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Lib2024 – Internet Applications

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Report

There are a few different ways that learning programming languages are useful in the library and information services. The first thing that comes to mind is the general aspects of libraries online, and that would be website interfaces. Learning languages such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript is a key thing to know when a library needs to create a website for its services, or to update its web interface to make it more current as well as needing to add, or erase, elements that may be needed or not needed. It reminds me a little of cataloging and the big change that happened a few years back. This is also helpful in the sense of marketing where a site revamp may get some traction, as well as make it more accessible.

Other reasons why it may be helpful come in the form of developing external elements that a library can offer; such as a phone app for example. With technology developing and the pandemic that happened, it is always good to keep in mind the possible challenges that may arrive, so in this case, developing a phone app could have been beneficial. Knowing the programming languages is useful when it comes to that, as well as knowing how to use GitHub to be able to share it through the community, and other library staff in a different location.

A few last reasons that I can think of would be: hosting programming workshops and the like and being one of the only library staff in a small, rural library. Library staff knowing to program can be important if they are in a smaller library, with a small budget and not many resources. If there needs to be an update or to show messages to the community or anything along those lines; the library staff may be able to do it themselves to save on money and resources. It is a useful skill to have, and develop. For example, using the alert element in JavaScript may be able to be used to show an update message on the website for patrons to be aware of.

To finish, in the sense of innovation, I personally can't think of how programming languages can be used to create anything new for library and information services, but with everything evolving, there's bound to be a multitude of ways it can be used for innovation. Programming languages are a very important skill to know, it helps create many useful things, and github a source that can be used to share such creations.