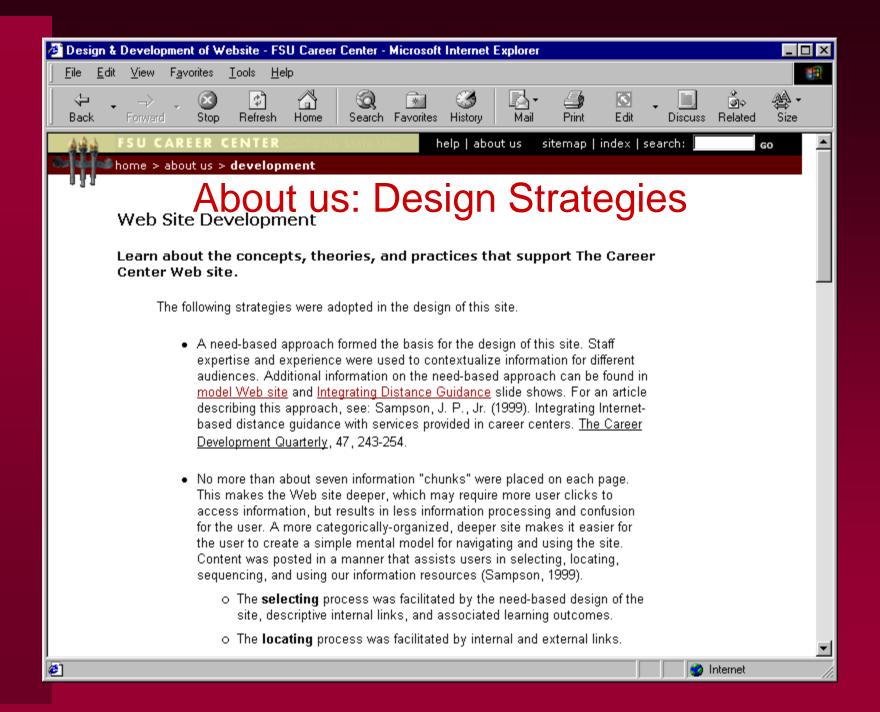


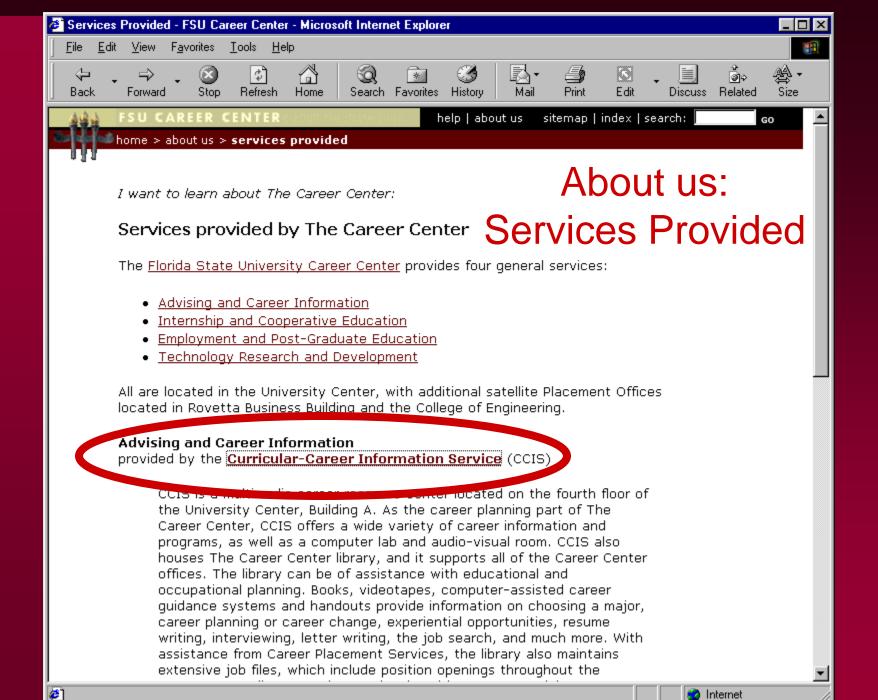
The on-going development of this site reflects contributions from:

