

Week 3

Evaluation of random internet site. This is heuristic evaluation of Merriam-Webster.

Scoring:

- 0 – This is not a usability problem
- 1 - cosmetic problem
- 2 - minor usability problem
- 3 - major usability problem; important to fix
- 4 - usability catastrophe; imperative to fix

The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the Merriam-Webster logo and the text 'SINCE 1828'. To the right of the logo is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are two tabs: 'DICTIONARY' and 'THESAURUS'. A navigation menu includes links for 'JOIN MWU', 'GAMES', 'BROWSE THESAURUS', 'WORD OF THE DAY', 'VIDEO', 'WORDS AT PLAY', and 'FAVORITES'. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram are also present.

Below the header is a large advertisement for 'Shop Disney Parks' with a 'Shop Now' button. The main content area features a carousel of images with navigation arrows. The first image shows bees on a honeycomb. The second image is a portrait of a man in a dark robe, with the text '17 English Words that Come From Japanese' and 'Some borrowed words don't get returned'. The third image shows a chessboard with the text ''Gamul' an Know'. To the right is a 'Depend' advertisement for 'Silhouette' with the text 'SAVE \$4 now on sleek feminine design' and 'GET A \$4 COUPON'.

Below the carousel are three sections: 'TRENDING NOW' with a list of words: '1 Kafkaesque' (A nightmarish quality) and '2 mike' (microphone); 'TAKE A 3-MINUTE BREAK' with a large blue button that says 'NAME THAT'; and 'WORD OF THE DAY' for 'OCTOBER 15, 2017' which is 'razzmatazz'.

Aesthetic and minimalist design

Attention is taken from the central reason for the site and placed elsewhere. Commercials keeping popping over text trying to be read, causing the user to click to remove them. **Rating: 2.**

Improvement:

Offer an alternative option to commercials.

Merriam-Webster SINCE 1828

informatics

DICTIONARY THESAURUS

Check out our awesome headphones Collection Start Listening

TRENDING NOW: [Kafkaesque](#) [mike](#) [moron](#) [terrorism](#) SEE ALL >

informatics

noun, plural in form but singular in construction | in·for·mat·ics | \,in-fər-'ma-tiks\
 Popularity: Bottom 40% of words

Definition of INFORMATICS

: INFORMATION SCIENCE

NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: circa 1967

SEE WORDS FROM THE SAME YEAR >

Personal Travel Advisor

Charleston to Washington

Search Flights

CheapAir.com

LEARN MORE FROM M-W >

razz

action me

Get Word d

Your email

Forms of Government Quiz

Consistency and standards

Not very clear what is the definition. Appears to be mostly word history and design. Had to click the definition of another word. **Rating: 3.**

Improvement:

A dictionary site should have definitions.

