

CLIENT DESIGN PROJECT

ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE

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ABOUT ARA

Who

Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA) is a statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's freshwater resources.

What

ARA protects Alabama rivers through building partnerships between statewide champions for clean water, empowering Alabamians, and advocating for sound water policy.

Why

ARA's mission is rooted in protecting our state's invaluable freshwater resources so that Alabamians have access to clean drinking water now and for generations to come.



CLIENT CONTACTS

Primary Contact

Secondary Contacts

	Kelly Marshall Deputy Director	Victoria Miller Director of Advocacy Research	Cindy Lowry Executive Director		
Organizational Role	Manages External and internal communication Event planning Administrative work	Spearheads advocacy initiatives Seeks to empower Alabamians affected by statewide water issues.	Oversees Operations Carrying out strategic direction of ARA Board of Directors		
Contribution to Client Project	Served as our primary contact Provided guidance over all designs Attended weekly touch base Submitted critiques to the design team.	Attended several meetings Was brought on to provide technical expertise for the rack card She continued to give helpful feedback on our design drafts during high fidelity testing	Attended 11/16 (high fidelity testing) provided helpful feedback requested revisions that we implemented		

OUR DELIVERABLES

BROCHURE

8.5" by 11" trifold brochure for print and digital use

Updated brochure to reflect new branding style

2 RACK CARD

4" by 9" cardstock rack card for print and digital use

Reenvisioned version of an outdated brochure

3 INFOGRAPHIC

24" by 36" infographic for print and web use

Entirely new document for use at tabling events

DESIGN PARAMETERS

Alabama Rivers Alliance Style Guide

HEADER FONT JOSEFIN SANS REGULAR

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP

QRSTUVWXYZ 1234567890!?.,

Sub Head Font

abcdefahijklmnoparstuvwxyz

1234567890!?..

Josefin Sans Light

Body Copy Font Open Sans Regular

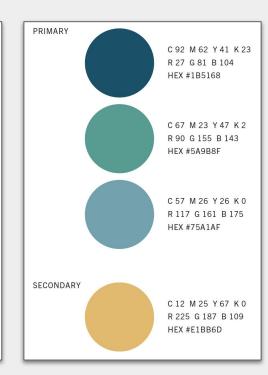
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

1234567890!?.,

Callouts Merriweather Light Italic

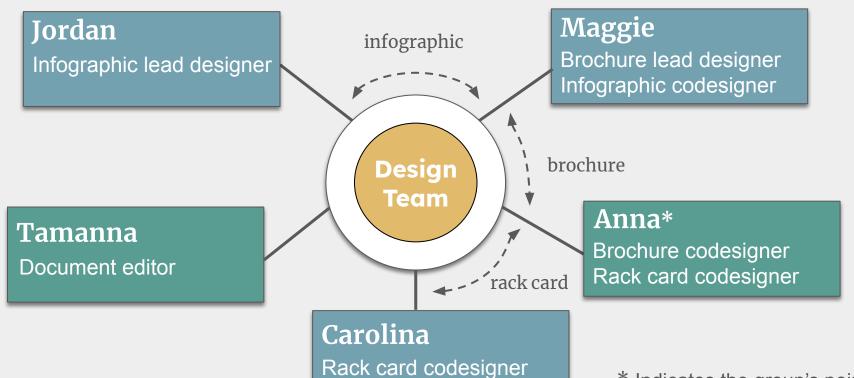
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TEAM MEMBER ROLES



* Indicates the group's point of contact for ARA

WORKFLOW OVERVIEW

Weekly standing meeting times, with ad hoc meetings with sub-teams

M: 10am internal meeting Tu: 9:30am ARA Zoom



Th: Class Time



This was a feedback driven process, which made for an iterative design process. We delivered weekly working versions to the client to direct future planning (Sy, 2007, p. 114-115).

Due to the timeline of this assignment, our workflow most a mixed approach. It most closely resembled the **PRDD model.** (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 316)



WORKFLOW CONT.