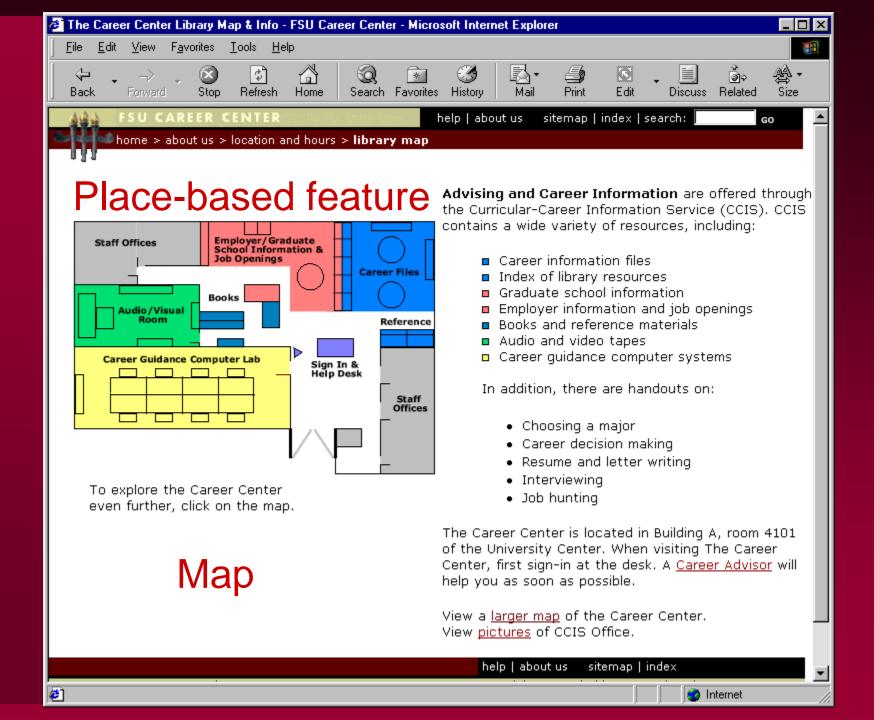
Scott Arkin, Tracie Barnard, Roz Bryant, Darrin Carr, Anne Collins, Sean Collins, Debbie Crowder, Mary Douglas, Susan Epstein, Jeff Garis, Janet Lenz, Jill Lumsden, Juliette McDonald, Angie McNeill, Megan Minvielle, James Murray, Julia Panke, Gary Peterson, Britton Powers, Gwen Randolph, Bob Reardon, Corey Reed, Pearly Rosier, Jim Sampson, Ginny Seaver, Stacie Vernick, and Myrna Unger













Place-based feature

Curricular-Career Information Service Office



When visiting the The Career Center, first come to the Information Desk and sign-in to obtain assistance.

