

Heuristic Evaluation: Refocus.io

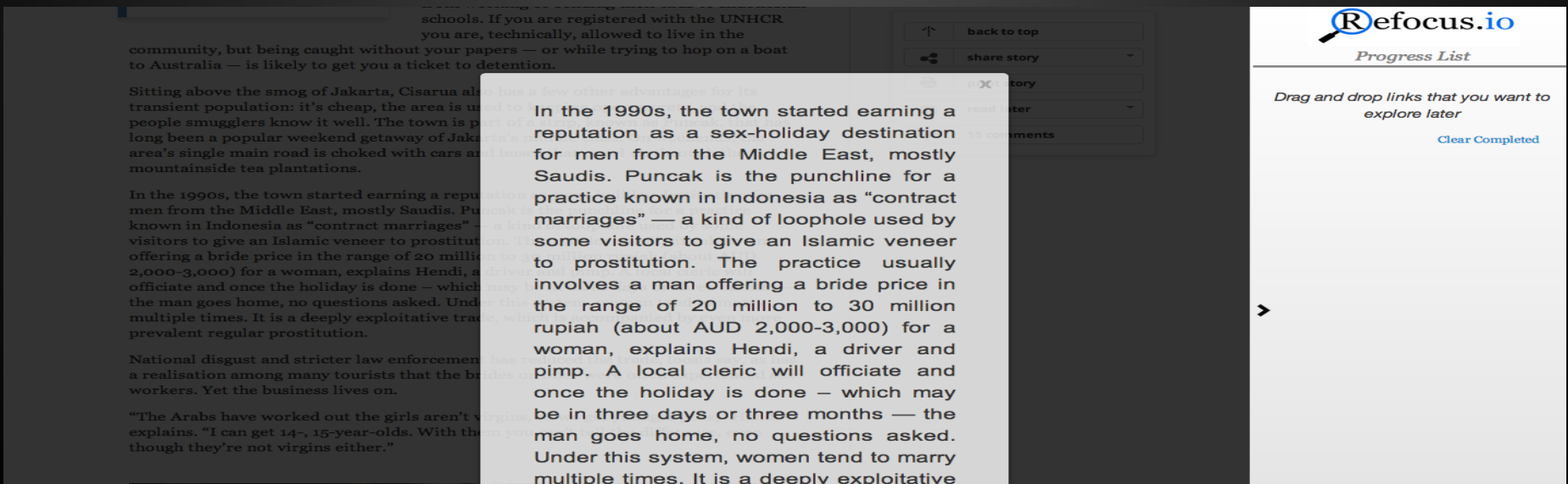
Alan Wagner (no collaborators)

Focused Snippet Length

Description: Sometimes, text snippets in focus mode are so large, that the 'next' and 'previous' buttons are below the edge of the screen, so they cannot be pressed, and the user becomes stuck in the current snippet.

Heuristic: User Control and Freedom (Nielsen)

Severity: catastrophic



Clicking a Link on the Sidebar

Description: Clicking a link on the sidebar loads the new webpage on the current tab, thus hiding the original webpage from the user. Loading the new page in a separate tab makes it less likely that the user gets distracted on the new page and forgets to come back to the original page.

Heuristic: Visibility (Norman)

Severity: major

Positioning of 'Focus' Button

Description: The 'Focus' button is inconveniently located in the middle of the screen, and that gets in the way of the webpage's content.

Heuristic: Visibility (Norman)

Severity: major

The screenshot shows a webpage with a 'FOCUS' button highlighted in a blue box. The button is positioned in the middle of the screen, overlapping the main content. The page layout includes a main content area on the left, a utility menu on the right, and a 'Progress List' section at the bottom right.

from working or sending to Indonesian schools. If you are registered **FOCUS** NHCR you are, technically, allowed to live in the community, but being caught without your papers — or while trying to hop on a boat to Australia — is likely to get you a ticket to detention.

Sitting above the smog of Jakarta, Cisarua also has a few other advantages for its transient population: it's cheap, the area is used to keeping open secrets, and the people smugglers know it well. The town is part of a strip, known as Puncak, that has long been a popular weekend getaway of Jakarta's middle class. On weekends, the area's single main road is choked with cars and buses that crawl up through the mountainside tea plantations.