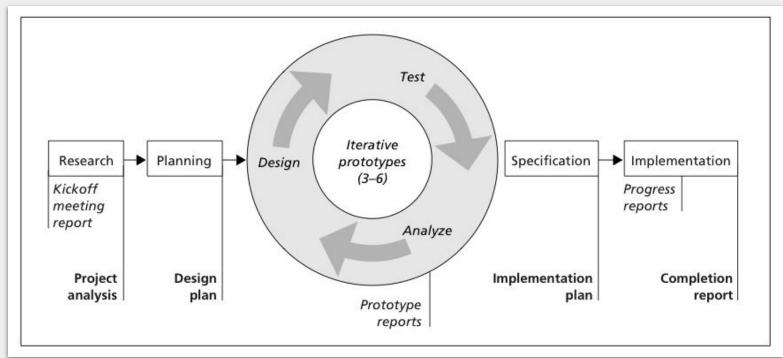


Figure 10.4 The Planned Rapid Document Development model (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 317)

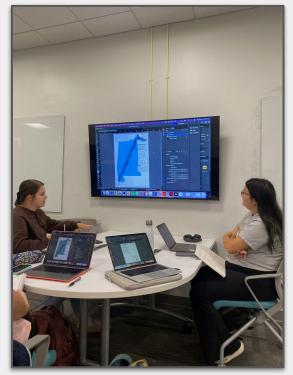


WORKFLOW CONT.

Initial sketching:



Iterative review:



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

	ARA Project Gantt Chart								
	10/23	10/24	10/31	11/7	11/13	11/16	11/27	11/28	11/30
Develop internal workflow									
Group project proposal									
Research materials & content									
Research users									
Develop initial brochure	M&T								
Develop initial ADEM guide	A&C								
Develop initial infographic	J & all								
Low-fidelity testing		All							
Design brochure				3					
Design ADEM guide									
Design infographic									
Conduct focus groups				All					
Refine brochure					M&T				
Refine ADEM guide					A&C				
Refine infographic					J & all				
Present progress reports & updated prototypes						All			
High-fidelity testing						All			
Edit documents						All			
Deliver brochure								M & T	
Deliver ADEM guide								A&C	
Deliver infographic								J & all	
Prepare group presentation									All

Gantt Chart for monitoring progress benchmarks

CLIENT ENGAGEMENT

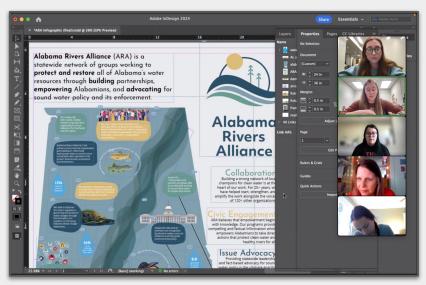
Meeting Date	Primary Task			
10/17	Project kickoff meeting			
10/24	Present sketches & conduct low-fidelity usability testing			
10/31	Present first versions of documents in InDesign			
11/7	Conduct focus groups			
11/14	Conduct high-fidelity testing on near-finished drafts			
11/28	Close-out meeting & handover of designs to client			

3 modes of client correspondence:

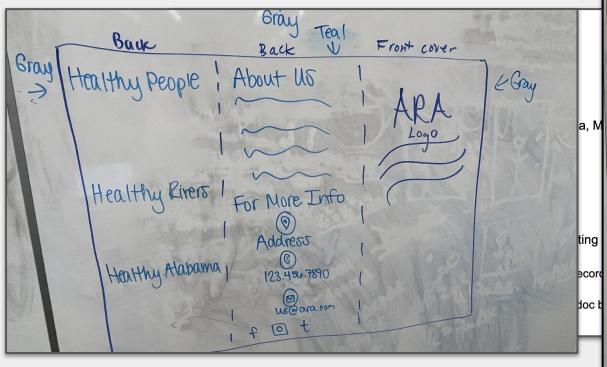








Low Fidelity Testing





Low Fidelity Testing (cont'd)

3. ARA Infographic

Content

- Q. Do you have a proposed narrative for the infographic? Keep the three sections as guiding categories Waiting on a more complete narrative by end of the week
- Q. What information do you want to highlight?
 - What information about your organization?
 - Do you want information about some of your partners?

Size

Q. Is 24" x 36" okay?

Current Draft

Walk through current draft then-

- Q. Do you like the content we've included and our proposed organization method for it? (main info, partnership info, statistic, drops of our work, get involved) (color coding based on the section they fall under)
- **Q.** Do you like this current structure? Is there anything you want to change?
- Q. What colors can we pull in (ask specifically about the big river)?

