



National WWI Museum and Memorial

SPECIAL MISSION | MADDIE BINKLEY

GENERAL REVIEW

To start off, the website is very well designed and easy to navigate. The homepage is clean and welcoming, featuring a series of drop down menus that guide users to the content they're looking for. These menus are organized into helpful categories such as "Visit," "Experience the Museum," and "Education and Resources," making it simple to find relevant information. They also have a gallery of sorts if you scroll down where you can see the highlights of events, speakers, videos, and artifacts that you can click on to find out more information about. The website also has five different languages that you can change it into, English, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, and French. It is located on the main options page so it is very easy to find and it makes the website's information accessible to a much larger demographic both in and outside the United States. However, there is an issue with the language change option. While it keeps up pretty well with the main pages, some of the event pages and links to temporary exhibits don't translate into the languages. For example the "In conversation: Alice Winn" does not translate while the website is set in Spanish. The main page will also occasionally glitch back to English while still set in Spanish. This can be problematic if there is a user who does not know English and cannot figure out how to navigate back to the home page to fix the issue.

For my special mission, I chose to review the website of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. The site's main goal is to inform and educate people about World War I, and overall, it accomplishes this effectively. It has a multitude of exhibits and opportunities such as "Tower After Hours", and they have visiting speakers whose presentations they record and post on the website like the one they have on "Confronting Shell Shock" by Dr. Annessa Stagner.

They have a lot of different ways to convey the information they have such as videos mentioned above, articles, and pictures. The different mediums of information make it much more accessible to anyone looking at it.





CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the National WWI Museum and Memorial website does a great job providing access to rich educational content and exhibits, but it could benefit from a more streamlined user experience and a stronger emphasis on written material over video content. It would also benefit from revising its language settings to add an auto translate mode for temporary links that they themselves do not have the time or resources to permanently translate.

GENERAL REVIEW CONTINUED

One standout feature is the ability to view current and upcoming exhibits directly from the site. The exhibit descriptions are thorough and provide a clear picture of what visitors can expect. Additionally, the site includes some other interesting tools, like an online store and a digital library that offers access to the museum's collections, an excellent resource for researchers and history enthusiasts.

However, the website does have a few downsides. While the dropdown menus are helpful for organization, the multiple layers of submenus and embedded links within articles can make navigation confusing at times. It's easy to get lost or distracted while trying to follow a specific path.

Another issue I encountered is the heavy use of video content. Although some users may find this engaging, I personally prefer written content, especially when trying to gather detailed information. On some pages, videos seemed to be the primary method of communication, which I found frustrating. While videos can be great supporting tools, I believe written explanations should remain the main source of information on an educational site.



ENCOUNTERS