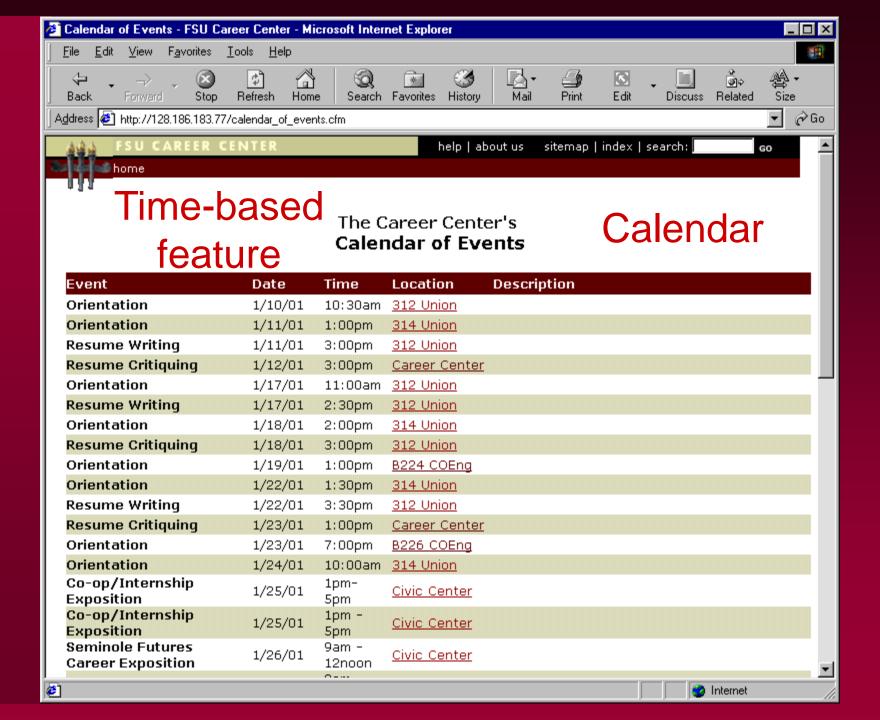


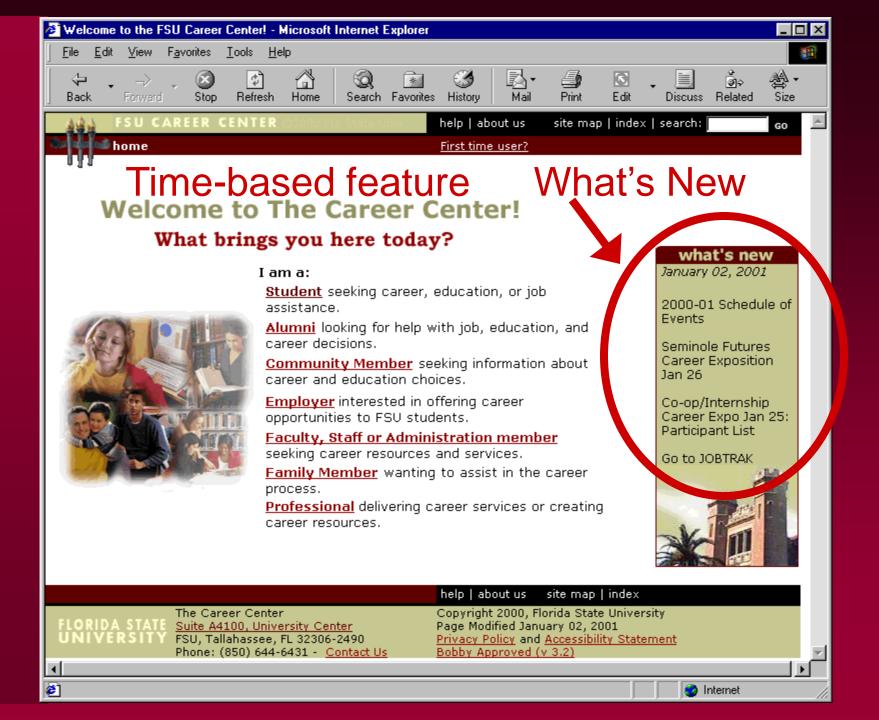
The Reference desk is where you can get assistance in finding books and materials in The Career Center.

Images of physical environment











Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy

The Career Center's Approach

The Career Center recognizes your right to privacy. We use security precautions to make sure any information we collect about you remains private. Certain portions of the our Web site (http://www.career.fsu.edu) may require you to sign in or create an account. Due to licensing and other restrictions, the information in these areas is limited only to students of Florida State University and its recruitment and internship partners. Your private information (which may include your name, address, e-mail address, and other resume information) is not shared with any individuals or organizations outside of The Career Center unless you have authorized us to do so via participation in one of our internship or placement programs.

Children Online

In compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, portions of our site requiring registration should not be used by children under the age of 13 without parental permission. Children should ask parents and guardians before submitting any personal information online. Parents and guardians are encouraged to supervise their children's online activities. If children will be using the Web unsupervised, parents may wish to consider third-party filtering software designed to provide a child-friendly online environment. Such filtering software may also prevent children from submitting personal information.

