

Laurier Cress

UX Designer & Researcher

As a UX Designer & Researcher at Harvard University, my commitment lies in elevating the user experience in our digital products and services by prioritizing digital accessibility as a cornerstone of design.

Work Experience

UX Designer & Researcher

Dec 2022 - Present

Harvard Web Publishing

At Harvard Web Publishing, I lead cross-functional UX initiatives for HarvardSites Drupal, a next-gen CMS and design system supporting 1,000+ websites for Harvard University.

Leverage AI to develop and improve design system documentation and governance, accessibility operations and UAT operations, content strategy, and user research.

Lead and manage user research and a user research repository to inform and support design decisions across products and services.

Established scalable design system documentation process, to streamline design system team workflows and process and enhance team productivity.

Own end-to-end product design for HarvardSites Drupal, leading discovery, ideation, wireframing, prototyping, user testing, and handoff —collaborating closely with PMs and engineers to align design with user needs, technical constraints, and product goals.

Facilitate cross-functional design workshops with PMs, engineering, UXD, and stakeholders to build consensus around design decisions and feature requirements.

UX Designer & Researcher

Mar 2020 - Present

Independent Consultant

Partnered with clients across higher ed, nonprofit, and commercial sectors to drive UX strategy, user research, and product design. Led discovery workshops, usability studies, and end-to-end design to deliver intuitive, accessible digital solutions tailored to real user needs.

Education

Masters: Library Information Science

2019 - 2021

University of Denver

BS: Art & Design

2006 - 2010

Towson University

Certifications

WA10.1x: Intro to Web Accessibility

Aug 2023

W3C Credential ID: 1fa52a8fd5b042dd975cbc072eb12484

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Skills & Competencies

- Accessibility Compliance (WCAG & ADA)
- Agile Collaboration
- Component Development
- Design Principles & Shared Language
- Design System Governance
- Generative & Evaluative Research
- Iterative Design
- Mobile First & Responsive Design
- Research Repository Design & Management
- Usability Testing
- Human-Centered Design
- Technical Documentation Development
- Wireframing & Prototyping
- Workshop Facilitation

Tools

Axure RP	Jira
Artificial Intelligence	Looker Studio
Axure RP	Miro
Balsamiq	Optimal Workshop
Basecamp	Photoshop
Condens.io	Python
Confluence	Qualtrics
CSS & HTML	Tableau
Dovetail	Trello
Drupal	WordPress
Figma	

Interests

- Content Creation
- Gaming
- Painting
- Mentoring early career UX professionals