 Use branded colors on most of the content, but can bring in other complementary colors
- Q. Do you have a script font we can use? Look at merriweather as italic for script



Low Fidelity Testing (cont'd)

Additional topics to be covered:

- Talk about timeline.
 - Key Dates:
 - 11/7 Conduct focus group discussions of drafts. Please invite anyone else from your team that you would like to give feedback in the process.
 - 11/14 Present prototypes and conduct a high-fidelity test. (Check on 11/16)
 - Thanksgiving Week continue editing and finalizing documents.
 - 11/28 Deliver products and have close-out meeting.
 - 11/30 Class presentation for Dr. Ross
- Any questions/comments for us?



Low Fidelity Testing (cont'd)

During this process, we did not have "a representative sample of the user population" as Howard Kiewe suggests (2006). We did not use reaction cards like Benedek and Miner and Barnum and Palmer recommend either (2002, 2010).

We *did* assign roles of facilitator and observer for each document, but group members were free to ask questions as we met with the client.



Low Fidelity Testing (cont'd)

Our client, and therefore our design, were led more by what Nurkka calls "**be-goals**". Referencing Hassenzahl and Roto he says, "By contrast, be-goals illustrate the hedonistic needs of the user, the strive for the fulfillment of underlying psychological needs, and the ways (s)he wants to be" (Nurkka, 2010, p. 1).

While the rack card was a document that was potentially most focused on "do-goals", which Hassenzahl and Roto describe as "[goals] that state the tasks the user needs to do (e.g. make a telephone call)" we did not test for those goals (Nurkka, 2010, p. 1).

High Fidelity Testing

Client Testing

Our high fidelity testing process looked very similar to our low fidelity testing process, with the main exceptions being those involved in the process and the quality of our drafts. When we high fidelity tested with ARA we were on Zoom with Kelly Marshall, Victoria Miller, and Cindy Lowry.

Class Testing

We completed a high fidelity test on our infographic in class on 11/16. Most goals were "be goals." We consider this to be "expert feedback", as the class is trained in the 6 principles of design (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 332). This interaction of high fidelity testing gave us more focused design feedback.



DOC 1: BROCHURE

Audience

Alabamians of all ages attending ARA's tabling events interested in learning more about the organization.

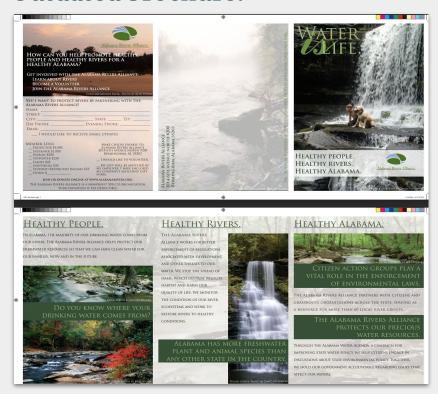
Context

The brochure is designed to be picked up at events by people who aren't familiar with ARA but may be invested in this type of work.

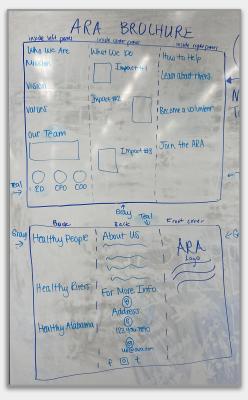
Purpose

The brochure gives a comprehensive explanation of who ARA is, what they do, why they do it, and why their work is critical.

Outdated brochure:



Initial sketch:



Ideas we kept in mind:

"This flexibility of reading order provides both challenges and opportunities for creative and interesting design." (Kimball and Hawkins, 2008, p. 96)

"Build affordances in when you're designing a document, particularly one where you want the reader to read the entire document." (Ross, 2023 Theories of Design lecture)

"Figures that use proximity, similarity, continuation, and common region consistently and unambiguously are are stronger, more stable and more recognizable than those that don't." (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 46)

Initial renderings:

Healthy People

In Alabama, the majority of our drinking water comes from our rivers. The Alabama Rivers Alliance helps protect our freshwater resources so that we can have clean water for our families, now and in the future.

Healthy Rivers

The Alabama Rivers Alliance works for better enforcement of regulations associated with development and other threats to our water. We stop the spread of dams, which destroy wildlife habitats and harm our quality of life. We monitor the condition of our river ecosystems and work to restore rivers to healthy conditions.

Healthy Alabama

Through the Alabama water agenda and campaign for improving state water policy we help citizens engage in discussions about state environment policy.

