

User Experience Evaluation – Keyword Explorer Function

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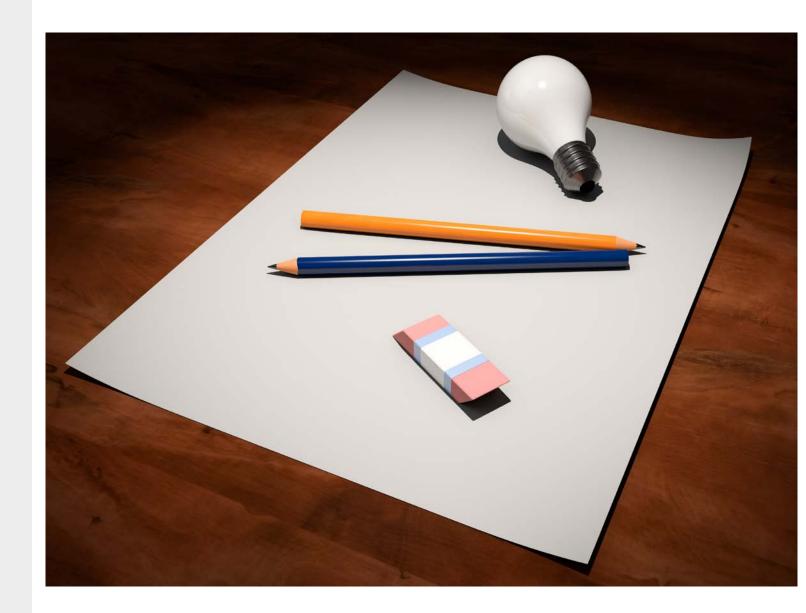
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**QA Observations** 

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

The scope of this analysis was limited to the Keyword Explorer view.

Although I have included some extra comments from other pages, the focus of this document is limited to this single view.



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



# Robust functionality and the support to go with it

eRank's strength lies in its ability to harness and display a rich cross-section of information from various sales platforms. Its design is clean, aesthetically pleasing and the website is easy to navigate.

Aside from just having the functionality available, it also excels in supporting users both as they on-board initially and as they mature in their use of the tool.

eRank hits the mark in terms of robust functionality that is well supported for users with varying levels of experience.



# Too much of a good thing? Savvy information management techniques will help

The flip side of having so much good information is the presentation challenges it creates. Well intentioned users can easily become overwhelmed in a sea of data which requires navigational finesse to manage. (see the opportunities for growth section)

As eRank continues to add new sales platforms, helping users manage the right information and the right amount of information will be critical in reducing cognitive load and promoting usability.





eRank provides highly-detailed, centralized information from a variety of sales platforms. Above all, this is its primary strength.

Because this information can be complex and nuanced, eRank also shines in the amount of support it offers.

New users can find answers in multiple ways:

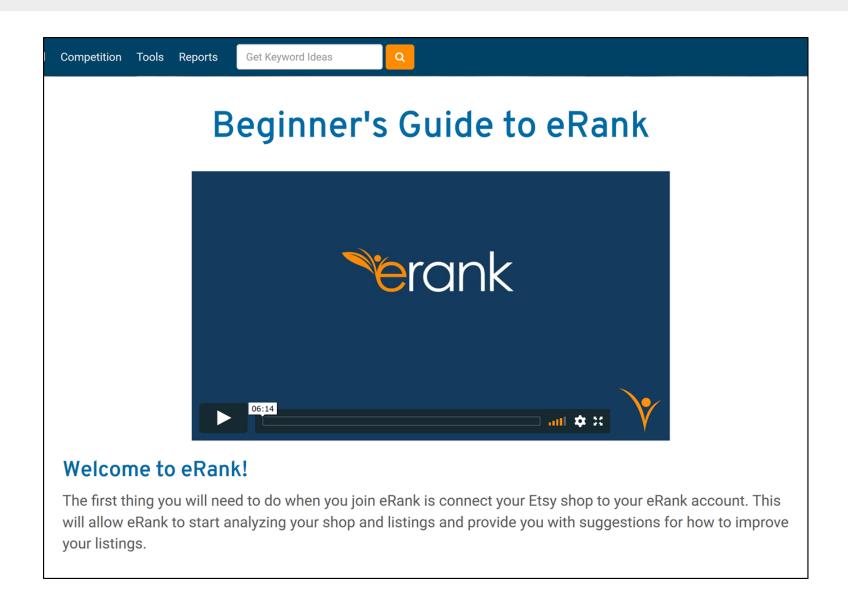
- 1. Feedback button Contacts creator directly
- 2. Help
  - FAQs
  - Feature Summary
  - Beginners guide
  - Getting started
- 3. Page Level Help top right corner
- 4. Blue zone at the top of each tool page providing summary information.
- 5. Facebook community

# Video - Beginner's Guide to eRank

This video is the perfect overview for new users.

Not only does it provide a basic tour and synopsis of different views but it also guides users to the various types of online support.