In the 1990s, the town started earning a reputation as a sex-holiday destination for men from the Middle East, mostly Saudis. Puncak is the punchline for a practice known in Indonesia as "contract marriages" — a kind of loophole used by some visitors to give an Islamic veneer to prostitution. The practice usually involves a man offering a bride price in the range of 20 million to 30 million rupiah (about AUD

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Refocus.io

Progress List

Drag and drop links that you want to explore later

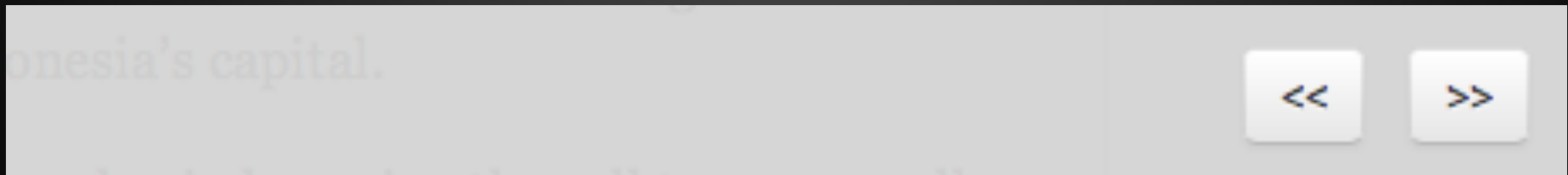
[Clear Completed](#)

User Control During Focus Mode

Description: The user can only go to the previous or next text snippet. The user should have more control over what snippet they go to next.

Heuristic: User Control and Freedom (Nielsen)

Severity: major



State Display During Focus Mode

Description: Users should know how far they are in reading all the snippets on the focused body of text. A progress indicator would be helpful.

Heuristic: Visibility of System Status (Nielsen)

Severity: major

Multiple Selections During Focus Mode

Description: It is confusing when more than one selection is used to go into focus mode because the user will see snippets from all selections and it is difficult to keep track of all of them. It would be clearer if only one selection could be focused on at a time.

Heuristic: Visibility of System Status (Nielsen)

Severity: major

Delimitation Between Focused Snippets

Description: It is difficult to form a conceptual model of how bodies of text are divided into the smaller snippets. Sometimes a snippet is one sentence, sometimes more, and sometimes sentences spanning two paragraphs.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: major

Fear, corruption, boredom, smugglers, extortionists, Saudi sex tourists and temporary wives: such is life in the Indonesian resort town that has become limbo for asylum seekers.

Night is enveloping the hills of Cisarua, a resort town high outside Jakarta, and the area's evening rituals are beginning. Rainwater thunders down from nearby mountaintops along hundreds of canals and rivulets that go whooshing on into the polluted sink that is Indonesia's capital.

Presence of Links in Focus Mode

Description: When entering focus mode from a body of highlighted text, the links from that body of text cannot be accessed. When entering focus mode on the default selection, the links are accessible.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: major

(See the photos behind the story: Barat Ali Batoor's series from Cisarua, [In Between Persecution And Asylum.](#))

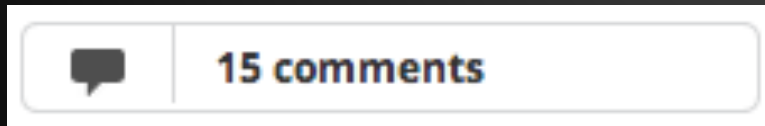
(See the photos behind the story: Barat Ali Batoor's series from Cisarua, In Between Persecution And Asylum.)

Content of Link Text

Description: The link text that appears in the sidebar is sometimes inconsistent with the link text on the webpage. This could be a potential source of confusion.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: major



Functionality of Focus Button

Description: When the 'Focus' button is pressed while a body of text is highlighted, that text does not become focused, but it does become focused when the similarly named 'Focus on Selection' button is pressed.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: major

Text Styling of Focused Snippet

Description: Pressing the 'Focus' button upon loading the page produces focused snippets in a different text style than if focus mode is entered through some highlighted text.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: minor

(See the photos behind the story: Barat Ali Batoor's series from Cisarua, [In Between Persecution And Asylum.](#))

(See the photos behind the story: Barat Ali Batoor's series from Cisarua, In Between Persecution And Asylum.)

Feedback from 'Clear Completed' Button

Description: The 'Clear Completed' button gives no feedback when it is clicked and there are either no links on the list or no completed links.

Heuristic: Feedback (Norman)

Severity: minor



Movability of 'Focus' Button

Description: The 'Focus' button cannot be repositioned. It would be useful to move it to one side or the other depending on where the webpage has most of its content.

Heuristic: User Control and Freedom (Nielsen)

Severity: minor

Extraneous Periods in Focused Snippets

Description: When focusing on more than one body of text, extraneous period characters started appearing at the end of each snippet. This is probably a bug, but it could be a source of confusion for users because it is not standard.

Heuristic: Consistency and Standards (Nielsen)

Severity: minor

ginning. Rainwater thunders down from
(See the photos behind the story: Barat Ali Batoor's series from
Cisarua, In Between Persecution And Asylum.)....

