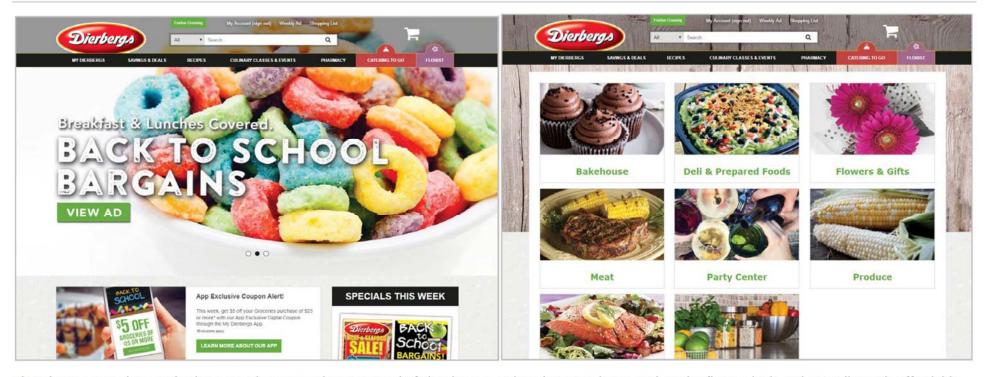
## WEBSITE/COMPETITOR ANALYSIS

#### **Current Website**

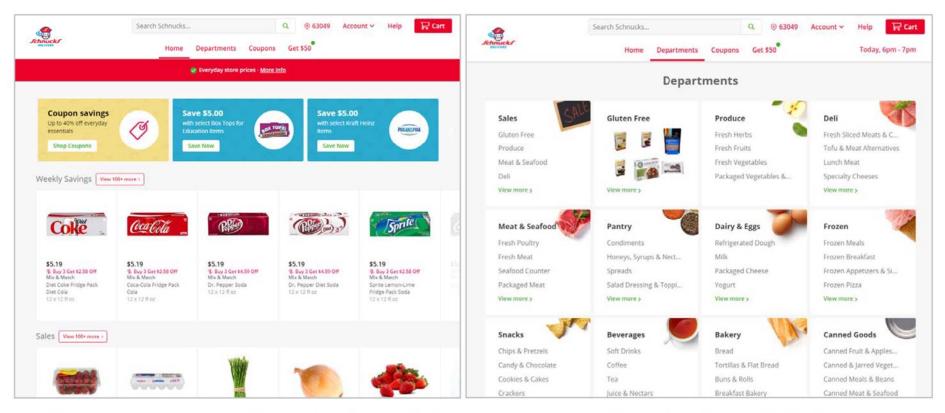


There's a reason why people choose to shop at Dierbergs instead of Shop'n Save, Schnucks, or Walmart. Its brand reflects a high-end yet still mostly affordable establishment (thus the red logo with traditional type). It prides itself on sharing its love of food—and the experience of cooking and enjoying it. When you walk into the store, you're confronted by a wide variety of sights, smells, and textures—most of which aren't available anywhere else. The fact that you can buy fresh fish and have it cooked on the spot is definitely a mainstay of the Dierbergs experience.

The current Dierbergs website has tried to continue that experience by sharing its love of food through recipes and catering services. The challenge will be how to spread that focus to an actual ecommerce site, and how to use the senses to hook people in and get them to explore. No one who enters the store will leave with just the items on their list, and we want the website to accomplish the same thing.

### Competitors

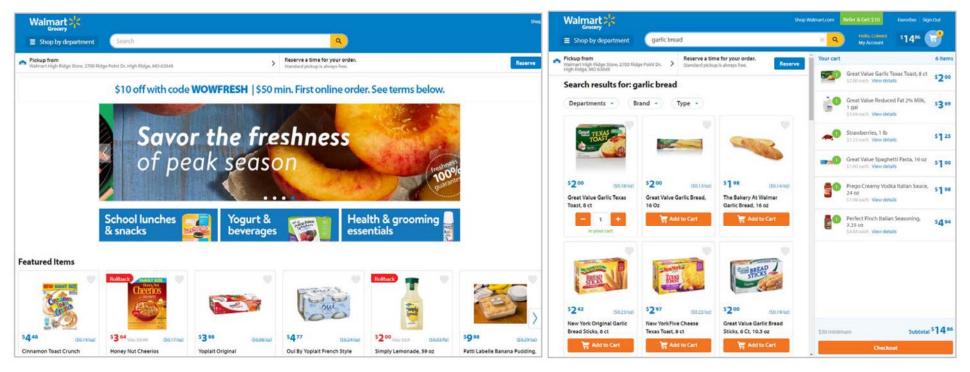
#### **Schnucks**



Schnucks is a mid-scale, more traditional grocery store. The cost is about the same as Dierbergs, but they have less of a selection. People tend to shop there due to convenience and availability of fresh produce and deli, bakery, floral, and pharmacy services.