About Us

The Alabama Rivers Alliance is a statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's water resources through building partnerships, empowering Alabamians, and advocating for sound water policy and its enforcement

Contact Us



2014 6th Avenue North, Suite 200 Birmingham, AL 35203



205-322-6395



info@alabamarivers.org



Alabama Rivers Alliance

Who We Are

Dur Mission:

In Alabama Kivers Alliance is a statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's water resources through building partnerships, empowering Alabamians, and advocating for sound water policy and its enforcement.

Our Impact

Impact #1: ARA and its members are recognized by decision makers and can influence and help guide environmental policy.

Impact #2: Communities and partners recognize Alabama Rivers Alliance as an advocate working to ensure clean water for people and nature.

Impact #3: Alabama's built and natural water infrastructure is safe equitable, resilient and environmentally healthy



What We Do

Building Partnerships:



As a statewide Alliance, building a strong network of local champions for clean water is at the heart of our work and what we do. For 25 years, we have helped start, strengthen, and amplify the work.

Empowering Citizens:

Through education and community engagement, we empower citizens to take an active role in protecting our invaluable resources.



Advocating for Policy:



We ensure sound water policies are implemented and enforced effectively. We work to make the laws governing water resources strong and just.

How To Help

Learn About Rivers!

The ARA works for better enforcement of regulations associated with threats to our water. We stop the spread of dams, which destroy wildlife habitats and harm our quality of life. We monitor the condition of our river ecosystems and work to restore rivers to healthy conditions. Visit our website to learn more about work!

Become a Volunteer!

Citizen Action groups play a vital role in the enforcement of environmenta laws. The ARA partners with citizens and grassroots organizations across the state, serving as a resource for more than 60 different local river groups. Together we hold our government accountable regarding issues that affect our waters.

Join the ARA!

Your membership is instrumental in tackling the biggest challenges facing Alabama's rivers today. As a 501c3 organization, any donation you make is tax deductible. We are stronger with you by our side.

Water is Life!

Final version:

Healthy People

In Alabama, the majority of our drinking water comes from our rivers. Alabama Rivers Alliance helps protect Alabama's freshwater resources so that we can have clean water right now and for generations to come.

Healthy Rivers

Alabama Rivers Alliance works for better enforcement of regulations associated with development and other threats to our water. We stop the spread of dams, which destroy wildlife habitats and harm our quality of life. We monitor the condition of our river ecosystems and work to restore rivers to healthy conditions.

Healthy Alabama

Through the Alabama Water Agenda and campaign for improving state water policy, we help Alabamians engage in discussions about state environment policy.



WHO WE ARE

Our Mission:

Alabama Rivers Alliance is a statewide network of groups working to protect and restore all of Alabama's water resources through building partnerships, empowering Alabamians, and advocating for sound water policy and its enforcement.

Our Impact:

- ARA and its members are recognized by decision-makers and can influence and help guide environmental policy.
- Communities and partners recognize ARA as an advocate working to ensure clean water for people and nature.
- ARA works to make sure
 Alabama's built and natural
 water infrastructure is safe,
 equitable, resilient, and
 environmentally healthy.

WHAT WE DO

Build Partnerships



We have built a statewide network of local champions for clean water. For 25 years, we have helped start, strengthen, and amplify this work.

Empower Individuals

Through education and community engagement, we empower Alabamians to take an active role in protecting our invaluable resources.



Advocate Policy Change



We ensure sound water policies are implemented and enforced effectively. We work to make the laws governing water resources strong and just.

HOW TO HELP Learn About Rivers!

ARA works for better enforcement of regulations associated with threats to our water. We monitor the condition of our river ecosystems and work to restore rivers to healthy conditions. Visit

Get Involved!

Community groups play a vital role in the enforcement of environmental laws. ARA partners with Alabamians and grassroots organizations across the state, serving as a resource for more than 100 different local river groups.

Join ARA!

Your membership is instrumental in tackling the biggest challenges facing Alabama's rivers today. As a 501c3 organization, any donation you make is tax deductible. We are stronger with you by our side.



DESIGN JUSTIFICATIONS

In summary, the document's **medium** (trifold brochure) **logo**, **colors**, and **typefaces** (all but one callout exception) used were all dictated by the ARA style guide.

