

Innovation Report

There are multiple reasons internet applications may prove useful when entering the Library field. Learning HTML, CSS & JavaScript can help library technicians in many day to day issues that they might face in the average workplace, including issues that pertain to Library websites, catalogues, MARC editors and even odd out circumstances such as being without an IT department or being unable to get ahold of a freelance coder in time sensitive situations.

Library catalogues can run into issues with links and icons, making a basic knowledge of HTML and CSS important when tackling these quick fixes. Library websites on the other hand, can need a variety of skillsets taught in Internet applications. Frequent updates can mean adding HTML content, editing CSS or even utilizing JavaScript for interactivity. These skills make it easier for your average lib tech to implement popular website elements, such as interactive calendars, social media feeds and updates as well as styling library websites to be mobile friendly.

In addition to these common issues, it is possible that library technicians can run into issues with LIS and MARC editing software. It is imperative that technicians have a basic knowledge base in HTML to identify these issues. Issues can range anywhere from sections of code not loading to MARC coding being displayed with html entities instead of rendered text. Another point to keep in mind while entering this field of work is that a library is usually a government funded institution and this means that there is a possibility of funding being changed/cut. Libraries may not always have access to a proper IT department in this case and Library technicians may need to tackle technical issues on their own in circumstances where freelance coders are not readily available. Overall, a basic knowledge of the concepts taught in Internet Applications is important for the upkeep of library websites and catalogues as well as for the identification of larger issues in the software commonly utilized in the library field.