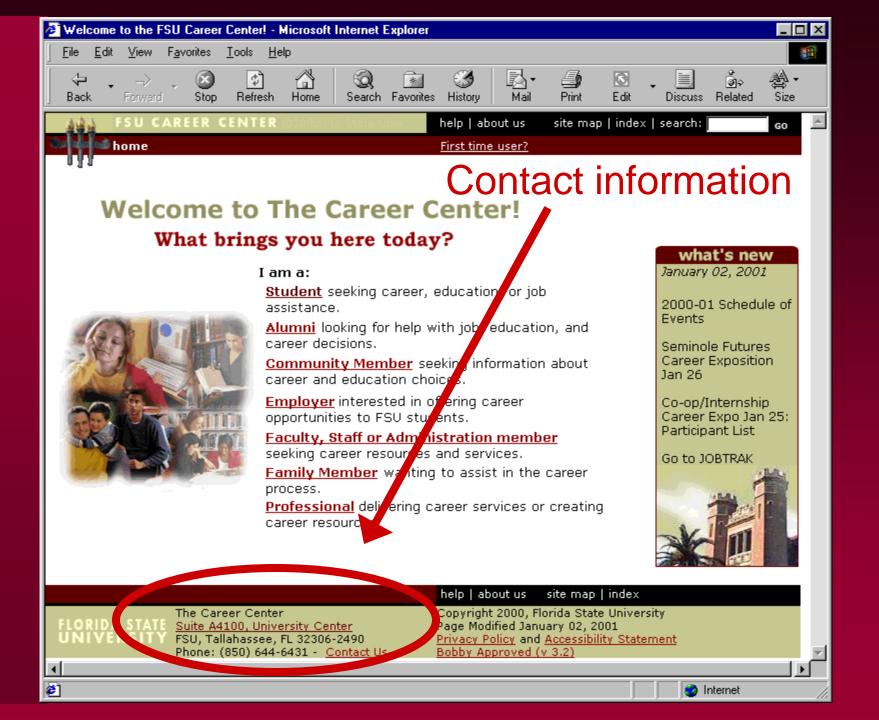
Sites We Link To

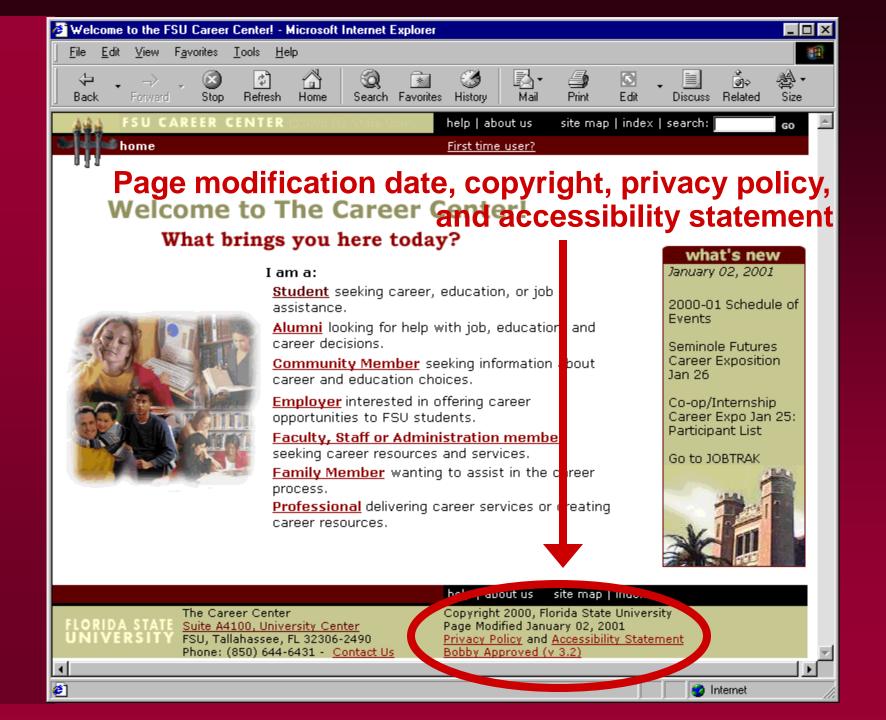
The Career Center creates links to other Web sites which may help you in exploring career and education options. We are not responsible for the privacy practices of these additional Web sites.

Chat Forums

The Career Center may also occasionally make chat or discussion forum's available for user

continue or annotal taxine. Places keen in mind that any information you next to eyeb discussions.



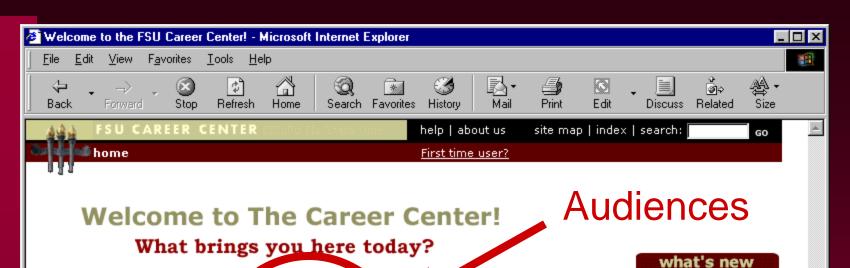


Navigation

- Links
- Feedback
- Resource-based tools

Navigation

- Links
 - Audience
 - Descriptive labeling
 - Learning outcomes
- Feedback
 - Clarification of path chosen
 - Breadcrumbs





am a:

<u>Student</u> seeking carter, education, or job assistance.

<u>Alumni</u> looking for help with job, education, and career decisions.

Community Member seeking information about career and education choices.

<u>Employer</u> interested in of ering career opportunities to FSU students.

Faculty, Staff or Administration member seeking career resources and services.

<u>Family Member</u> wanting to assist in the career process.

<u>Professional</u> delivering career services or creating career resources.

