Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania

Executive Summary

Community Partner
Collin Diedrich
Student Consulting Team
Keerthana Vinay
Nathan Oswell
Megan Lin

Background

The Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania aims to make learning opportunities accessible to all. Through resources such as arts and comedy empowerment, multisensory tutoring, and most importantly a centralized hub of information about learning disabilities, the LDA of PA supports those who are navigating learning disabilities.

Through his personal experiences as a scientist with learning disabilities, Dr. Collin Diedrich, the president and founder of LDA of PA, continues to use his background to provide an avenue for those who are looking to find service providers that align with their needs. Throughout our development of the solution, our technical point of contact within the LDA of PA team was Ani Kimmel, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Currently, a large number of users interested in the LDA of PA's resources reach out to Dr. Diedrich, a lot of the time looking for a service provider that would fit their needs. The LDA of PA has a large database of service providers, yet no efficient way to search through them. There exists the opportunity here to build a comprehensive search directory that allows users of the LDA of PA and the organization members themselves to efficiently search for service providers using a keyword search function.

Project Vision

The Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania aims to promote and support the education and general welfare of individuals with learning and attention issues and their families. As a team, we built a comprehensive search directory with Brilliant Directories that would help LDA of PA efficiently share information about service providers and learning disabilities. Our solution allows users to easily find the resources they need to effectively navigate learning disabilities.

Project Outcomes

Our solution allows for the LDA of PA to further its mission of creating opportunities for individuals affected by learning disabilities by creating a new hub for service providers, with the potential to have future providers add themselves. Any individual who is searching for service providers that assist with learning disabilities will have their search reduced from hours to 5-10 minutes due to

the easy-to-use search directory that congregates local providers. The Brilliant Directories search directory functions as a demo of the proposed system working in a local area (providers in PA) that our client can present to the LDA for further resources into this project, and potentially spread its use to the entire country.

Project Deliverables

Our final deliverables included the following:

- [ERD](#)as an initial guide for organizing the provided data and as a template for designing the final categories that would be imported into Brilliant Directories and used to sort the data.
- [Data Dictionary](#)to visualize the data and organize how it should be presented in Brilliant Directories.
- [Brilliant Directories Categories](#) that organize all service providers and are used in Brilliant Directories to sort any new data.
- [Updated Normalization - Google Sheets](#)of service providers (from the source Airtable) that is formatted to be uploaded into Brilliant Directories.
- [Brilliant Directories Access Link](#), with all service providers organized by category and in an easy-to-use search directory. Additionally, extra informative pages were created on the Brilliant Directories site to inform users about the LDA of PA and learning disabilities, as well as instruct them on how to access and use the search feature.
- [Handoff Documentation](#)of how to manage and continue development on Brilliant Directories, as well as instructions for future goals (how to set up the interactive map, etc).

Recommendations

The main recommendations that we have as a team are the following:

1. Connect the Google Map API to Dr. Diedrich's account so that the interactive map functionality is enabled.
2. Set up the membership details in Brilliant Directories.
3. Once the site is fully functional, go live so that users can begin searching for service providers.

Student Consulting Team

Keerthana Vinay served as project manager and team lead. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Human-Computer Interaction. She will be interning at Deloitte this summer and is looking toward a career in technical consulting.

Nathan Oswell was the technical lead of the project. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Game Design. He will be interning at CMU this summer as a Software Engineering Intern.

Megan Lin led the design and user testing aspects of the engagement. She is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Human-Computer Interaction. She will be starting her career as a UX designer at Microsoft after she graduates.