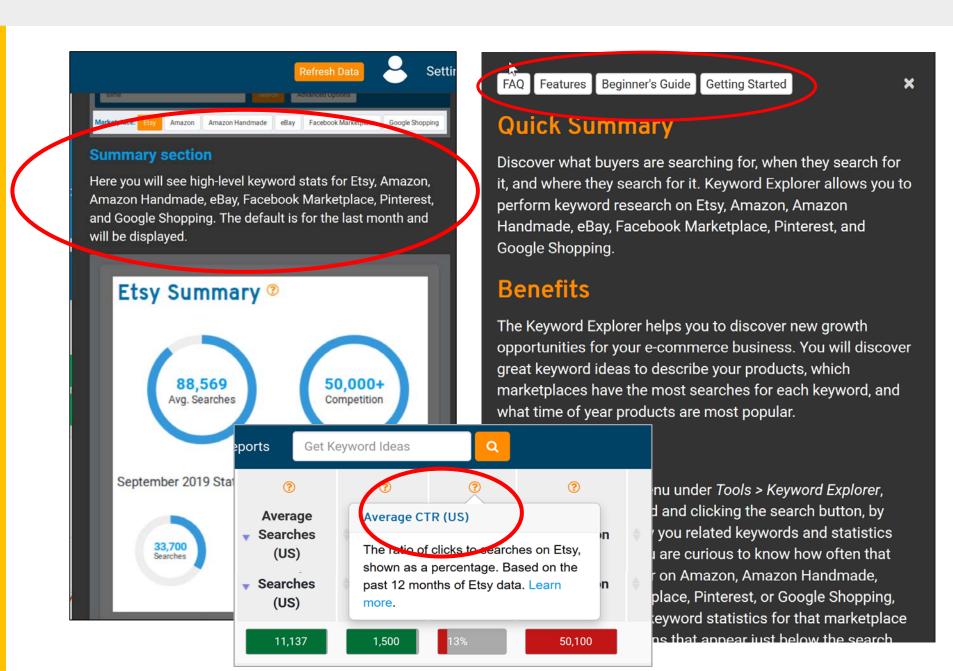
The video is professional, resourceful and could not be more straightforward.



# **Embedded Help**

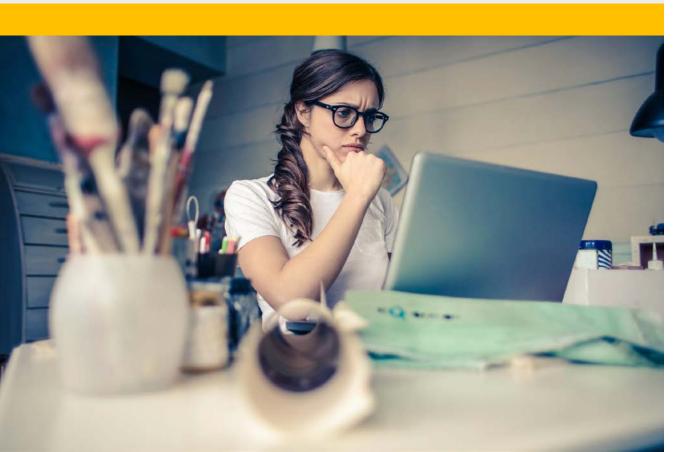
Both the amount and the quality of help sets users up to succeed.

Unlike most online help, the content is high quality and plentiful. Users at all levels benefit from the vast amount of help available to them.





## **UX CHALLENGES**



The greatest challenge of eRank is presenting complex, voluminous information in a user friendly manner. These ideas will be explored in the Opportunities for Growth section.

The UX challenges in this section focus more on single instance issues which, if remedied, would improve the users' experience.

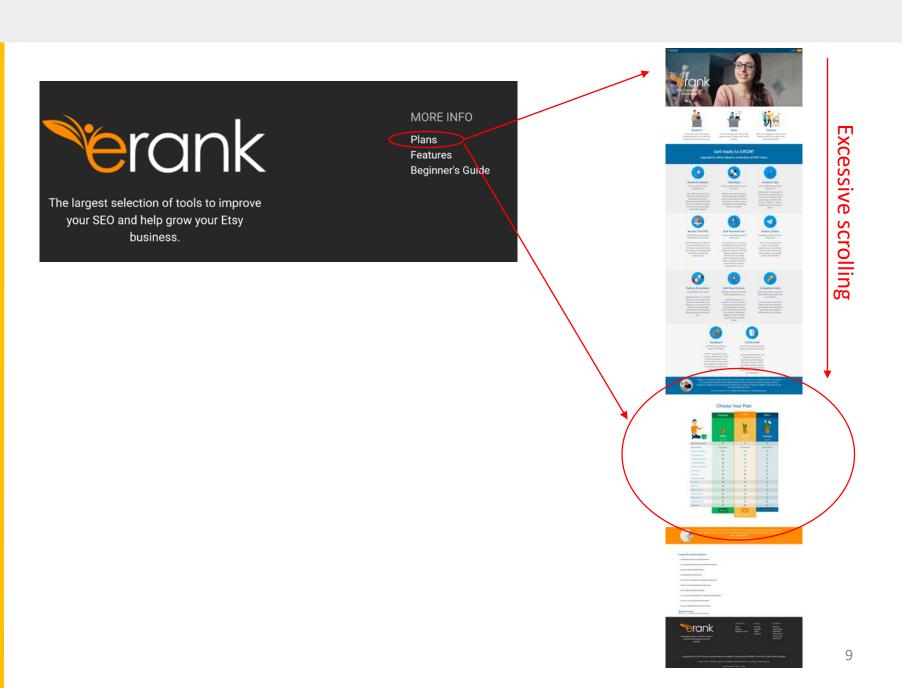
## **Anchor Link**

When a user clicks on plans in the footer they are taken to the top of the plans page.