January 02, 2001

2000-01 Schedule of Events

Seminole Futures Career Exposition Jan 26

Co-op/Internship Career Expo Jan 25: Participant List

Go to JOBTRAK



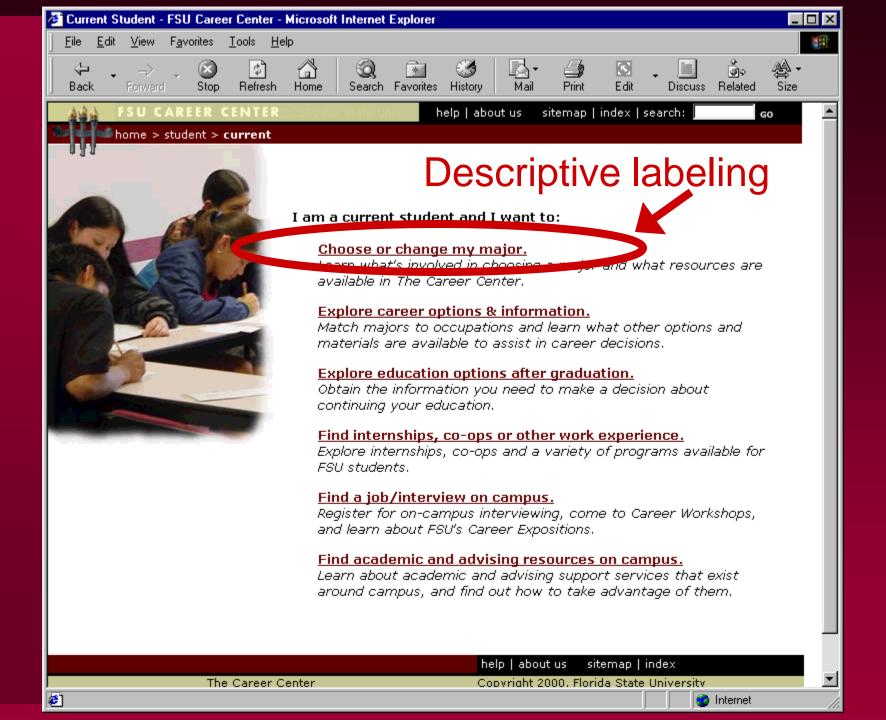
help | about us | site map | index

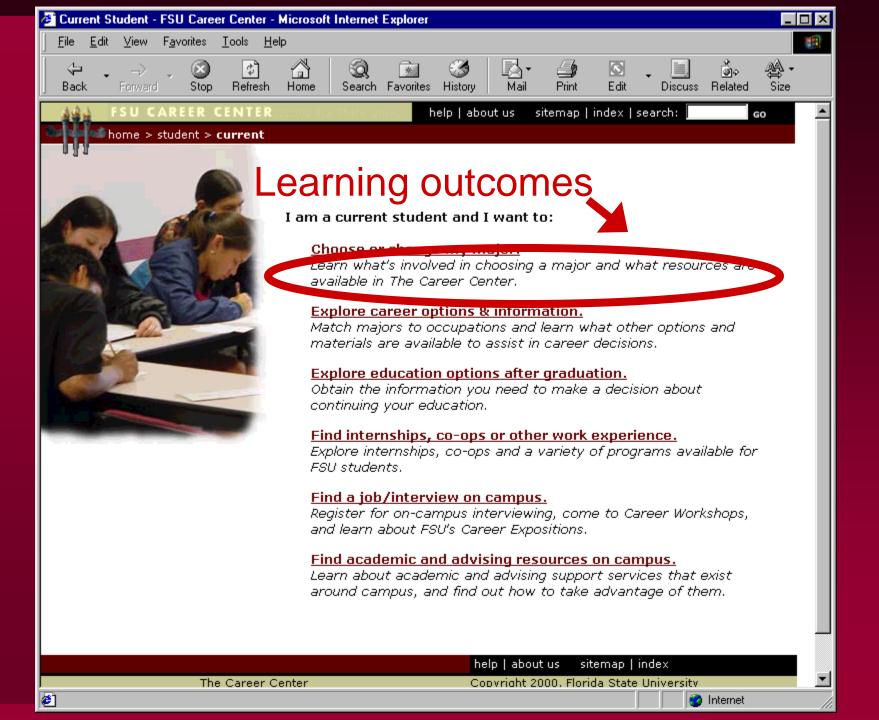
FLORIDA STATE

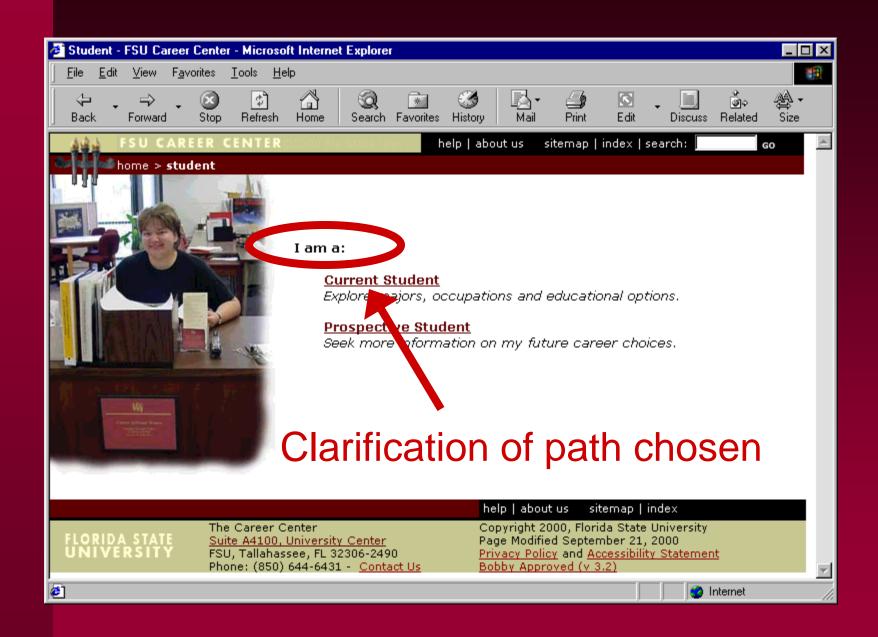
The Career Center
Suite A4100, University Center
FSU, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2490
Phone: (850) 644-6431 - Contact Us