Schnucks recently unveiled its new online delivery service. Its home page looks similar to Walmart and also lets you browse by Department, which I personally find to be overwhelming due to its myriad list of choices. It would be nice if it also provided curbside pickup for those families who live too far away for store delivery.

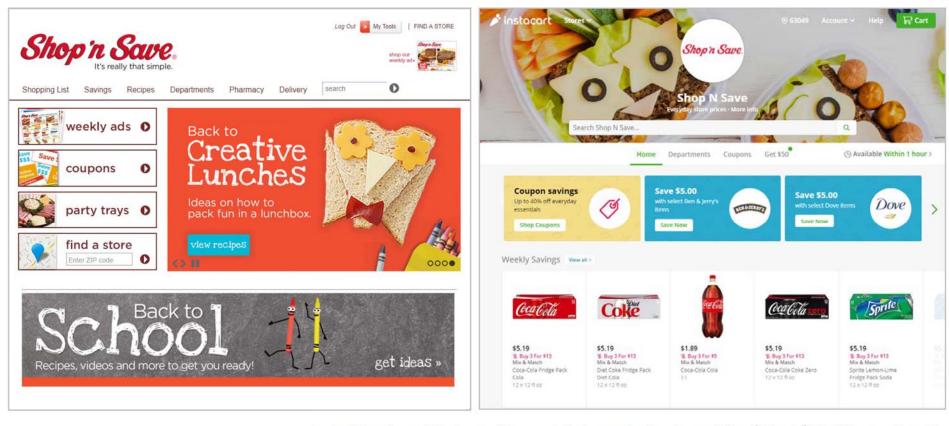
#### Walmart



People typically shop at Walmart for two reasons: cost and all-in-one shopping. For busy family people, they don't have the time to go to two different stores for shampoo and groceries, so while there isn't near as much variety, for most it's adequate.

Walmart has both curbside pickup and delivery. It treats shopping for groceries the same as shopping for shampoo or TVs. After adding your items to your shopping cart, you select an eligible store and a day/time or delivery. The process is efficient and works well.

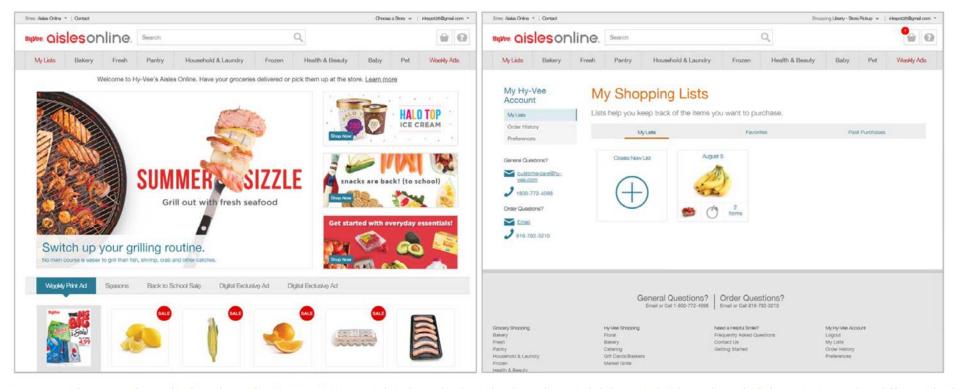
### Shop'n Save



Shop'n Save is known as a thrifty, low-cost alternative to Schnucks and Dierbergs. It is especially known for its sales and "Buy \$50 get \$10 off" promotions. The store is organized around this premise, with self-bagging stations to help shave costs.

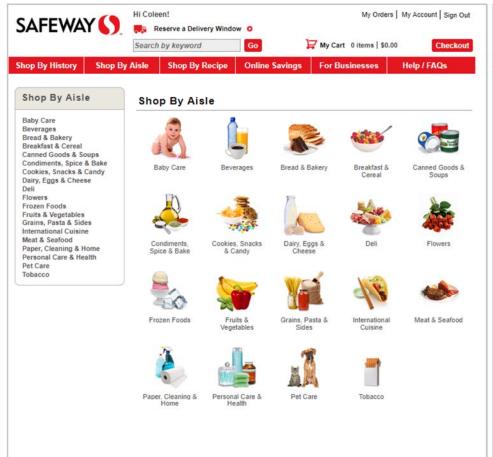
Its website continues its modest theme, with a prime emphasis on coupons and weekly ads. They recently added online delivery services through Instacart, which surprisingly also offers services for Schnucks.

