

Unit 6 Learning Diary

In your learning diary, **reflect** on the process, the obstacles, and difficulties you faced, what you might do differently in future as a result, the strengths and weaknesses of using JQuery as opposed to coding it all yourself, and anything else you deem relevant or interesting about the process.

Reflection

I love jQuery, it's such a massive time and headache saver. Docs are great, example code is great, lots of dependent libraries that achieve specific tasks. My task's biggest issue was browser-differences in terms of copying to the user's clipboard. The jQuery-dependent library I used and modified used a Flash object overlay in order to achieve functionality in all browsers. There's still no perfect solution for this, as Flash is not supported on iOS. I had a ton of links I wanted to apply my code to, jQuery's advanced selector function was super useful in apply this functionality to all of the links, doing that in JS would have been a huge pain.

jQuery Strengths

Better syntax

`$(".foo")` vs `document.getElementsByClassName('foo')` and iterating over an array

Pre-built functions

Awesome for things like iterating `.each()`

Saves you a monstrous amount of time for more complex projects. This is the biggest benefit.

Browser differences

Ajax function in jQuery covers all browser differences

Mixing Code

It's fine to mix JS and jQuery which is great.

Better Docs

I find the docs and examples better than normal JS.

Dependent Libraries

Using jQuery opens you up to using tons of other jQuery-dependent libraries that achieve specific tasks. Super great for that.

jQuery Weaknesses

More overhead

Super minimal overhead, especially if you're using the minified version of jQuery, but overhead regardless.

Legacy examples

When Googling, you may stumble on older or newer code examples of jQuery library. Gotta make sure to check the dates.

CDN support

Always a big fear that CDNs may go down in the future. It'll just get cheaper to host, so I doubt they'll ever go down.

Learning curve

It's a new library, so you have to learn the functions and everything so you'll lose some time at the start.

Magic / Obfuscation

Unless you read all the docs, you're relying on some level of mystery to complete your tasks. This means if you run into a quirk debugging, you can't as easily trace-back because you can't know how every jQuery function works.