

Karen Murray

Graphic / Web Designer

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EDUCATION

2001-2005 **University of Ulster (Jordanstown / Belfast)**

BSc. Hons Interactive Multimedia Design + Diploma in Industrial Studies

- Graduated with First Class Honours degree
- Pass in Diploma

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jul '07 onwards **EG. Consulting** **Web / Graphic Designer**

Responsibilities

- Responsible for both designing and coding, using valid XHTML and CSS, new websites for clients
- Keeping current client websites up-to-date
- Creating print work for promotional purposes, such as brochures, business cards and magazine adverts

Jan '06 – Jul '07 **Sendit.com / Blackstar.co.uk** **Web / Graphic Designer**

Responsibilities

- Updating the website in terms of both code and graphics; creating customer emails; designing custom mini-websites and dresspages
- Creating print advertisements for magazines such as Neo and Deathray
- Involved in both marketing decisions and plans to advance the website
- Liaising with other companies on joint ventures
- Travelling to conventions to promote the company, including the London Expo, with 12,000+ attendees

Achievements

- Spearheaded a new initiative to tap into the anime and world cinema market
- All programming, whether it was XHTML, CSS, XML or JavaScript, was hand-coded

Sept '05 - Jan '06 **CO-NET** **Freelance Web / Graphic Designer**

Responsibilities

- Designing and coding new websites
- Creating promotional material, corporate identities and brochures for clients

Achievements

- As this was a freelancing position, it required having to work under own guidance with no supervision or graphical / coding help, meeting strict deadlines, dealing with clients, and managing client accounts



Sept '05 - Dec '05 Belfast Institute

Video Production Officer

Responsibilities

- Producing promotional videos for the Institute as well as for external clients
- Filming events as well as recording voice overs and other forms of audio

Achievements

- Taken in on short notice to finish the production of the Institute's Centenary video. This was finished well within the tight deadline and has been used extensively as promotional material, even being shown on local TV news



WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

May '03 - Aug '04 Century Newspapers

Web Publisher

Responsibilities

- Daily updates, using a custom CMS, of the **Newsletter** (www.newsletter.co.uk), **Derry Journal** (www.derryjournal.com) and **Farming Life** (www.farminglife.com) websites, both in regards to graphics and news articles
- Creating graphics for advertising features, both for the newspapers and for external clients
- Appointed head of the Library department in February 2004. Tasks included searching through and maintaining both paper and digital archives, along with dealing with customers on a daily basis
- Helped with redesign of the sites when the company changed hands (*sites have since been redesigned again*)
- Responsible for adding phpBB forums into the new version of the websites
- After the head of the New Media department left in March 2004, placed in control of site maintenance (*XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP*) and advertising (*phpAdsNew*)

Achievements

- Even though this was a university placement, had a great deal of responsibility and ended up essentially running the websites as the only other person in the New Media department was a journalist

SKILLS

Advanced Knowledge

Adobe ImageReady	5 years
Adobe InDesign	2 years
Adobe Illustrator	3 years
Adobe Photoshop	8 years
Movie Editing Software	6 years
Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)	5 years
(X)HTML	7 years
JavaScript	5 years
Macromedia Dreamweaver	6 years
Macromedia Flash	6 years
Microsoft Office	10+ years
Quark Xpress	3 years

Intermediate Knowledge

3D Studio Max	2 years
ActionScript	5 years
ASP	2 years
DBMS (includ. MS Access & MySQL)	4 years
DVD Studio Pro 4	9 months
Final Cut Pro 5	2 years
Lingo script	2 years
Macromedia Director MX	2 years
Macromedia Fireworks MX	2 years
Macromedia FreeHand 10	2 years
Motion 2	6 months
PHP (includ. PHPTemplate library)	2 years
SoundForge	3 years
Visual Basic 6 & VBScript	2 years
XML	10 months



Interests & Knowledge

I have been involved in graphic and web design, as well as multimedia development, since the age of 15, first for my own entertainment (designing personal anime websites) and later as a major aspect of my degree. Interactive Multimedia Design has not only given me the technical skills required for graphic and web design, but also the aesthetic knowledge needed for eye-catching design and ensuring ease of use. In addition, it has given me strong experience in video production (from storyboarding to editing footage) and multimedia interfaces.

Over the past few years, I have created and maintained a number of websites and online communities, and have helped to develop CMSs to aid with updating of content. I am always researching current web and design trends along with future developments to keep myself up-to-date within my chosen career path.

I fully understand the importance of file and image optimisation, as well as cross platform/browser compatibility. I have owned and worked extensively upon both Apple Macs and PCs, and have experience of Windows, MacOS and Linux. I am adept at using computer hardware peripherals, such as scanners and printers.

I am highly motivated, have always I have a high standard of English, learn quickly and enjoy gaining new skills. I am highly motivated, have always met deadlines in the past and am extremely creative. I'm sociable, can adapt to new situations easily and enjoy challenges.

I work well in both groups and on my own initiative. As Production Manger for my Sixth Form's Young Enterprise team, as well as when leading team projects during university, I have developed the ability to manage others when required.

In my free time, I enjoy managing online communities as well as designing custom layouts and icons for LiveJournal, taking and manipulating photographs as well as creating digital art.

I am passionate about Japanese manga and anime, and these interests often influence my graphic style. I also love watching movies, especially those with an unusual edge, listen to music of all genres and like to indulge in creative writing.

