

Innovation Report

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Library websites are a very important part of their supply chain. Having these be up to date and containing all relevant information allows libraries to better engage, better involve and better adapt to the various needs of a community. Hiring an independent web contractor would be able to handle these, certainly, but there is the issue of needed to hire someone to be able to maintain the website, which will further tax already overtaxed resources. As such, having members of the staff with the knowledge and ability to handle this is crucial. The knowledge of how to use the tools outlined in class such as HTML, CSS, JSS and Github enable libraries to take ownership and agency of their website, and allows them to handle their own issues internally.

Library calendars are crucial to the survival of the library as a whole. Being able to react by updating the calendar whenever anything happens allows the library to set expectations for the entirety of the community. Normally, this would be very difficult, but through the use of some technologies, all someone has to do is make a few updates to the text and the change will be made. As long as one doesn't make any adjustments to the CSS, the text will be in the same format, meaning small and easy edits are functionally effortless. Whenever someone needs to make a new page, storing information on Github allows people to make the edits when needed. Furthermore, making some forms fillable online allows for the library to quickly and effortlessly store and update information needed. The library will be able to handle things as needed, which makes their life a lot easier.

Having someone on staff with experience in this regard can be an asset to visitors as well. With the proliferation of things like maker-spaces and computer labs it only makes sense that the library might want to have someone on staff that knows what they're doing on the staff. Being able to run tutorials for these kinds of things with someone on the staff running them eliminates the need for an outside influence to help. Because an employee can handle this, it allows the budget to be open for other needs and things can be handled in house rather than outsourcing.