Because the graphic detailing the plans is located lower on the page, users must scroll for quite a while before they find their target information.

## Recommendation

A tighter experience would take the user directly to the Choose Your Plan graphic so they could immediately begin comparing plans.



## Transparency

The transparency of the rollover creates visual distraction to users as they process the results from each sales platform.

The platform listing in the foreground competes visually with the line chart in the background which complicates interpretation.

#### Recommendation

By eliminating the transparency, users would have fewer visual elements to process and could focus on the data.



This recommendation makes sense only if users are content with just seeing the numeric data and don't need to see the graph <u>and</u> numeric data simultaneously.

# Left Alignment and Title Differentiation

A center alignment causes our eyes to make continual adjustments as we process text.

A left alignment is less cognitively taxing because it creates a visual anchor and users' eyes can track smoothly down the list.

Additionally, the current title formatting blends in with the data which decreases intuitiveness.

#### Recommendation

A left alignment and a visually differentiated title would make interpreting this data more efficient.



## Current Design

Nov 18
Amazon: 47,250
Etsy: 26.703
Pinterest: 6,100
Google Shopping: 8,950
Amazon Handmade: 440

## Proposed Design

## **Nov 18**

Amazon: 47,250
Etsy: 26,703
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# **Promoting Current Availability**

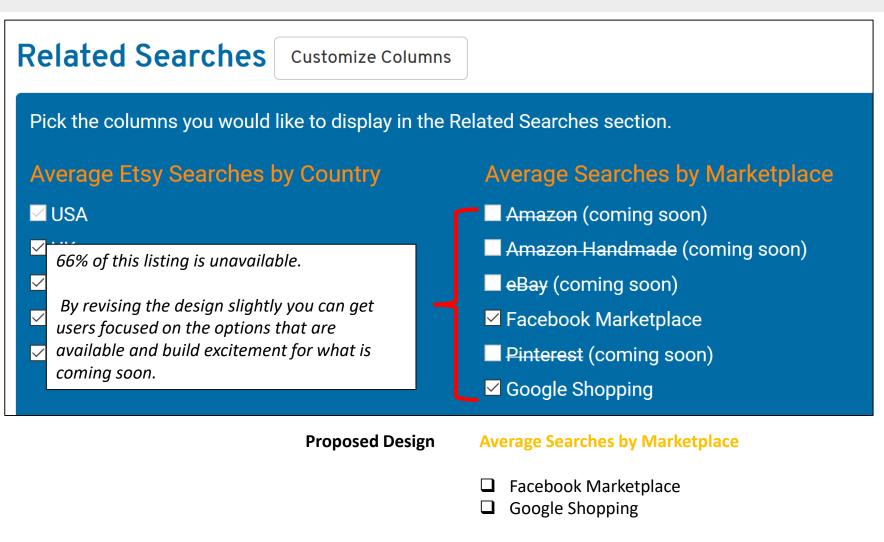
By leading with 3 items that are currently unavailable, users may fixate on what isn't an option rather than what is an option.

Moreover, the presence of a checkbox sends a contradictory message (despite the strikethrough formatting)

Temporarily reformatting the list, would foster optimism and clarify what is available.

## Recommendation

Temporarily reformat the listing to share what's available first and then highlight what is coming soon.



Amazon Amazon Handmade eBay Pinterest

**Coming soon** 

# Descriptive Link Names

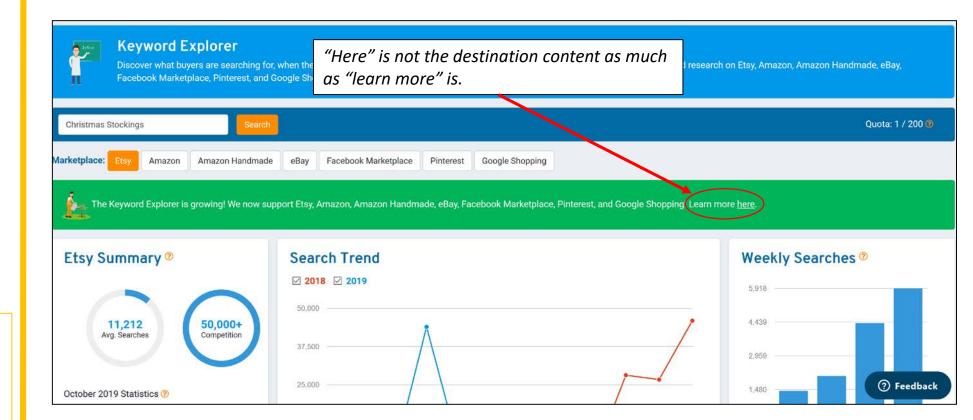
Users intuitively scan for links on pages.

Meaningful descriptors make the best links because users can immediately understand the result of them following the link. (I can "learn more" if I click on this link)

"Here" is a very weak descriptor of what content awaits the user.

## Recommendation

Have "Learn More" be the link descriptor because it is a better indicator of the destination content.



