**Unit 6 Reflective Learning Dairy**

I chose to download a local copy of jQuery into my scripts folder, following the process guide, so that my site does not depend on external availability and so I retain control over updates.

**Proposal for jQuery Enhancements**

For this unit, I plan to extend the functionality of my portfolio site by incorporating the jQuery library to improve usability and navigation. Based on the requirements I identified in Unit 1 (ease of navigation, accessibility for recruiters/employers, and smooth user experience), I will implement the following enhancements:

**Tabbed Navigation with AJAX Loading:**

Instead of reloading the entire page when switching between sections (About, Resume, Projects, Blog, Contact), I will use jQuery to convert my navigation into tabs. Each tab will dynamically load its corresponding content into the page using jQuery’s .load() function, providing a faster and more seamless browsing experience.

**Floating “Back to Top” Button:**

I will add a floating button that appears in the bottom-right corner of the screen when the user scrolls down. Using jQuery, the button will fade in and out depending on scroll position, and when clicked, it will smoothly scroll the user back to the top of the page. This feature will improve accessibility and ease of navigation on longer pages.

**Dynamic Navigation Highlighting**

I will use jQuery to automatically highlight the navigation link for the section currently being viewed. This will provide users with a clear context of their location within the site, making navigation more intuitive.

**Unit 6 Reflection**

This unit really helped me see how jQuery can make a website feel much more interactive. One of the first big lessons came when I ran into a CORS policy issue while trying to dynamically load content. At first, I thought I had completely broken my site, but after reading about it, I learned to launch Chrome against Live Server. That small discovery not only solved the problem but also gave me a better understanding of browser security restrictions and how to troubleshoot my setup in Visual Studio.

Adding a “Back to Top” button was one of the features I really enjoyed working on. I found a working example on JSFiddle and studied how the code handled scrolling and smooth animation. From there, I customized it for my site so it fit my design. It was satisfying to see it working smoothly, and it also reminded me how useful it is to learn from existing code instead of always starting from scratch.

I also spent a lot of time reading the official jQuery documentation. It was interesting to see how much could be done with core methods and event handling, and it gave me confidence to restructure my navigation and page-loading features. The W3Schools .load() guide was another really helpful resource, because it gave me a straightforward example, I could adapt to dynamically load page content into my site.

Another thing I focused on was making sure the site would still work if jQuery or my main.js file failed to load. At first this felt like extra work, but I realized it made my site more reliable. That experience showed me how important it is to design for failure and think about progressive enhancement, rather than assuming everything will always load perfectly.

What stood out the most to me was how concise jQuery is compared to plain JavaScript. I liked how a few lines of jQuery could do the same job as many lines of vanilla JavaScript. It made my code much cleaner and easier to follow. At the same time, I can see that relying on an external library has trade-offs, so in future projects I may consider whether using vanilla JavaScript would be enough.

**References**

* mnQb6. (n.d.). *Back to Top example*. JSFiddle. Retrieved from [https://jsfiddle.net/mnQb6/](https://jsfiddle.net/mnQb6/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
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