

Extreme Makeover – WebOPAC Edition
How My WebOPAC Went from Drab to Fab
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Be Prepared

- Know HTML
- Know how to use a graphics program
- Learn all you can about CSS
- Read everything you can about the process BEFORE you start

First Steps – Examine Your Existing WebOPAC

- Decide what is good – Keep it
- Decide what is bad – Get rid of it
- Look at other WebOPACs
 - LibDex
http://www.libdex.com/vendor/Innovative_Interfaces,_Inc.htmlDirectory of Innovative Libraries
 - [http://auth.iii.com:3400/Terry Ballard's Very Innovative Webpacs](http://auth.iii.com:3400/Terry_Ballard's_Very_Innovative_Webpacs)
 - <http://faculty.quinnipiac.edu/libraries/tballard/webpacs.html>

Read the Manual

- Beginning at record #102115
- Web OPAC Editing References - #105649
- WWWOptions - #102167
- Style Sheet Classes - #105262
- Transferring Files - #105643
- Print out and annotate manual records

Visit CS Direct

- Tutorials - <http://csdirect.iii.com/tutorials/wpac/>
- Get most recent Example Set -
http://csdirect.iii.com/downloads/webopac/webopac_custom_files.shtml
- WWWOPTIONS - <http://csdirect.iii.com/faq/woptions.shtml>
- Custom Forms - <http://csdirect.iii.com/faq/custform.shtml>

Review Past IUG Presentations

- Dinah Sanders
<http://csdirect.iii.com/ppt/#iug12>
- Mark Welge
<http://csdirect.iii.com/ppt/#iug12>
- Kevin Cullen
<http://www.rmriug.org/summer2004/WebOPAC-Redesign.htm>

Review Software Updates

- Implement new features from updates since the last incarnation of your WebOPAC
 - http://csdirect.iii.com/csd/release_notes/
 - “What’s New” section of Users Manual

Significant Updates

- Release 2002, Phase 1
 - Cascading Style Sheets
 - Shopping Cart/Batch Requesting
 - Customization of Patron Displays and Browse Screens
 - Content Linking/WEBADDRESS
- Release 2002, Phase 2
 - Brief Bib Info on Browse Screens
- Release 2002, Phase 3
 - FTP
 - Staging Directory
 - Customization of Scoped Pages and Logged In Messages
 - Mark All on Page/ICON_SAVEALLPAGE

Four Things to Customize

- Graphics, buttons, and icons
- Customizable HTML files
- Style sheets
- WWWOptions

Editing Programs & Tools

- Crimson Editor (www.crimsoneditor.com)
- TopStyle (www.bradsoft.com)
- Firefox (www.getfirefox.com/) with Web Developer Extension (<http://chrispederick.com/work/firefox/webdeveloper/>)

Steps to Follow

- Download latest example set
- Settle on color scheme
- Redo home page
- Out with the old (WWWOptions, icons and buttons, HTML files)

Keep a Log Book

- Colors used
- File names
- Specifications for buttons
- Text styles and sizes

Creating New Buttons

- Which buttons are needed?

Choice One Use What's There

- Delete features your don't use
- Add features you do use

Choice Two: DIY

- Create a new file from scratch
- Give the new home page a temporary name or rename the original file

Home Page Styles

- Create as embedded stylesheet
- Compare new styles with styles.css
- Adjust CSS & HTML as necessary
- Move unique values to styles.css

View Source Code

- Troubleshooting help
- Way to see how other libraries did it
- What to view
 - HTML – library.name/screens/filename.html
 - CSS – library.name/screens/styles.css
 - WWWOptions – library.name/screens/wwwoptions

Problems Encountered

- Too many versions
- When all else fails, restart the WebOPAC
- Don't forget to change the directories if working in temporary local directory

WWWOptions

- Compare existing with new and edit accordingly
- Restart the web server every time you change the file

Template Pages

- Discard templates for modules you don't own
- Keep templates for modules you will soon purchase
- Modify templates for modules you do own

Edits

- Button sizes
- Remove extra text that duplicates toplogo and botlogo
- Some pages use tokens; others full data
- Use comments in coding for later editing assistance

Styles

- Many styles are undefined
- Create your own
- Confused what they do? Use outlandish colors and dashed borders to differentiate while implementing
- Jeffrey Trimble's guide – www.maag.ysu.edu/systems/MaagCSSHelp.html

Briefcit.html

- Works only on record browse displays of single records
- To get a line between records - `.briefCitRow table { border-top: 2px solid #ff8f21 ; }`

Before You Go Live

- Make sure everything works!
- Get input from staff and users
- Tweak the code
- If practical, do usability tests
- Add “We have a new look” explanation guide to home page
- Have director or committee sign off

Ongoing Maintenance

- Implement new features with each release
- Add comments including names of files and their usage to top of file for easy identification
- Change colors/layouts to keep site “fresh”