

## **Jessica Coventry-Internet Applications Report**

In today's evolving world, libraries have been changing beyond recognition. Gone is the traditional, silent, book based environment that libraries are known for. In place of this, libraries have been incorporating more and more technology in their service. Thus one of the most important aspects of the modern library has to be the many websites that we now rely on. As libraries move online, it is becoming increasingly important that the online sources they use and convey information on be ergonomically and distinctly designed to order to avoid confusion for the patron. As such, the importance of HTML, CSS and JavaScript, among others cannot be understated.

HTML is the absolute base of web design. It is the very essence of online communication. Thus as information givers, and modern libraries it is important to understand and be able to use HTML properly. When you are looking at website text, you are reading HTML. If libraries wish to be conveyors of information, they must on principal, be able to convey that information in the manner needed, be that in person, through a book, or online. In order to use library services online, patrons need to be able to understand exactly what they are accessing. Having a nice looking website is great, but if there is no text or information to go along with it, the website has lost its purpose all together.

Even in the physical library, making sure that it looks neat, presentable and eye-catching is immensely important. Thus, on a library's main website the same principle applies. Patrons of the library will want to use a website that looks neat presentable and eye catching. In order to achieve this on a website, one uses CSS, which stands for Cascading Style Sheets. In practice CSS is the process that makes a website look colourful and attractive. For any institution, a poorly designed and website will not work in their favour. People will not use it and may even expressly avoid it. No matter where it happens, first impressions are important. Using CSS appropriately therefore is crucial to the library.

The final aspect of the web that libraries should be aware of is JavaScript. A library can have all the text and decoration in world to help them convey information and attract patrons, but without JavaScript, a present-day library would be much more difficult to use. For example, some libraries have online sign up systems to allow patrons to sign up to programs and other library services online. Although the text boxes can be created using HTML and CSS, JavaScript is essential in allowing this system to work. Without a proper understanding of this system, libraries would be unable to offer convenient and accessible options for all patrons.

Overall, understanding all parts of building a website, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, is very important. In a contemporary library knowing how to code must be a priority to ensure that you communicate the information that you are trying to convey, have a well designed website, and can make use of online features such as online signups. For a modern library, supporting modern patrons, knowing how to code is immensely important. This importance will continue to grow in future.