AJ Torgesen

User Experience Designer | Developer

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Summary

Designer and full-stack developer with 8 years of experience owning the complete design-to-deployment pipeline for data-driven web applications. Specialized in translating complex research requirements into intuitive, accessible user experiences — most recently building literacy assessment tools now used by charter schools and school districts serving hundreds of families. Currently completing an M.S. in UI/UX Design. Bring a rare combination of UX methodology, visual design craft, and engineering depth, with a growing practice in AI-integrated product development.

Skills

Design

Figma, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Wireframing, Prototyping, User Research, Information Architecture

Development

R / Shiny, HTML, CSS, JavaScript (working knowledge), Full-Stack Web Development, Data Visualization

AI & Emerging Tech

AI API Integration, AI-assisted development workflows, Prompt engineering for product dev

Collaboration

Stakeholder presentations, Product pitching, Cross-functional team collaboration, Workshop facilitation

Workshops, Presentations, and Awards

- **Scientific Study of Reading (SSR) Conference** — Workshop: Building Research Applications with Shiny
- **Honorable Mention in the 2021 Posit Shiny Awards** — CBM at Home
- Internal faculty/researcher workshops on application development with R/ Shiny, covering design-to-deployment workflows.

Work Experience

UI UX Designer | Software Developer

Florida State University
Florida Center for Reading Research & Qualitative Methodology and Innovation Dept.
2016 — Present

- Sole designer and developer on a team with a project manager, researcher, and faculty lead — owning the full pipeline from UX research and wireframing through front-end design, full-stack development, and deployment across 20+ web applications.
- Designed and built the Adolescent Assessment of Literacy (AAL), a full-featured literacy assessment platform currently serving as the primary assessment tool for three charter schools, with an upcoming district rollout projected to reach ~600 families.
- Built applications using R/Shiny, CSS, HTML, and JavaScript, creating custom data visualizations and interactive dashboards to surface literacy research insights for educators and administrators.
- Conducted stakeholder interviews, iterated on prototypes in Figma, and delivered polished pitch presentations to faculty, administrators, and research partners to align product direction and secure adoption.
- Integrated AI APIs into product workflows to enhance functionality and streamline development, with a forward-looking approach to AI-assisted design and development practices.
- Designed application interfaces and supporting visual assets using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, ensuring visual consistency across products.

Education

M.S. , User Experience Design

Utah Tech University
In Progress — Graduation December 2026

B.S. , Applied Statistics

Brigham Young University (BYU)