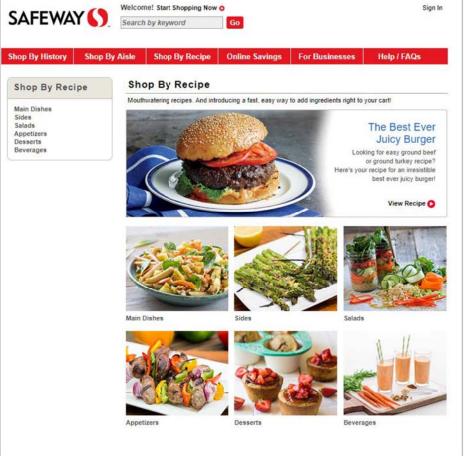
### Hy-Vee



Hy-Vee is the equivalent of Schnucks in the Kansas City area. They have both curbside pickup and delivery. They've rebranded the service, with a different look and feel. You can browse the departments via the top menu or search. The ability to create shopping lists is a nice feature. This allows you to add to your list as needed, and then automatically move those items to the cart when you're ready to order.

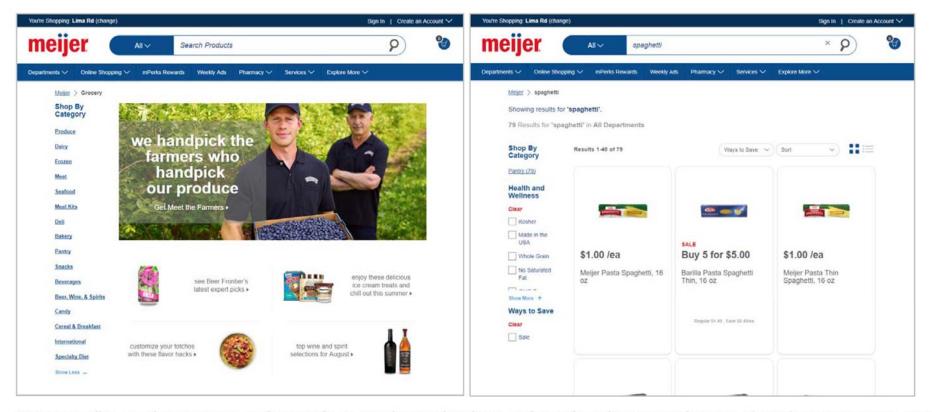
### Safeway





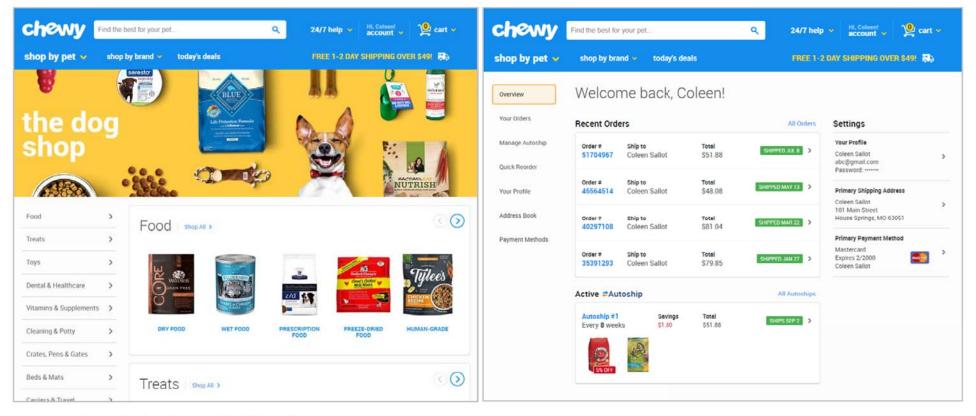
Safeway is the equivalent of Schnucks in the Washington, DC area. Safeway has an old layout, but seems to be the most effective. You can shop by aisle, recipe, or history. The condensed layout is much easier to use than Schnuc's approach, which jams too many options onto the screen.

# Meijer



Meijer is an all-in-one shopping store, similar to Walmart, in Indiana and Michigan, and provides online grocery shopping. Like Walmart, it treats groceries the same as any other item. To shop, you have to rely on navigational menus or the search.

### Chewy.com



As a comparison, I included screenshots from Chewy.com. Shopping for pet food isn't the same as shopping for groceries, but I found the layout effective. I especially like the shop by history and automatic shipment. This makes it easy to restock when things get low with a simple click of a button.

# **Synopsis/Next Steps**

It appears that the majority of competitors treat buying groceries online the same as any other product. Hy-Vee's shopping list feature and ability to use your history to populate your cart is a nice value-add. However, in an effort to continue the Dierbergs experience into the digital arena, it would be a good idea to evaluate shoppers' behavior in store and find ways to emulate that behavior online. People do not use a search tool in the physical environment. They browse, which changes the way they shop and find things. They may change their mind, or decide to buy additional items. Some people may just wing it or may start with a list, while others start with a recipe or simply browse to find something new to make.

Buying groceries is not the same as simply buying shampoo or a TV. Just as buying a blouse online isn't the same as creating one, cooking requires many different elements to be successful. Contextual research based on task (i.e., shopping for single items, such as milk, vs. entire meals) would be useful to help create an experience that will work no matter how people shop.