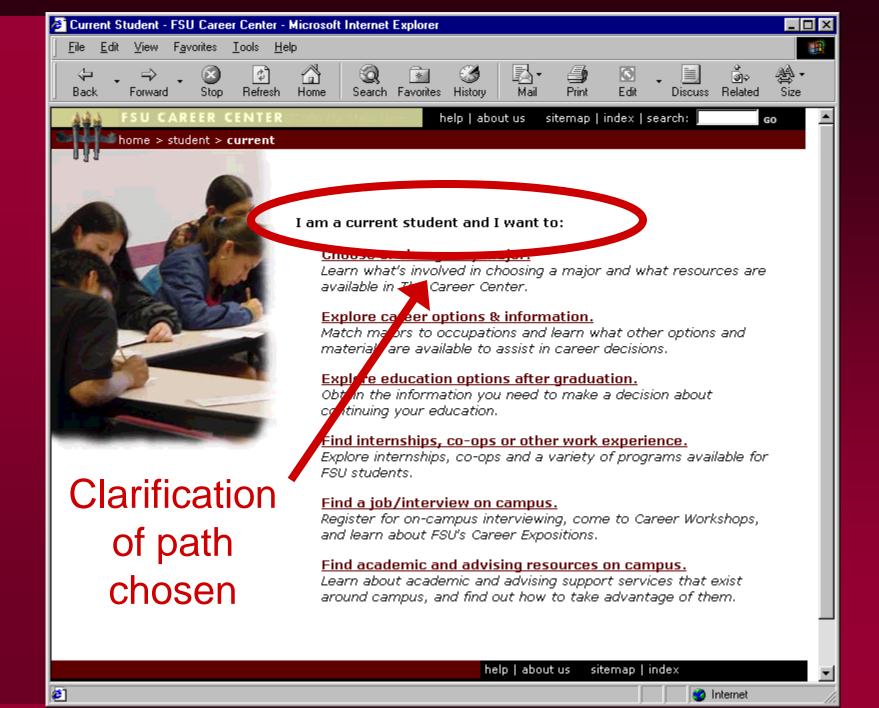
Copyright 2000, Florida State University
Page Modified January 02, 2001
Privacy Policy and Accessibility Statement
Bobby Approved (v 3.2)

