Christopher Nagel

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Professional Summary

Product designer and builder with four years of experience designing web and data tools for research, healthcare, and member organizations. Leads discovery and usability testing with non-technical users, and takes products from problem definition through a working, tested build.

Experience

GIS Analyst | UCLA — Dec. 2024 - Present | Los Angeles, CA

- Found that technical-assistance sessions for 14 community coalitions kept returning to locating data; proposed and built the ACT Data Hub (35+ maps and guides from 17 sources).
- Restructured the Hub twice after user testing: from a catalogue to paths by deliverable (the catalogue required technical terms), then to a guided path through exploration, analysis, validation, and communication (users stalled between steps).
- In the first round, 0 of 5 testers completed the core tasks unaided; after the redesign, 4 of 4 new testers completed the full path, and assistance requests shifted from finding data to interpreting it.
- Directed a student worker who prepared data layers for the Hub's combined-variable map, its most-used component.

Independent Product & Systems Consultant | Self-employed — 2022 - Present | Remote

- Association of Med-Peds Physicians: Led discovery with physicians, staff, and leadership; designed and built a shared WordPress platform for membership, directories, mentorship, events, and communications for 1,084 members.
- Replaced manual membership approvals with NPI verification (about 400 records validated automatically) and spreadsheet mentorship tracking with matching recommendations and satisfaction check-ins.
- UCLA SHARE Lab: Designed and built the website for a study of autistic adolescents and young adults with the principal investigator and research assistants: information architecture and three custom systems: Participant Roadmap, Video Library, and Publications Directory. First public release in about four weeks, with development ongoing.
- RMC Stainless: Built an AI-assisted publishing workflow with source checks and human review; migrated 53 products.

Web Content Manager | UCLA Health — Oct. 2022 - Dec. 2024 | Los Angeles, CA

- Worked with clinic and research leads on information architecture, content strategy, and WCAG accessibility across three Drupal sites; successful clinic referrals grew about sixfold.

Selected Projects

Southern California Historic Aerial Viewer | Personal | 2026 | Case study

- Designed and built a map that lines up 1920s–1950s aerial photos with today's city across 20 areas, with 700 researched places tracked year by year and a draggable then-and-now comparison.

Hyperspectra and Spectral Light Lab | Personal | 2025 - Present | Case study

- Built a portable hyperspectral camera for about $3,500, with wavelength calibration within 0.56 nm, and a 3D browser viewer that turns hyperspectral data into a volume of light.

Skills

- **Design:** Interaction design, information architecture, prototyping, usability testing, data visualization; Figma
- **Product:** Discovery, problem framing, requirements, prioritization, stakeholder facilitation, documentation, training
- **Building:** Writes requirements, directs AI coding agents (Claude Code, Codex), and tests the working product: Python data workflows, React and WordPress/PHP applications, ArcGIS apps
- **Data & Platforms:** ArcGIS Pro, Hub, Experience Builder; ACS, CDC PLACES, CalEnviroScreen; Drupal, WordPress

Education

California State University, Long Beach - B.A., Theater Design and Technology — May 2022

- Directed production crews on theater productions.

UC Berkeley Extension - Certificate, UX Research and Interface Design — May 2022