Enlargement of the Sidebar

Description: It is difficult to enlarge the sidebar because the user needs to aim for a small button. It would be useful if clicking anywhere in the sidebar enlarged it.

Heuristic: Fitt's Law (Tog)

Severity: minor

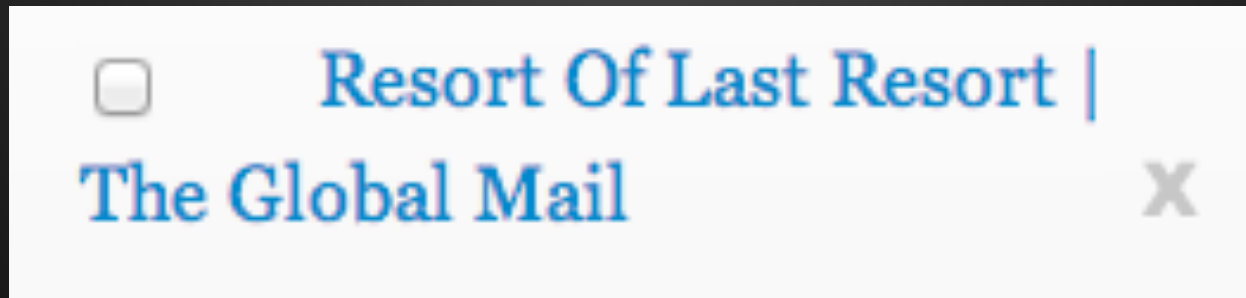


Alignment of Link Text

Description: When the text of a link that appears on the sidebar is too long, it wraps around, but is not aligned with the first line, which makes it difficult to read.

Heuristic: Readability (Tog)

Severity: minor

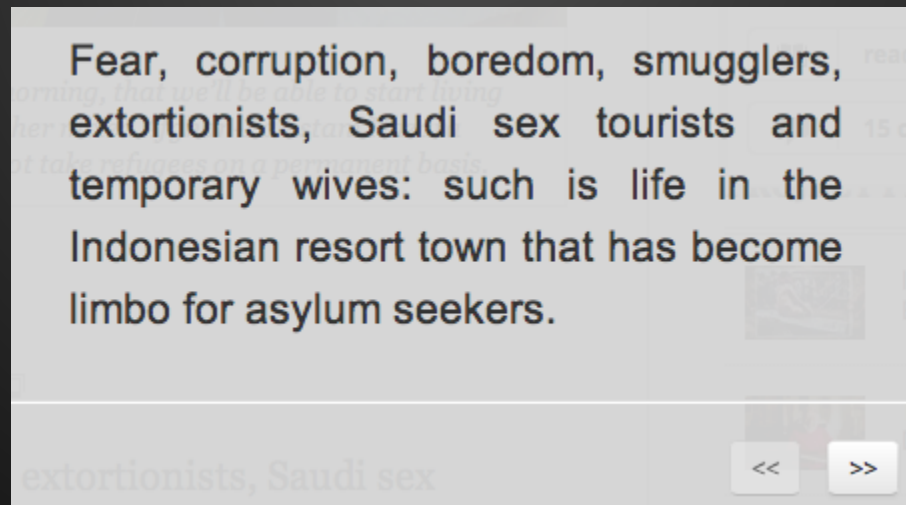


Usage of Lines

Description: Lines are used to delimit two areas of the screen when whitespace could be used instead. For example, look under the text in the 'Focus' box and under the 'Progress List' title in the sidebar.

Heuristic: Aesthetic and Minimalist Design (Nielsen)

Severity: cosmetic

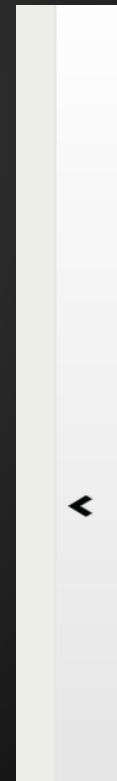


Sidebar Color

Description: Many webpages have a white or gray background, so the sidebar blends into them when it is minimized.

Heuristic: Visibility (Norman)

Severity: cosmetic

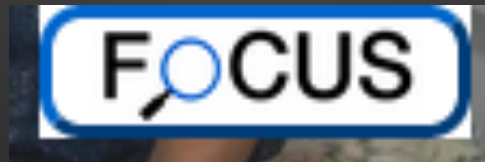


'Focus' Button Background Transparency

Description: The 'Focus' button has rounded corners, but its white background is rectangular and larger than the button.

Heuristic: Aesthetic and Minimalist Design (Nielsen)

Severity: cosmetic



Magnifier Placement Inconsistency

Description: In the logo, the magnifier is around the 'R', and, in the 'Focus' button, it is the 'O'.

Heuristic: Consistency (Tog)

Severity: cosmetic

