Innovation Report

With many patrons turning to the web for research and entertainment, libraries must be innovative to ensure they are meeting current needs and maintaining their relevance. For many libraries, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a robust online presence, and they have worked quickly to improve their web offerings. The internet applications we have been studying over the past few months can play an important role in helping libraries modernize their services, as well as helping them communicate effectively with their users.

By using HTML to create a thoughtful flow of information on their website, libraries can make it easier for their users to find what they need, as well as to ensure that pertinent updates are clearly displayed. For example, if the library has put a lot of effort into creating new programs, these events will likely only be well-attended if the library can promote this information to patrons and would-be patrons via their website. CSS can also be a useful tool in this regard, as well as to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the site and to establish an organized layout that is easy to navigate. Good design and presentation are both key in encouraging users to stay on (and return to) a website. Using JavaScript to add interactive effects to the site could allow the library to provide additional services to their users and could improve the online experience. For example, it could be used to create a program that would help patrons find book recommendations tailored to their tastes, or allow the library to add a chat function to provide research support.

The field of Information Management is now almost entirely web-based, making it more important than ever that the programs used to store data are well-

designed and reliable. Technologies such as JavaScript and JSON can be helpful tools for both organizing data and making it easier to understand. When handling large amounts of information, it becomes crucial that files are backed up, in case any data is inadvertently lost or destroyed. A program such as Github could be useful in this regard, as it would allow for previous versions of files to be accessed if any technical issues arise. Information Management technicians must also ensure they are staying up to date with changing data storage methods, as the technology used is constantly changing and improving, making some older options obsolete.