# Contrast Challenges - Sort Icons

The contrast between the sort icons and the header is exceptionally low and will be difficult for some people to identify.

By increasing the contrast slightly and adding some additional space between the up/down arrows you make this interaction far more user friendly. (see WCAG AA info on next page)

## Recommendation

Increase the contrast between the gray sort icons and their background. Also, add some additional space to make this function easier to interact with.



**Current Design** 



## **Proposed Design**

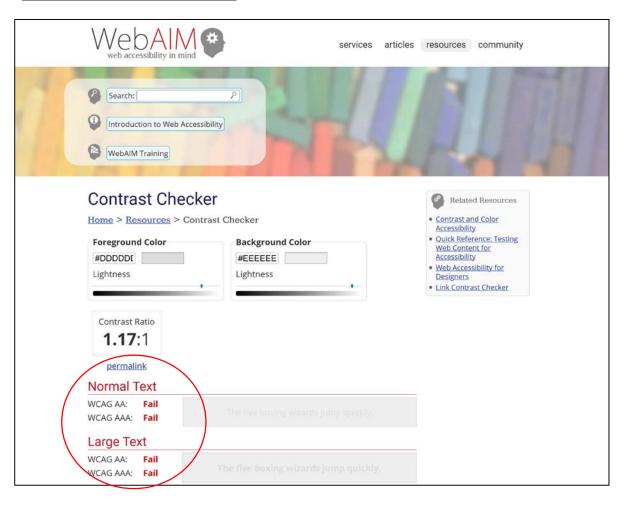
Hex: #6B6B6B

RGB: 182, 182, 182

# Contrast Challenges - Sort Icons

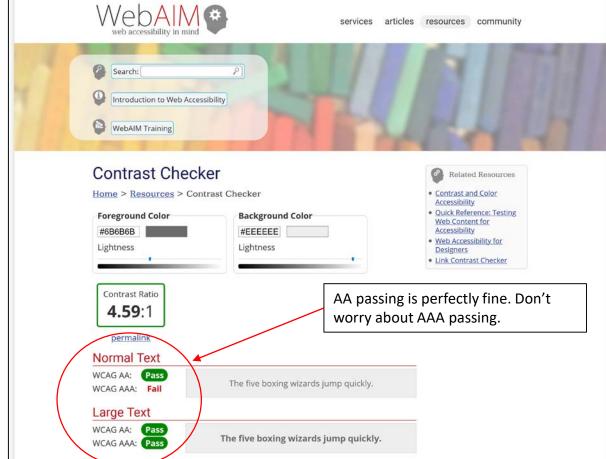
Etsy
Competition

Current levels of contrast are not adequate.





By increasing contrast slightly you reach passing status.



# **Label Proximity**

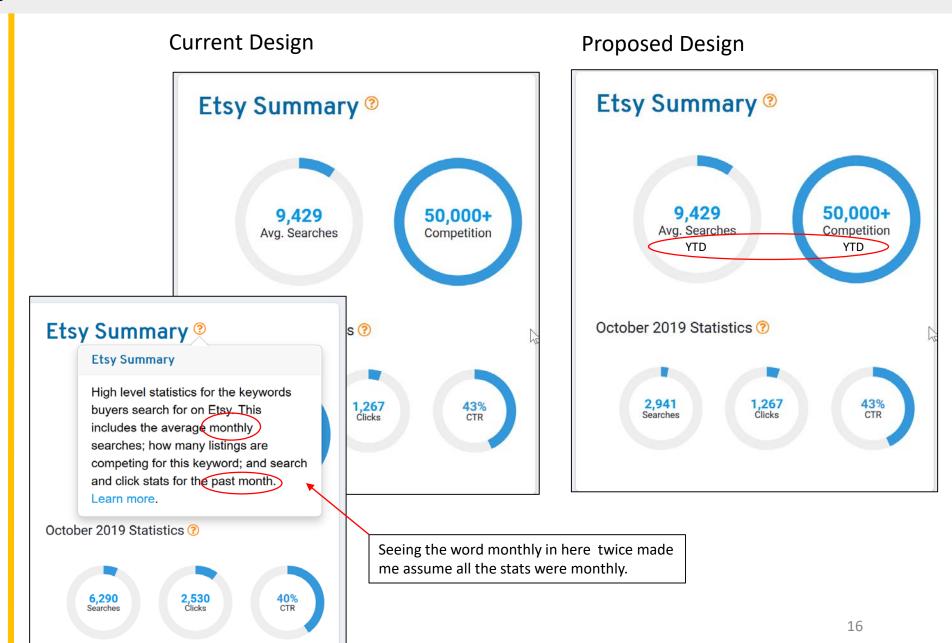
When I initially interacted with this section I was confused by the placement of the label.

I referenced the help rollover and saw the words "month" and "monthly" so I assumed all of the data was from October.

After clarifying, I now understand that the top two circles are actually YTD while the bottom 3 are monthly.

#### Recommendation

Adding a simple YTD modifier will help clarify which stats are monthly and which are YTD.