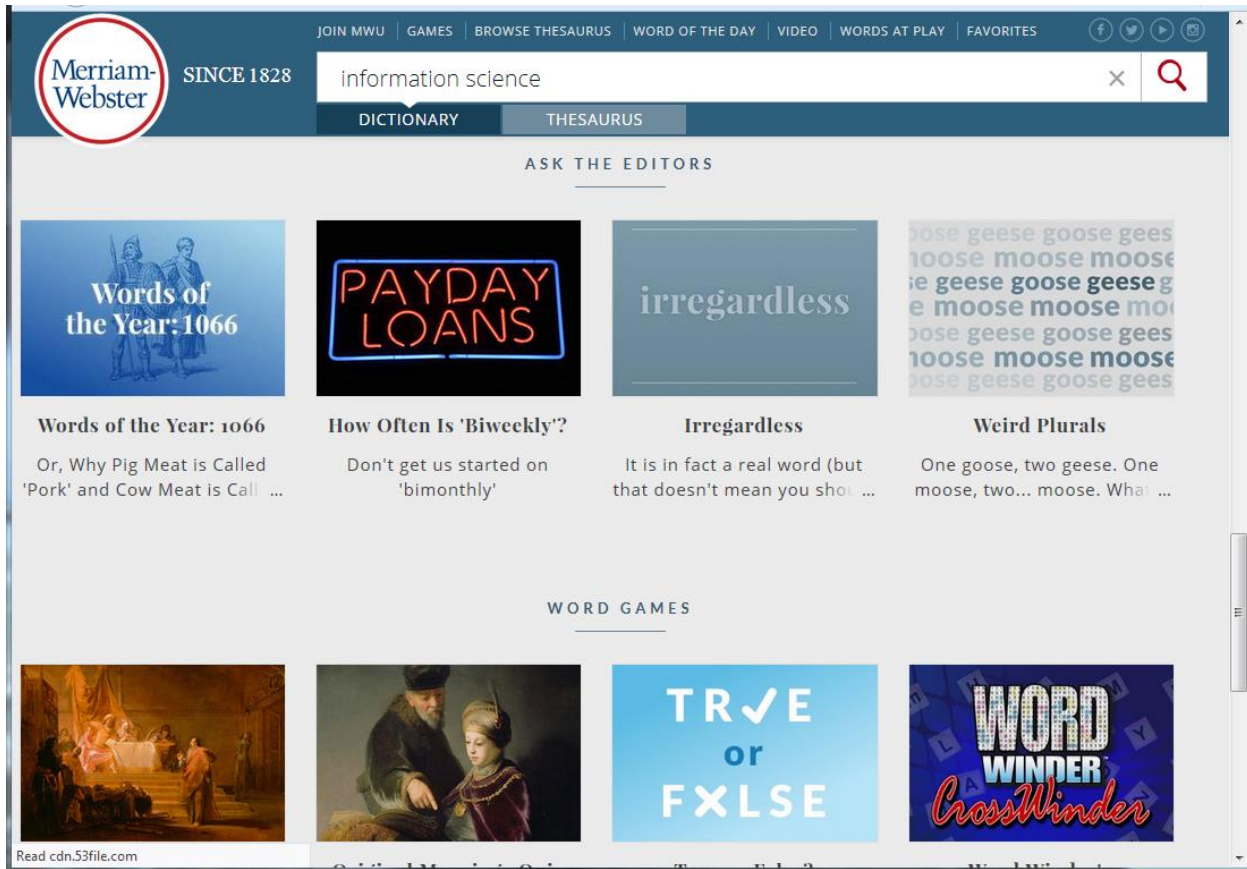
The screenshot shows the Merriam-Webster website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'JOIN MWU', 'GAMES', 'BROWSE THESAURUS', 'WORD OF THE DAY', 'VIDEO', 'WORDS AT PLAY', and 'FAVORITES'. The Merriam-Webster logo and 'SINCE 1828' are on the left. A search bar contains 'information science' with a search icon and a close button. Below the search bar are tabs for 'DICTIONARY' and 'THESAURUS'. A banner for 'Check out our awesome headphones Collection' is visible. The main content area features a 'TRENDING NOW' section with links to 'Kafkaesque', 'mike', 'moron', and 'terrorism'. The word 'information science' is displayed in a large font, with 'noun' below it and 'Popularity: Bottom 30% of words' underneath. A 'Definition of INFORMATION SCIENCE' section follows, with a sub-section for 'NEW! Time Traveler' and 'First Known Use: 1955'. On the right side, there are several advertisements, including one for 'FABLETICS' leggings and another for '17 English Words that Come From Japanese'.

User control and freedom

Had to click definition of another word to get to this point. **Rating: 2.**

Improvement:

Maybe use alternate definition on the first page.



Error prevention

The system does not even notice. It should at the very least state it is already registered and not ignore.
Rating: 3.

Improvement:

Use better fuzzy logic to allow for variances.

Aesthetic and minimalist design

The page is bombarded with ads and things to do. **Rating: 2.**

Improvement:

Have simplified form of landing page with links to other option..