All About Otters

Concept Document and Links List
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A closer look at the
development and design
choices behind this website.

Links List

Stack Overflow

Stack Overflow was by far my most frequently accessed resource anytime I got stuck. It was highly beneficial to visit this forum considering every problem I encountered had a solution on Stack Overflow. No significant portions of code were taken here, but it assisted me with learning [how to refresh the page with JavaScript](), [how to make a smoother image rollover](), and [how to verify that an element exists in the DOM]().

Codepen.io

Codepen.io is always an excellent resource for looking at small snippets of code that can accomplish something efficiently. For this project, I used Codepen.io to use code snippets for the [hamburger mobile menu]() and the [top navigation bar animation](). While the hamburger has been standard across multiple assignments, the navigation animation was really compelling to me, and fits the flow of the website really well.

JavaScript Plugins

Throughout this semester, I've come to realize the incredible power behind the vast world of JavaScript Plugins. A simple plugin can go a long way towards adding highly beneficial functionality to a website, cutting down on the development time needed to get there. For this project, I used three JavaScript Plugins: [Backstretch]() for my background image, [JQuery-UI]() for the accordion dropdown, and [Lightbox]() for the image gallery.

Concepts & Considerations

Flexbox

Now that it has become more comfortable, I have found that Flexbox makes responsive web design significantly easier. I used Flexbox almost everywhere on this project's website. Most notably, it made the layout of my 8 images simple and concise on all screen sizes, in addition to my home page.

CSS Navigation

Using a more advanced CSS navigation went a long way towards elevating the modern look of my website. I implemented two bars which expand outward from the navigation links, with great assistance from the previously linked Codepen. It only required minor modifications to work, and helped the overall aesthetic tremendously.

Animations

A wide variety of animations were used for this project. On image rollover, two different designs were implemented: on the gallery page, there is a bar that appears above the image, and on the home page, the image gets "brighter". These not only look nice, but help indicate to a user that those items are clickable.

Custom JavaScript

The three JavaScript topics I employed were light box, mouse cursors, and games. Light box was self-explanatory as my image gallery plugin. For the mouse cursor, I made it so when the user clicks an image inside one of the accordions, their mouse turns into an otter. Finally, the trivia page is a fully custom-coded trivia game that I made using only vanilla JavaScript.