# Don't Show Me This Again Option

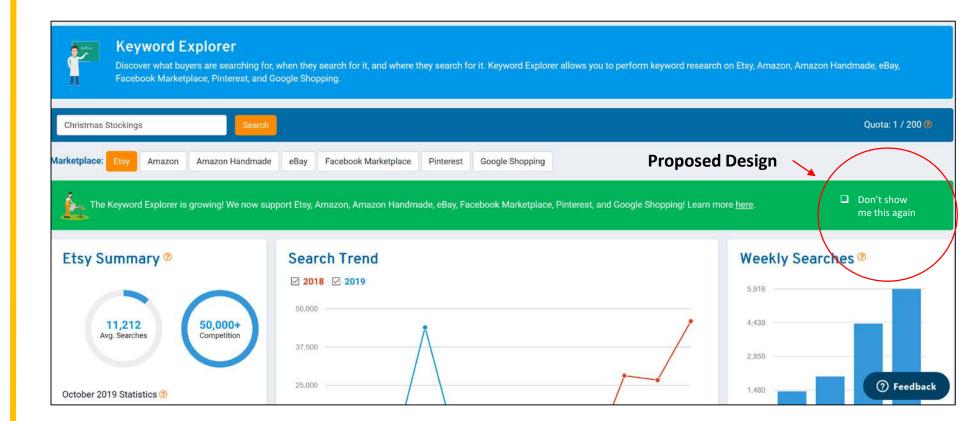
This announcement shares some terrific news but users may not need to see it on an ongoing basis.

Rather, they might appreciate the option to not see it again and reclaim an extra inch of screen real estate.

The resulting impact would be particularly appreciated by users with lengthy results in the related searches graph.

#### Recommendation

Maximize screen real estate by creating an option to hide this announcement once users have read it one time.



## **Horizontal Scroll**

The horizontal scroll in the Related Searches chart is sure to be a challenge for users.

This will be particularly true when the result set is long and users have to scroll excessively to adjust their view.

The combination of scrolling vertically and then horizontally (and more than likely vertically again) may be disorienting.

## Recommendation

Consider strategies to maximize screen real estate.

Possibly develop an advanced search to reduce results and a tabbed view for large data sets.

See the following section for ideas.



# Indication That I am Leaving Your Site

When I clicked on Google Trend, I didn't specifically notice that I was leaving the eRank Site. (we live in a world of user oblivion)

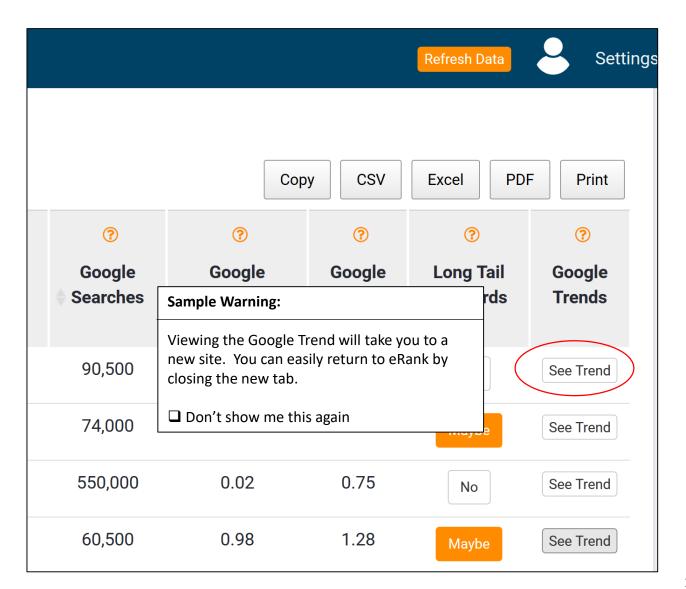
While I noticed the shift in look and feel, I just assumed I was in an older section of eRank.

After my back button failed to return me to my original view (this is where I noticed my departure) I eventually understood what had happened.

This departure was a bit disorienting and may confuse a less experienced web user.

#### Recommendation

Create a modest pop up that will help users understand what is happening in their session.





# OPPORTUNITES FOR GROWTH



Because of the sheer volume of information, the biggest challenge for users is information management.

These four enhancements could substantively improve the user experience.

- 1. Pre-configured (although still editable) dashboards for various user types. These views would be pushed upon login and would put the right information in the right kind of users' hands.
- 2. Tabbed view of information that maximizes screen real estate
- 3. Advanced search to powerfully refine search term list
- 4. Favorites short-list of keyword options (we discussed this already)

Items 2-4 are particularly helpful because they would meaningfully distill the data set and make it feel more manageable.

# Canned dashboards for different user types

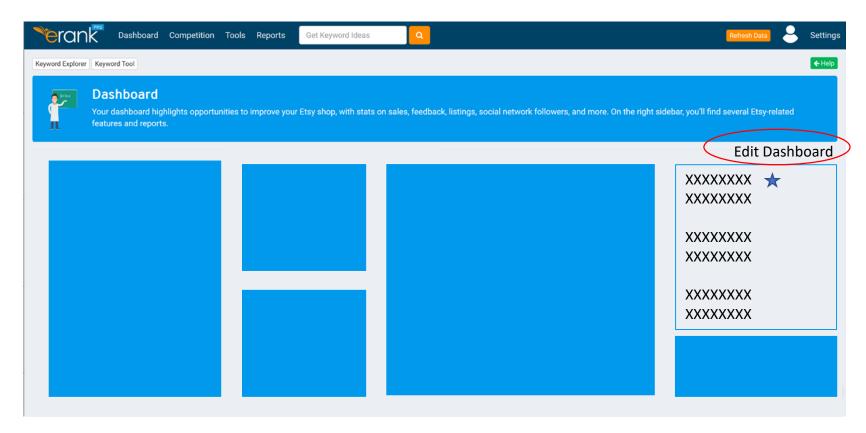
The sheer amount of information may feel overwhelming to a new user.

