Issues considered making the system portable and accessible – Team 13

During the numerous stages of system construction, we came across a variety of barriers that were inadvertently impeding the overall accessibility and portability of our timetabling system. For example, while coding functionality into each individual element of the system, we realised that the HTML sections of code did not conform completely to the W3C standards. When the system was complete and the code fully written, we ran each page of code through the html validator provided on the W3C website and proceeded to correct any errors so that our scripted reflected good coding practice. We also validated the CSS elements of our scripts in order to adhere to the same correct standards as dictated by W3C.

In order to allow ease of use of our system we incorporated help pages on any part of the system that could be interpreted as difficult to use. We also included a frequently asked questions section where all the functions are explained in further detail. In order to make our system more accessible, we thought that it was necessary to use appropriate font sizes and a generic Ariel font style so that the text could be easily read and no inappropriate flourishes were used for aesthetic purposes that would detract from the overall accessibility of the system.

Another consideration taken into account regarding the readability of the text was the use of non-contrasting text and background colours so that the text stood out from the rest of the page. This was important as although we strove to make the system intuitive, we still included helpful comments on various pages in order to ensure that the system was as straight-forward to use as possible. Finally, we made sure the colours of our background were relatively light and not overly vibrant and that the layout of the website was in a logical order and made use of buttons and dropdown boxes to avoid as much manual entry as possible.

Additionally, we made use of interactive functionality between the user and the system by having a Time Information section that allows the user to manually select the desired timetable period by clicking on a template timetable layout and selected periods become highlighted when clicked, showing all available periods that can be selected.

We endeavoured to make sure that our system would display the same on most popular web browsers so that the users of the system were free to access the system using their preferred browser; however slight layout alternatives occurred.

Problems and future improvements

We did encounter some problems with compatibility over browsers. We struggled to write the code in order for the System to work in Internet Explorer. If we were to improve the project we would ensure compatibility with Internet Explorer as this is the most used browser.

Other improvements would include including buttons for further accessibility for the poor sighted. We would also make sure the system is able to run on portable devices such as the iPad, iPhone and various other smart phones.