Autism Support Portal

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Course: Multimedia, Hypertext, and Information Access (CS 4624)
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4/26/18
Outline

- Project Overview
- Assessment
- Demo
- Accomplishments/Lessons learned
- Future Steps
- Acknowledgements
- References
Project overview

- VTCAR Dr. Scarpa
- Web Portal for Autism Support
- Search Functionality
- Resources
Client: VTCAR

- Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research
- Dr. Angela Scarpa
  - NRV Autism Action Group Team
  - Professor Gracanin
- Mission Statement: “Our mission is to merge the science of autism with the service of diagnosis and treatment of autism.”
Deliverable: Web Portal

- Create search that connects users with reliable information
- Connect users to resources
- Portal is easy to use and modify for non-technical people
- Portal is easily modifiable by future groups and teams
What People Need

Hardest Questions to Answer

- Current Research
- Behavioral issues
- Social interaction
- Local options
Sites that people want included in search
Assessment

- Tested by future users
  - Very positive feedback
    - “Remarkably friendly”
    - “Questions answered effectively”
    - “Extremely relevant”
- Other feedback: search proximity
Complications

● VT Hosting
● Simplifying plans to satisfy client
● Virginia Tech Branding
Lessons Learned

- Communication with client is very important
- It is very hard to collect data
- Working with a lot of people can take time
- Users need to be guided
Final Steps

- Finish Basic Design
  - Client will update design and text
- Finish Report
Future Features

- Discussion Board (maybe)
- Answers directly within the site based on frequent search terms
- Whatever the client wants
Acknowledgements

Angela Scarpa, Ph.D.
Director, VT Center for Autism Research (VTCAR)

Denis Gracanin, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Virginia Tech

Erica L. Whiting, Ph.D.
REACH Clinical Director
Acknowledgements

Anna R. Caldwell, LCSW, BCBA, LBA
Spectrum Therapeutic

Collene Webb
Community Autism Specialist/Risk Manager, Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services

Ben Pfountz
Has helped with the hosting of the site
References

Autism Speaks: Provides information for those with Autism and their families

URL: https://www.autismspeaks.org/

Medline Plus, Information on Autism Spectrum disorder

URL: https://medlineplus.gov/autismspectrumdisorder.html