Considering their successful engagement can lead to conversion to Pro or Pro+, setting users up to succeed should be a priority.

By creating/pushing a dashboard to new users based on their self-selected profile you set them up to succeed and supply what they need when they need it.

## Recommendation

Create canned dashboards for users and allow them to edit as needed. (see sample on next page)



Sample user profiles (\* speculation)

- Just getting started (learning to interpret the most basic data)
- Refining choices (fine-tuning selections and most helpful views)
- Constant vigilance (monitoring meaningful KPIs)

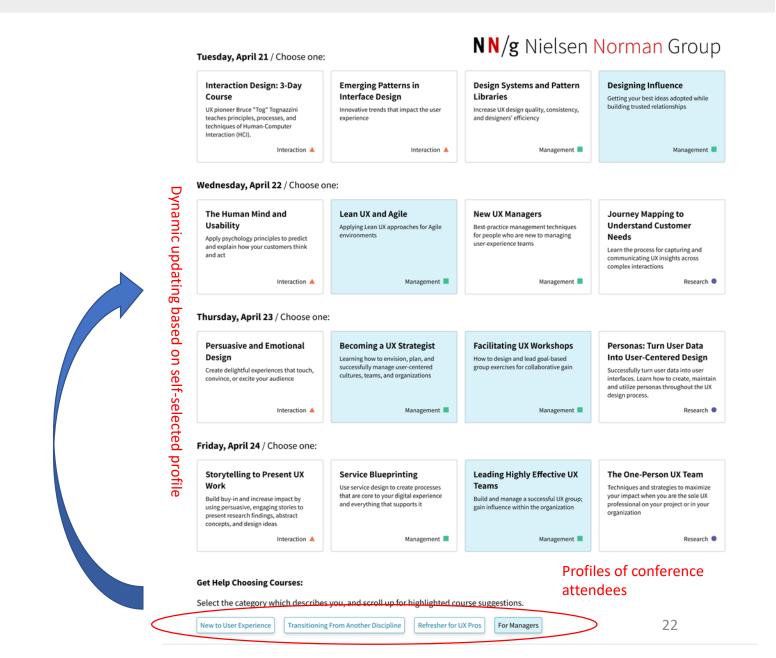
# Edit View of canned dashboards for different user types

The Nielsen Norman Group has a nice interaction model by which conference attendees select their profile and session suggestions are dynamically updated showing which sessions are the best fit for them.

I like this approach because it shows everything that is available but also gently guides my investigation into the conference offerings.

The "guided freedom" works well for decision makers who are dealing with having to choose from a large pool of options that they may not fully understand.

To make this work, you'd need a very clear understanding of what kind of user wants/needs which kind of information.



# Explore a Tabbed View to Maximize Viewing Space (1/2)

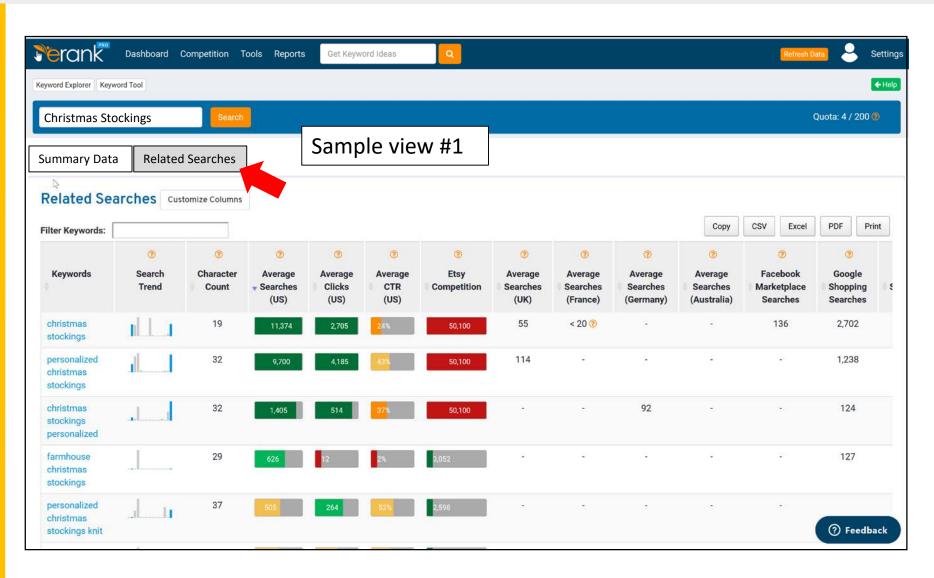
As functionality expands, the Related Search terms data set will continue to grow.

Enabling users to efficiently manage their interaction with this data will be key to ensuring success.

By possibly developing a tabbed view users can maximize their screen real estate and minimize scrolling.