Informational content and images were provided by the client, so we primarily served as **layout designers**, deciding how to display their content in a meaningful, interesting, effective, and visually engaging way.

We **prioritized usability** of this document for individuals unfamiliar with ARA; we considered learnability, efficiency, memorability, error avoidance and subjective satisfaction (Kimball & Hawkins, p. 66)

DOC 2: RACK CARD

Audience

Alabamians seeking to look up the pollution records and environmental regulation compliance of companies near them.

Context

ARA frequently receives questions from Alabamians about how to look up pollution records because the process is unclear.

Purpose

The rack card is designed to explain pollution records and two databases for searching records (ECHO & ADEM).

Outdated version of this document:

Info Required

How to Set up a File Review

What to Expect

- · Permit number if applicable.
- Facility name and address (include county).
- · Public notice date if applicable.
- Type of permit. Facility may have numerous permits.
- If the exact address or permit number is unknown, give as much information as possible. The Records Officer can work with you to determine which facility you are describing.



- Submit a written request to ADEM to review a company's file or submit a request online at this Web site: http://edocs.adem.alabama.gov/eFile/
- Submit the request well in advance of the time you want to review the file.
- Public notices for facilities with permits can be reviewed at this Web site: http://adem.alabama.gov/PublicNotice/ PublicNotice.htm if they are current.
- Requests may be submitted via e-mail, fax or mail to the ADEM Public Records Office. (See reverse for contact info.)
 The Public Records Officer will contact
- you to schedule an appointment.
- Generally, you will be contacted about your request within 10 days. However, the wait for your appointment could be up to six weeks.
- Check with the Public Records Officer to see if files may be reviewed at the field office within your area or if you will need to drive down to ADEM in Montgomery.
- Files for multiple facilities can be reviewed at the same time.

- ADEM charges for copy orders over \$10.
 Color copies and wide-format pages are more expensive.
- Electronic information on CD may be available for a charge.
- You are allowed to bring a portable copier to make your own copies.
- Inform the Public Records Office of the number of people reviewing the file.
- ADEM cannot compile information from files, so make your request as specific as possible.
- File reviews use normal business hours.
- Bring pens/pencils and notebook.
- Keep track of how many copies you request and compare to your invoice.
- Be sure to give any special copying instructions to ADEM before you leave.

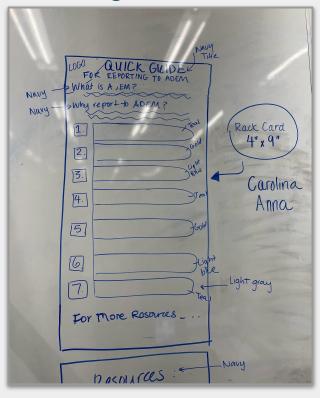


Rivers Alliance: River Protection Essentials

*Cover photo: Duck River, Nelson Brooke

RACK CARD

Initial design sketch:



Informational content provided by ARA:

How to Check a Company's Pollution Record:

Businesses have to follow environmental regulations for the treatment and discharge of emissions and byproducts into the environment.

Why check pollution records?

Reviewing a company's history of compliance with environmental regulations is important for determining a company's impact on the environment. This information is publicly available for you to learn more about how much pollution is occurring near you, how companies are complying with regulations, and the overall impact of pollution on environmental quality.

Federal vs state pollution records:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees and tracks the environmental permitting activities of state environmental agencies. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) does the day-to-day work of environmental regulations, like permitting, inspections, issuing violations, and conducting environmental monitoring. Both the state and federal agencies make company pollution records available online for review.

Where to search pollution records:

EPA ECHO Database: echo.epa.gov

 The federal Enforcement and Compliance History Online Database can be used to look through all air, drinking water, wastewater, and hazardous waste permits.
 States agency reporting informs ECHO. This webtool is well formatted for searching by location or for facilities if you do not already know the permit number.

ADEM e-Filing System: app.adem.alabama.gov/eFile

RACK CARD

Rack card draft

How to Check

Alabama Pollution Records

Help make sure your community is safe.

Why check a company's pollution record? A pollution record is the paper trail of environmental infractions a company has accumultaed. Reviewing a company's record allows you to learn about...

overall impact on environmental quality

Where do I find pollution records?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees environmental permitting activities of state agencies.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) does the day-to-day work of environmental regulations.

