Accessibility and Innovation at the Harvard Gazette

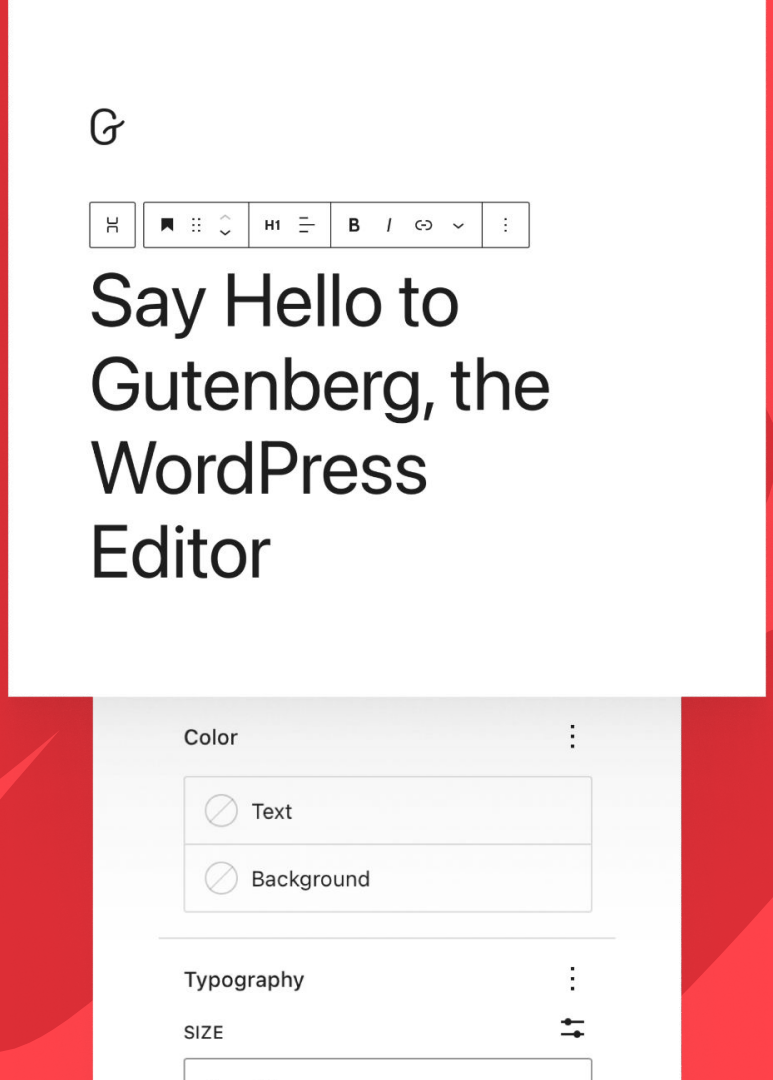
Molly Miles
Digital Project Manager for Harvard Public Affairs & Communications

Joeleen Kennedy
Senior Web Engineer
Human Made

Harvard Gazette goals around innovation and accessibility

- Engaging & intuitive experiences for site visitors
- Flexible, continuously fresh methods of storytelling
- Easy to use for content editors
- Accessible at every level

How we plan features



Usability and accessibility

- Understand user needs - creators are users too!
- Make sure your goals are clear
- Make accessibility approachable for creators
- Include accessibility at all stages, starting with discovery
- Test with real users as much as possible

Scalability

- Understand available technologies
- Design around what's possible
- Design components instead of pages
- Combine components to customize layouts
- Make it easy to create!