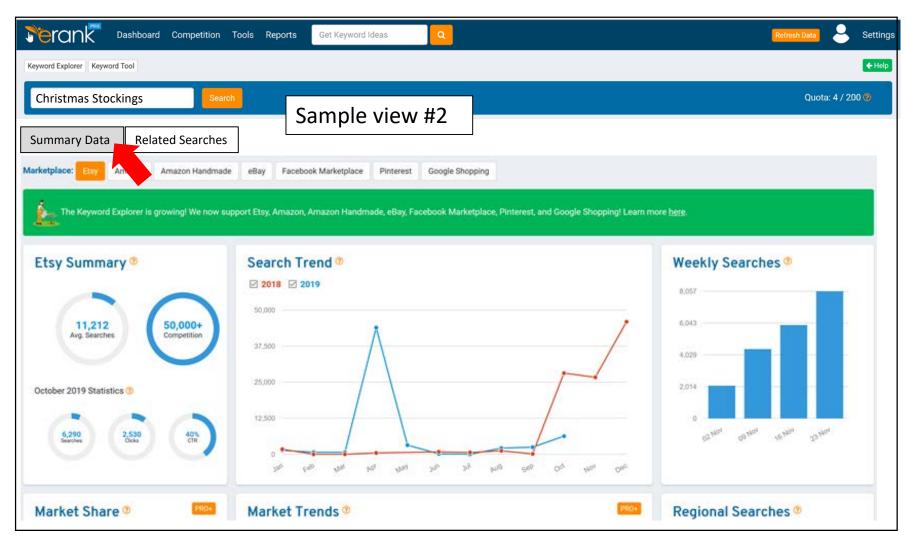
#### Recommendation

Consider a tabbed view to maximize screen real estate and reduce vertical scrolling as much as possible.



Note: This idea <u>only</u> makes sense if you can confirm that users are not regularly ping-ponging back and forth between the summary info and the related search details below to guide their decision making.

# Explore a Tabbed View to Maximize Viewing Space (2/2)



Note: This idea <u>only</u> makes sense if you can confirm that users and not regularly ping-ponging back and forth between the summary info and the related search details below to guide their decision making.

## **Advanced Search**

Creating a more robust set of filter options would help reduce the amount of data users are managing in a single view.

A more manageable data set would reduce information overload and create a better user experience.

This outcome will be particularly appreciated by new users who are simultaneously learning the website and the SEO world.

#### Recommendation

Consider creating more robust filter options to help users arrive at a manageable set of results.



# ? Questions



The questions that would have the greatest impact on your design focus on how users make decisions based on the tools and information you provide.

From a design perspective, I'm most curious about:

- What is the relationship between the types of information you offer?
- 2. How do users use this information to make decisions?
- 3. Are users content with pulling information from eRank or is there a subset of power users who want critical information pushed to them? If so, what are the KPIs they want to configure?

In an ideal world, you would have the ability to interview a variety of eRank users to learn more about their decision making approach.

# Dependent or Discrete Relationship?

I'd be curious to know about the relationship between the summary information and the related search terms.

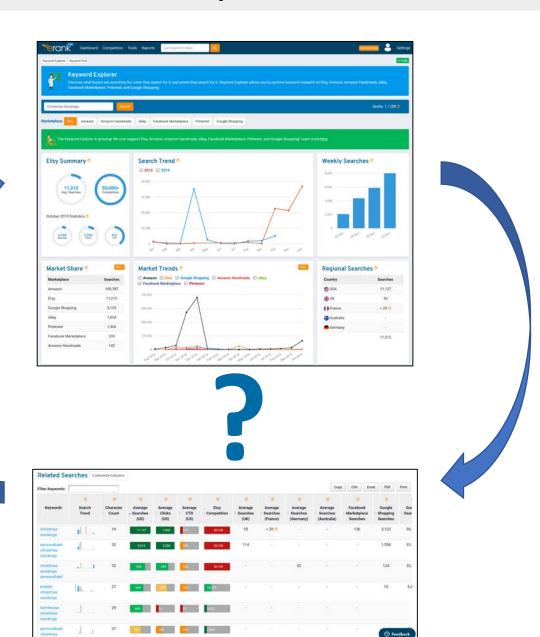
Are users getting a high-level view up top and then doing the fine-tuning down below? (discrete interactions)

Or, is there an ongoing back-andforth between these two categories of information? (dependent interactions)

How do users use these two elements?

## Recommendation

Determine how users make decisions and when they make them.
Understanding these details will help you optimize their interactions.



# KPI Configuration – Is this how users make decisions?

I'm wondering if more advanced users could benefit from a configurable KPI tool that pushes updates to them based on a designated threshold.

By fine-tuning their search terms based on what is trending, users could be in a more favorable position to be discovered.

Moreover, by having these updates pushed they have a better user experience and aren't as beholden to logging in repeatedly throughout the day.

## Recommendation

Create the ability to configure KPIs for users who favor constant vigilance.

Sample Pushed KPIs
Notify me when the CTR for goes up %
Notify me when Amazon Handmade ▼ searches exceed Etsy ▼ searches for
Send me a Market Share report for the search term every Sunday ▼ at 6 PM ▼

## Other measurements

% growth
% decline
Activity by region
Activity by sales platform
Biggest mover



## **QA OBSERVATIONS**



The following items are QA observations I made while working with the site.

