

INNOVATION REPORT

HTML

HyperText Markup Language, or HTML is the basic building block of any website, including websites designed for library and information technology use. HTML is the markup used to structure and give meaning to our web content, for example defining paragraphs, headings, and data tables, or embedding images and videos in the page. In particular, we learned how HTML5 implemented powerful new tags and features that greatly streamline web development, for example in the way audio, video and other external media are handled.

CSS

CSS, or Cascading Style Sheets, is a web innovation that has allowed web developers to separate stylistic elements of a page, including fonts, headers, colours and overall styles, from the HTML code. CSS describes how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, and gives the web developer far more control of how the page is presented to the user than old-style HTML by itself. CSS can be embedded inline with the HTML, but more commonly you will find it in linked, external style sheets.

JavaScript

JavaScript is a programming (or “scripting”) language used in tandem with HTML and CSS that allows the developer to implement complex features on a website: Interactive web forms, visual effects, colour changes, animated 2D or 3D graphics, all of which are very important elements of a library website, and without which it would be pretty much non-functional. It’s primarily there to create dynamically updating content, animate images and control multimedia.

GitHub

GitHub is a web-based collaboration and version-control system for software and web developers. It allows large teams of coders to work together on a single software or web development project, a process known as “social coding”, and its powerful version control system prevents accidental overwrites or loss of earlier work. Major websites for libraries and similar institutions would be extremely difficult to develop without tools like GitHub.