Case Studies

MAKE ACCESSIBILITY APPROACHABLE

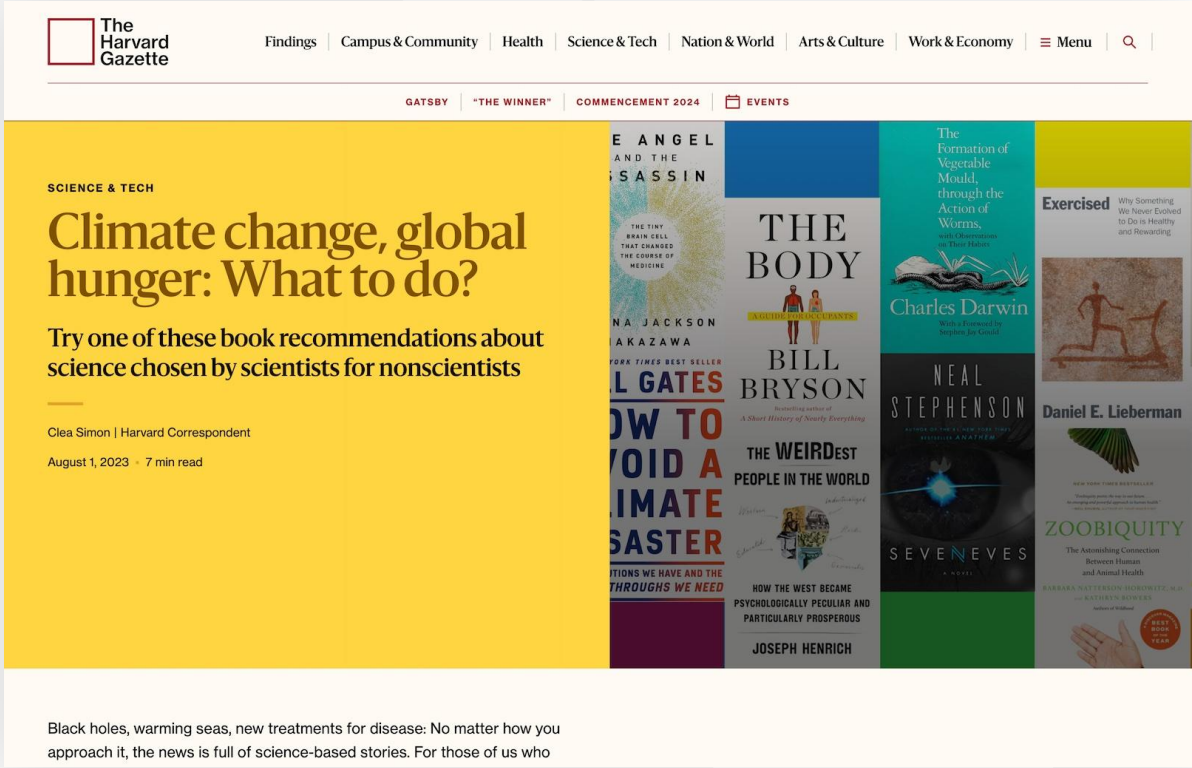
Color palette picker

To ensure consistency and accessibility across the Harvard Gazette site, we added a custom color palette picker, enabling editors to select text and background colours at the same time from pre-defined palettes.

EMPOWER CREATORS

Article headers

The article header block offers six distinct block styles and advanced display options for article headers. This feature-rich block empowers editors to create visually striking and immersive article layouts.



MAKE IT EASY
TO CREATE

Supporting content

Supporting content blocks allow editors to enhance article layouts with images, stats, quotes, and other supplementary content.

when results showed children being
their first words. As gratifying,
's parents, who sometimes cried or
saw.

This second trial also revealed an intriguing wrinkle. One participant was 11, an age considered outside the optimal range for language acquisition, thought to be from birth to around 6 or 7, Chen said. After hearing was restored, however, the 11-year-old did begin to use single words.

"This would suggest that maybe there's some plasticity in the brain in a patient that we could remodel somehow in the future," Chen said. "This opened up a new field for us to explore."

BE INNOVATIVE

Image replace on scroll

The image replace on scroll feature dynamically replaces images while scrolling, adding visual interest to article layouts.

"Orchestrating Impartiality: The Effect of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians" (2000)
Goldin and co-author Cecilia Rouse examined hiring data before and after the advent of "blind" auditions. They found the set-up increased the proportion of women in professional U.S. orchestras.

"The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions" (2002)
Goldin and co-author Lawrence F. Katz found oral contraception had enabled more women to invest in education while holding off on family formation.