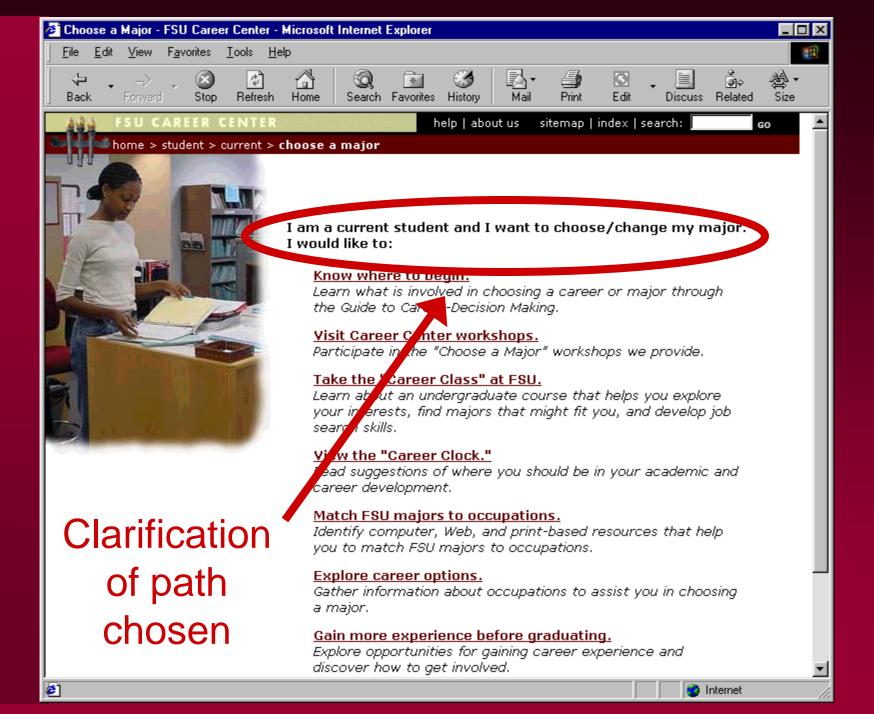


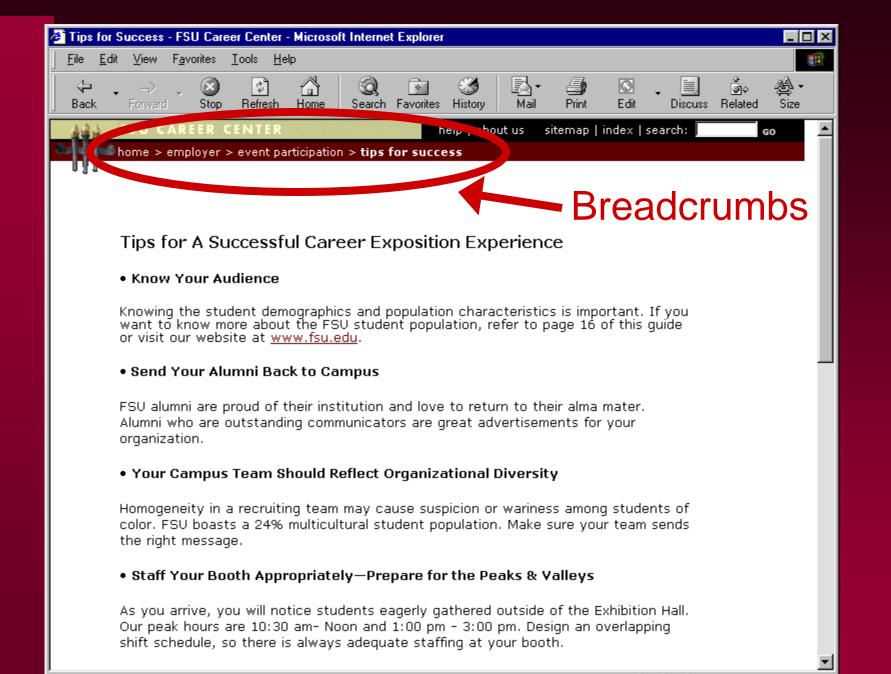










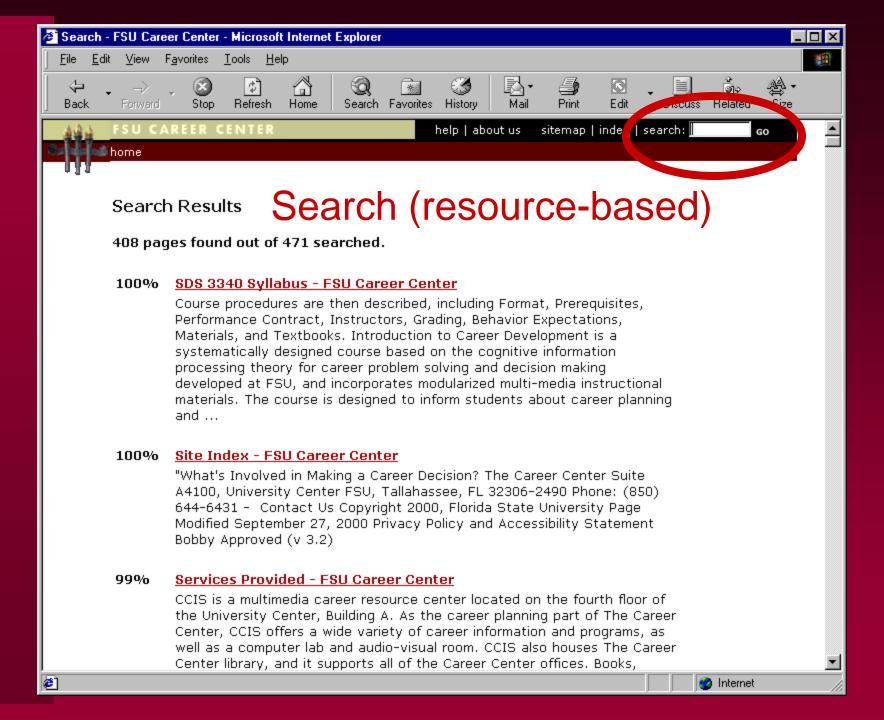


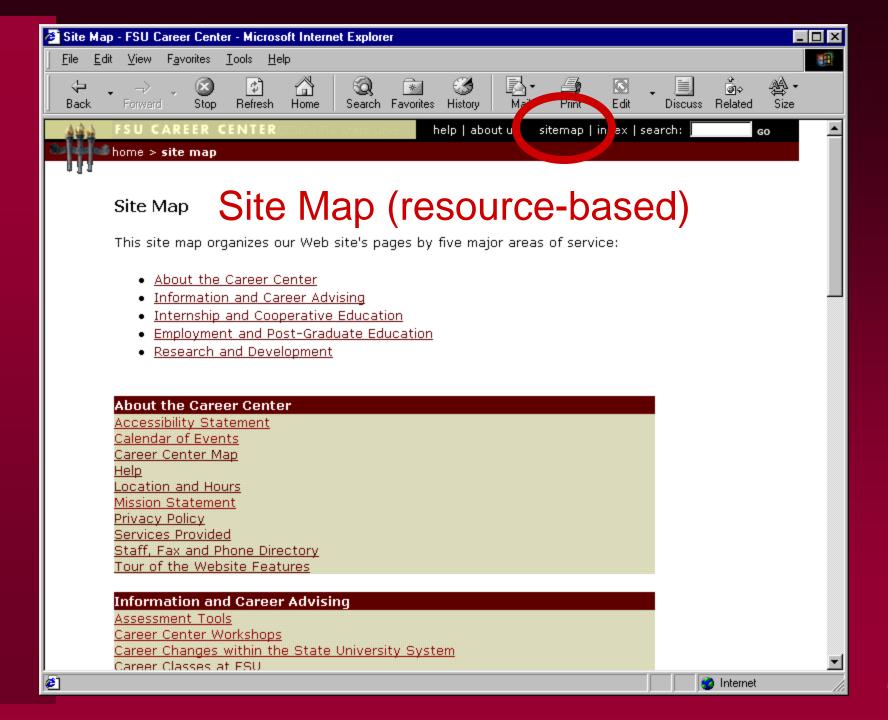
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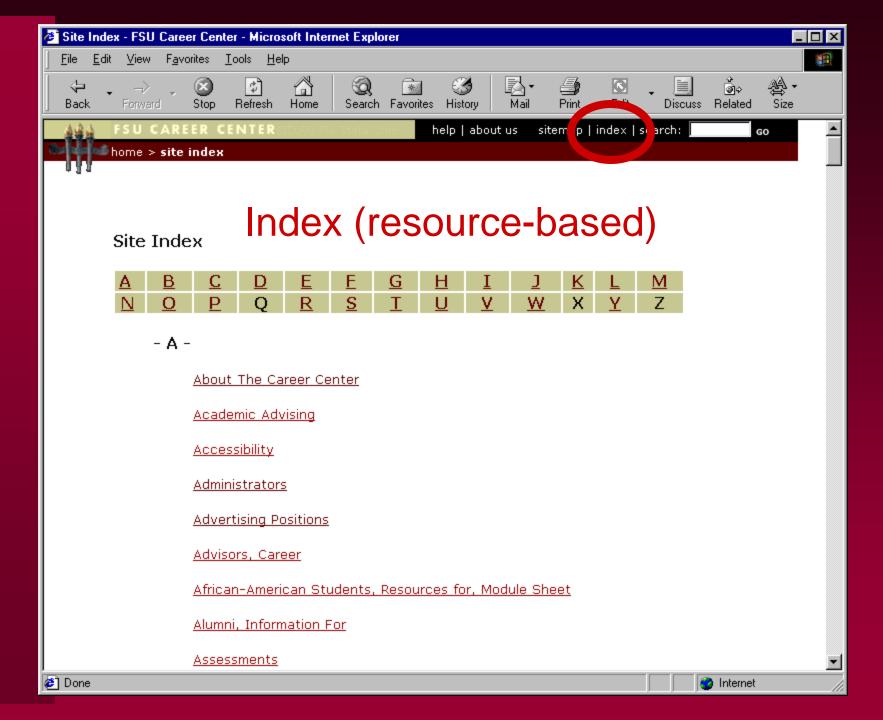
🚧 Internet

Navigation (Continued)

- Resource-based tools
 - Search
 - Site Map
 - Index







Evaluation

- Usability testing
 - Observation
- Evaluation
 - Perceptions of audiences, staff, stakeholders
- Site design documentation
 - Authorship, design strategies, technical specifications
- Tracking of Web site usage
 - Statistics and patterns

Web Site Designs to Avoid

- A long single list of links and FAQs
 - Overwhelming to use & hard to remember
 - Links should be need-based or categorized
- Home pages with organizational information & slow-loading graphics
 - Good information bad timing
- Busy pages with little blank space

Web Site Politics

- Control the site control the service
- Narrow design expertise of one individual
- Limited collaboration limited integration
- Web site reflects the organization instead of the individuals served -"My work and my office are important and should be shown on the web site."

 Make the web site an "intelligent" site by incorporating the expertise of the staff as well as delivering information

- Use staff experience to visualize what individuals say (or could say) when they enter a service delivery center, and then
 - respond with additional statements to clarify user needs, or
 - link to resources and services that relate to the user needs you have identified

- Start web site design by focusing on content, then design web site functioning based on available technical options
- Begin by asking the following questions:
 - Who does (or should) the web site serve?
 - What are the needs of users?
 - What resources are available (or should be available) to meet user needs?
- Then link the needs of various types of users to specific resources

- Use a <u>collaborative</u> approach to design rather than delegate it to one staff member, such as a web master -
 - Groups tend to make better decisions,
 which can result in a more complete and better functioning web site
 - Also, remember the old adage -"people support what they help create."

Conclusion

- Resources and services should match needs
- Use instructional design to create effective Internet resources
- All staff contribute to design and integration
- Focus on content first and design second
- Staff development and training key to success
- Technology provides an opportunity to examine and enhance current practice

For Additional Information

www.career.fsu.edu/techcenter/

www.career.fsu.edu