Both the state and federal agencies make company pollution records available online for review

When to use ECHO: When to use ADEM:

Learn which facilities are releasing into your neighbohood water-

Explore the pollution record of companies present in your community

Analyze trends in enforcement and compliance data nationwide

How can I look up pollution records?

AGENCY CONTACT INFO-

EPA homepage: epg.gov Region 4 (Southeast) Office: 1-800-241-1754

ADEM homepage: adem.alabama.gov ADEM Public Records Office: records@adem.alabama.gov (334) 271 - 7700

on ECHO:

Look up records Look up records on ADEM:







Alabama Rivers Alliance

Final rack card

What's in your

WATER?

How to check pollution records in Alabama and make sure your community is safe.

record?

What is a A pollution record is the paper pollution trail of enviromental infractions a company has accumultaed.

pollution

Why should Reviewing a company's pollution record will help you understand how that organization is impactin our natural world. Searching for record? important issues in your area.

What do pollution records include?

Where can I find pollution records?

Both state and federal agencies make pollution records available online for review.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) e-file database

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ECHO Online Database

Which tool should I use?

When to use ECHO:

Learn which facilities are releasing into your neighborhood waterways

Explore the pollution record of companies in your

community Analyze nationwide

trends in compliance and enforcement

When to use

ADEM:

Agency Contact Info:

EPA epa.gov 1-800-241-1754 ADEM

ADEM:

Look up records on . . .



echo.epa.gov

app.adem.alabama. gov/eFile

Alabama Rivers Alliance



RACK CARD DESIGN JUSTIFICATIONS

What's in your WATER?

How to check pollution records in Alabama and make sure your community is safe.

Type Humanistic Orientation

(Dragga & Voss, 2003, p.61)



Affordances

(Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 50)

EPA vs ADEMColor contrast to show difference and create emphasis (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 29).

Proximity relationships to determine grouping (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 31)

Gestalt Theory:
Laws of Proximity
suggests we group
figures that are close
together

Law of Similarity suggests that we perceive similar figures to belong (Kimball & Hawkins, 2007, p. 44)

DOC 3: INFOGRAPHIC

Audience

Those who know nothing about ARA and those who are already familiar with the organization and what they do.

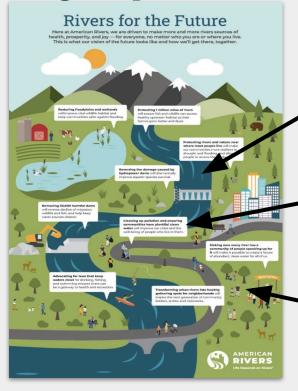
Context

With the complicated nature of their work, ARA was desiring an "all-in-one" document that could describe the organization.

Purpose

To describe ARA as an organization and define the work they do (at tabling events, on their website, etc.).

Design inspiration:



Client liked flowing river

Client liked callout boxes with facts

Client liked cartoon graphic style

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

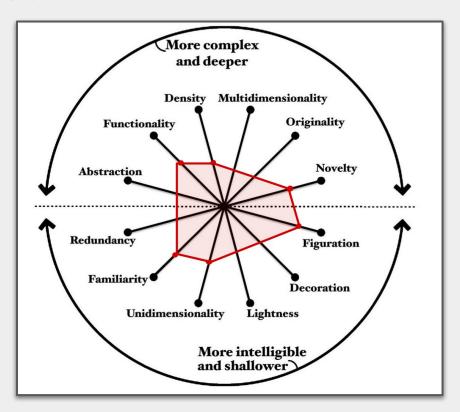
"Document design is one part of the broader activity of Information Design (ID)" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 2).

Saul Carliner's breakdown of ID:

- Physical: ID helps users find and use information by providing a meaningful visual and physical design to communication products, including the design of pages and screens, writing, and production.
- Cognitive: ID helps users understand information by structuring and presenting it in ways that help solve problems.
- Affective: ID motivates users by gaining their attention and convincing them to act" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 3).



VISUALIZATION WHEEL



Gestalt Theory on Grouping: Continuation

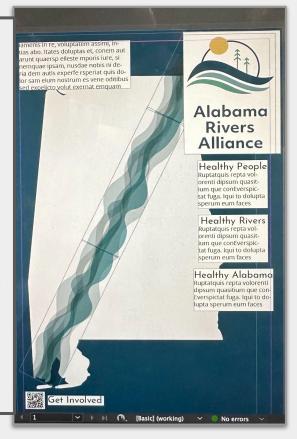
"The law of continuation suggest that we will assume a connection between figures that are lined up, even if we don't have any direct evidence they are connected" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 44).