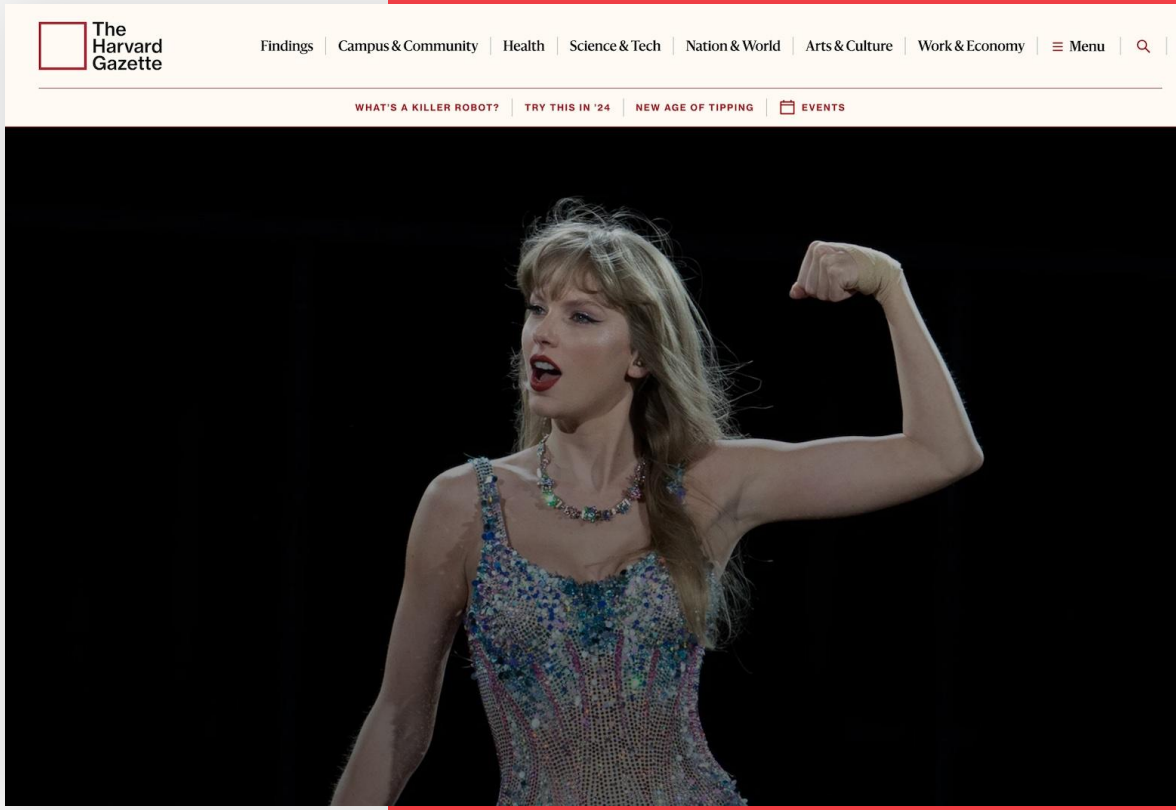
"The U-Shaped Female Labor Force Function in Economic Development and Economic History" (1994)
Goldin traced the fall and subsequent rise of female labor force participation in dozens of countries as their economies advanced over two centuries.

Illustrations by Liz Zonarich/Harvard Staff

TRY IT OUT

Editor demo

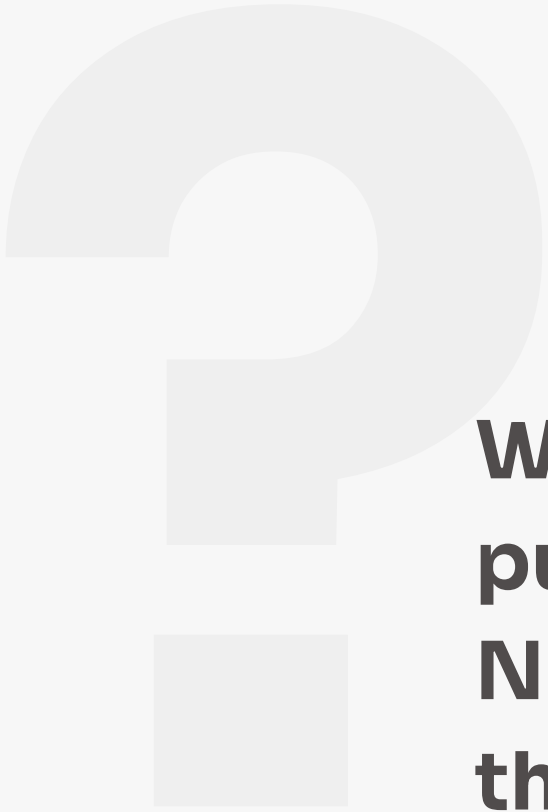
These features all work together in the block editor to build a complete storytelling experience.



Q & A

Since the launch, what have you been working on? How have you been able to use the site in new ways or build out new types of content?

What feedback have you received on the site’s accessibility?



We created a custom publishing workflow for News+. Could you walk us through that?

Thank You!

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