

Hello,

My name is Christina Samek and I am an Outreach Specialist for OverDrive. I've been employed at OverDrive for 10+ years.

I had the pleasure of working with Dan during his tenure at OverDrive, from 2015 – Feb. 2022. I could spend a lot of time talking about his design work and the beautiful websites he built and updated with my direction but, before I talk about his work, I want to acknowledge his greatest strength: his character.

When I first met Dan, it was in a meeting where we laid out the expectations of my team and how he would work with us to enhance and improve our (fairly outdated) websites. He brought a leather notebook with him. I remember this because by then most of us had elected to carry around our laptops, taking notes in word processors and peering up over screens. He sketched what would become the website prototype that still exists today. He showed me what our websites could become in the simplest of terms, taking time to answer questions and define terms I may not know. He explained why he made certain decisions, how it would improve performance, decrease bounce rates, etc. He was incredibly thorough and organized. But what stuck out to me then and has been true in every interaction we've had since: Dan is passionate about his work.

Dan very much understood the objective of his work and he very easily could have just done the status quo of his job. But that's not who Dan is. Dan is an artist. Everything he ever touched was painstakingly poured over. He wouldn't sign off on something, even when he met every expectation of the task, until he deemed it worthy for public consumption. In corporations, we sometimes forget that art is what we put out into the world. I am so grateful to have had Dan's creativity seep into so many of my projects. I am proud of what we were able to put out into the world together.

I will continuously benefit from the art Dan is leaving behind. Our websites and processes are better because of him. I am so grateful to have had his attention to detail these past few years and I will certainly miss it. But what will I miss most? The untapped creativity his next company will get to see. The next bit of art Dan will put out into the world. I'll miss all that potential.

Whomever has the pleasure of his employment, you are very lucky. You are in for a real treat.

Thank you for everything and good luck, Dan.

Best,
Christina