

LIB2024 – Week 15 – Final Report

by Malini Srinivasan submitted on Monday, April 19th, 2021

HTML or Hyper Text Markup Language, CSS or Cascading Style Sheet, and JavaScript are a set of programming languages used to create webpages. Webpages are constructed using HTML code, designed using CSS code, and loaded with functionality using JavaScript code. Thus, HTML is the foundation, while CSS and JavaScript are the building blocks added to this foundation.

While HTML provides the basic structure of a webpage, CSS influences the design and layout of a webpage, and JavaScript adds functionality to a webpage. Therefore, JavaScript code ensures parts of a webpage are not static, but dynamic such as entering information in a form on a webpage. The form is created and designed utilizing HTML and CSS, but the details submitted in the form are acted upon utilizing JavaScript.

Prior to the pandemic, libraries were conducting business both in-person and online, making program registration feasible online, and permitting the placing of orders for materials online. Their websites also carry crucial information that library patrons can access without stepping outside. The emergence of audiobooks and eBooks in the digital age have also enabled libraries to offer their patrons the benefits of accessing materials from the comfort of their homes.

COVID-19 and lockdowns have resulted in libraries being accessed remotely through their websites for everything ranging from ordering eBooks to learning about and registering for library programs (now only offered virtually). Library website content, design and functionality have never been more important than in the pandemic years. Now that most people are advised to stay home, they can continue accessing library items safely via library websites.

Library websites have temporarily replaced in-person visits to the library and their smooth functioning is dependent on uncluttered content, clean website design, and easy functionality. This is where HTML, CSS, and JavaScript come in – these three components are absolutely essential for high quality web design and interactivity. These programming languages are responsible for the formation and function of webpages on a website. Knowledge of these tools will result in the creation of library websites that can continue to provide their patrons with access to education, information, research, and entertainment without ever having to step out their door. Moreover, financial cuts to library budgets have made learning such technologies important to library professionals. If library staff can design webpages and develop websites in-house, they can save libraries the funds needed for outsourcing this work.