

### Discussion 3 - Comparing & Contrasting Two Resources in Web /Site Design

Please compare and/or contrast the following resources in Web /Site Design and express your points of views:

[http://lite.mst.edu/media/research/ctel/documents/vuj\\_99\\_hall\\_principles.pdf](http://lite.mst.edu/media/research/ctel/documents/vuj_99_hall_principles.pdf)

<http://www.webstyleguide.com/wsg3/index.html>

Chapters 5, 6 & &

#### My Answer:

The first link is an instructional design research paper by Richard Hall from the University of Missouri's Rolla campus. Hall's research paper reviews existing literature on web-based instructional design to determine what web development programs and principles would benefit instructional designers (and their intended audiences) the most. Much discussion and citation is made of research papers, documents, and books written by other authors.

The second link concerns the fifth and sixth chapters of Web Style Guide 3rd Edition by Patrick Lynch and Sarah Horton. Unlike the research paper, this is purely focused on development of websites in general, not for the interests of instructional designers. The chapters delve more into developer-side issues, such as the formatting and layout of the actual code "under the hood," search engine optimization, and the naming and organization of files. (I especially liked the question asked of the reader in Chapter 5: "the person you are most likely doing a favor for is *yourself*, three years from now. Three years from now, will *you* know what's in a directory xalled X83\_0001?")

Both links tackle user-side considerations, for example emphasizing the need that the site must be "sensible, clear, and clutter free" (as Hall quotes Everhart), but I would argue that as a resource for actually *developing* a site, Lynch and Horton's resource is more useful. In a fit of irony, it's a little harder for a developer to read through and process a research page dedicated to making sites easy to comprehend and use for learners. In fact, when I look through the research page again, I realized that Lynch and Horton's site employs many of the recommendations that are made in the research paper's conclusions: the site organization (for the end user) is thoughtful and modular, with information broken up into easy-to-comprehend units and supported by graphics and figures where appropriate.