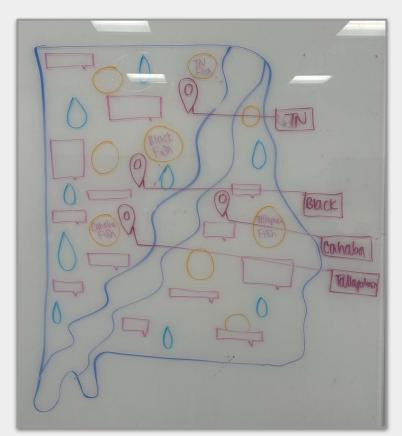


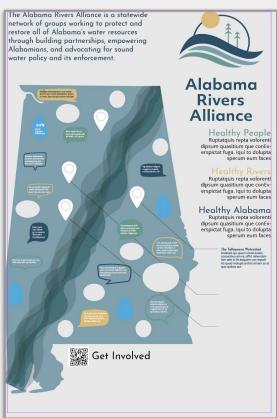




"When we look at an object, constructivism suggests, we don't see it all at once; instead, we take multiple visual snapshots, looking at different aspects of the object... we use repeated fixations on different parts of the visual field to build up a pictures of what we perceive" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 49).







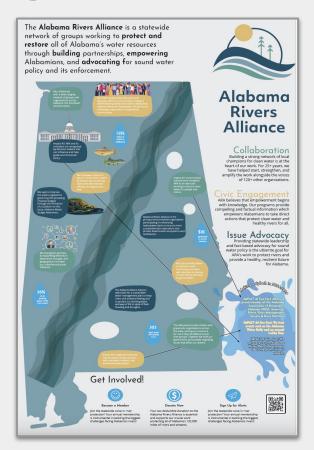
SIMILARITY

"Use similarity to show that design objects are alike in kind or in function" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 28).



PROXIMITY

"Use proximity to show grouping and belonging. Users typically assume that design objects that appear in close proximity belong together" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 31).



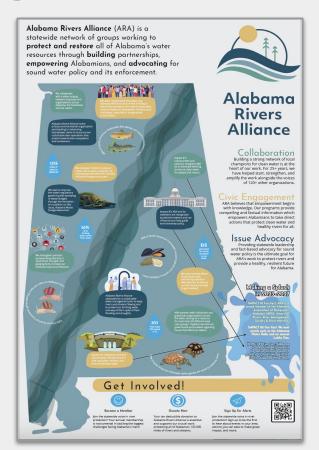


ALIGNMENT

"Use alignment to show connection and coherence" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 32).

ENCLOSURE

"Use enclosure to show separation and to group complex objects" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 35).





DESIGN JUSTIFICATIONS

In summary, the **type** and **colors** we used for the infographic came straight from the ARA style guide.

Our **graphic style** was modeled after a graphic style that the client already expressed interest in.

We created our design from multiple **principles of design**, most notably similarity, proximity, alignment, and enclosure. We considered the **Gestalt Theory** principle of continuation in our design as well as the **Constructivist Theory** in terms of shape identification.

DESIGN JUSTIFICATIONS

"Perhaps the strongest pattern in documents written in English and most other European languages is known as the **Z pattern**... Because they must move from line to line down the page, readers' eyes actually travel in a zig-zag pattern" (Kimball & Hawkins, 2008, p. 125).

"You need to build a solid **backbone for your information**, a reading path, an order, and a hierarchy, before you lock yourself into a style for your display. **The structure is the skeleton** and muscles of your graphic; the visual style is the skin. With no bones to support it, the skin of your project will collapse" (Cairo, 2013, p. 155).

REFERENCES

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Benedek, J., Miner, T., Corporation, M., & Way, M. (2002). Measuring Desirability: New methods for evaluating desirability in a usability lab setting. Retrieved from Microsoft.com

Cairo, A. (2013). The functional art: An introduction to information graphics and visualization. New Riders.

Kimball, M. A., & Hawkins, A. R. (2008). *Document design: A guide for technical communicators*. Bedford/St. Martin's.

Nurkka, P. (2010). User Experience Evaluation Based on Values and Emotions. Retrieved from Nokia.com





THANK YOU!

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