719 Assignment 1 Report

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1. What were your experiences using Bootstrap? How effective is the documentation, and other aids? Is there anything that was easier than you expected? Harder?

Initially, I felt stressed to learn a new application to complete this assignment. However, perhaps due to the generalised effect of learning CSS, it appeared not too hard to apply it to the tasks. Especially, W3W has categories of Bootstrap 5 functions and examples of basic structure so it feels easy to understand and apply. Moreover, although there is new syntax, like mb, which requires new learning, they are self-explained by the names, so Bootstrap5 also provides good documentation of those functions.

2. Compare and contrast Bootstrap with writing your own CSS. What are the benefits and drawbacks of each approach?

CSS benefits:

- It seperates the structure of webpage and decoration manipulation so provides clarity of the webpage.
- It also provides more fine-grained operation. For example, there is a wide variety of colours to choose from with the same ease of application.

CSS drawbacks:

 The developer needs to refer back and forth between html and CSS to find out what manipulation happens in where. It can be time-consuming and maybe prone to errors when the file is big.

Bootstrap benefits:

- There are frameworks and examples. It can save a lot of time by building something from scratch.
- It's easy to understand the meaning of those classes so easy to apply.
- If the example is somewhat different from the task requirement, the developer can easily modify some class function to achieve the design.
- It's also easy to see what manipulations take place in where.

Bootstrap drawbacks:

- The html file becomes very big so it's harder to grasp html structure quickly.
- There seems to be only limited functions compared to CSS. For example, there are only certain colours in Bootstrap which are easy to use. If the developer wants to access to a variety of colours, it requires more complex application, like Sass.
- It can not offer as fine-grained manipulation as CSS can. For example, there seems no pseudo- classes, so those manipulation requires js.