None of these issues were show stoppers, but rather are elements that could be fine-tuned to improve the users' experience.

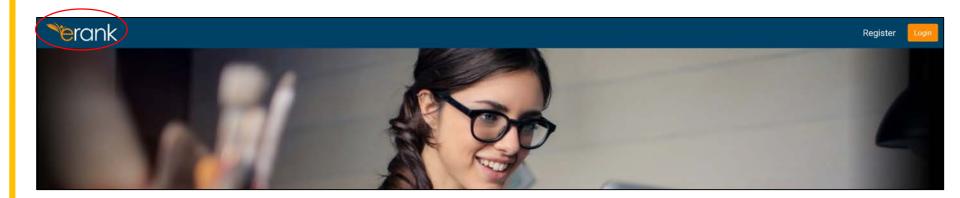
# Logo Consistency – "eRank" vs "erank"

The name eRank appears with a lower case e and a capital R across the site.

However, the homepage logo is all lower case.



eRank began originally as EtsyRank. On a long Canadian Winter day after watching my wife struggli decided to use my SEO and programming skills to try and understand how things worked at Etsy. As sales started to improve. After a while, I decided to work on some tools that would make the researc these tools too. In January 2016 I launched EtsyRank site quietly in beta in less than 3 months EtsyF

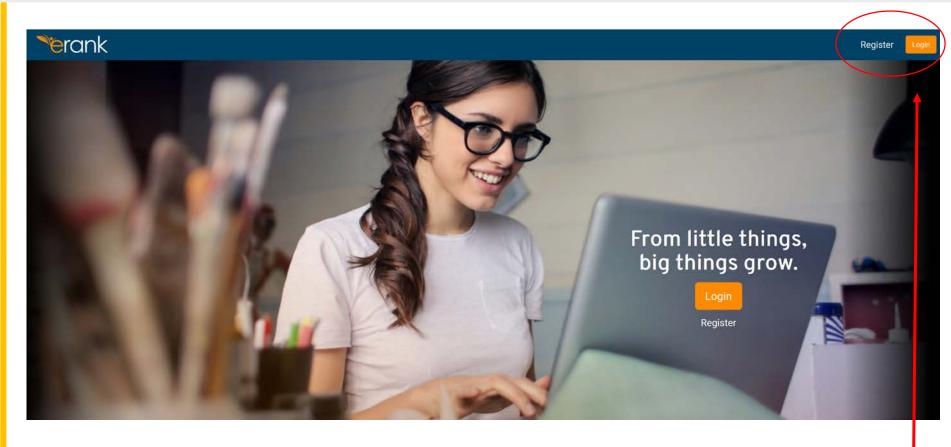


# Ordering of Interactions

Because registration is a one-time interaction and logging in happens on a recurring basis, I'd privilege the login button in terms of positioning.

Think about making the login button as easy as possible to access for all your registered users.

The very slight inconvenience of having to move the mouse just a little further will only be experienced once for registration while the spatial ease of logging in will be enjoyed over and over again.

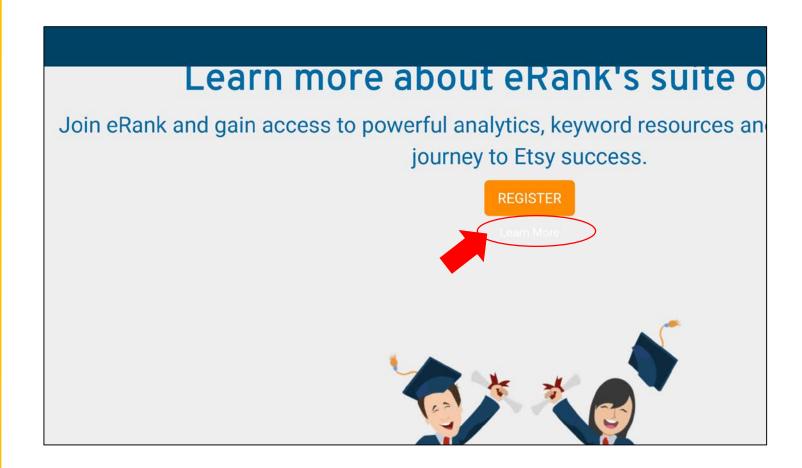


In terms of accessing functionality, logging in should be the easiest task because it will be done on a recurring basis unlike registering which is a one-and-done interaction.

## Text Turns White in Rollover State

The Learn More link goes from being navy blue on gray (hi-contrast) to white on gray (very low contrast) upon rollover.

This visual shift can be disorienting for users and may cause them to wonder where the link went.



# **Inconsistent Spacing**

The spacing between the numeric values and their labels are inconsistent between the top and bottom rows.

The top circles allow more space which make the label more readable.

Searches and clicks in the bottom row have less space and are harder to read.



This issue is particularly visible with the Clicks label because the letter height in the "I" interferes with the comma above it which sits below the plane of the text.

# Quotation Marks Are Impacting Sort Order

The use of quotation marks automatically float this entry to the top of the search results.

While this behavior is standard sort protocol, it may feel disorienting for users who wonder when an "M" word appears at the top of the list.

