

An important note about Internet Explorer 9 (IE9)

As of this writing, the next version of the Internet Explorer browser, version 9, has reached its first release candidate. This means that it is soon to release a final version, and people will be expected to update from version 8.

As many of you are already aware, OPLIN has instituted an additional charge for the work required to make an OPLIN Web Kit render properly in Internet Explorer 6. **This same charge will apply to Internet Explorer 7, immediately following the final release of IE9** (we only guarantee compatibility for the two latest versions of IE).

This change will probably not affect most of OPLIN's current clients, unless your library is looking at a design change or overhaul in the future. Even then, it's likely that most clients would choose not to support this old version, since upgrades of IE are free for patrons.



Putting colors together

If your library is creating its own graphics, it may have experienced the common problem of choosing colors. While it might seem simple, in reality choosing complementary colors can be overwhelming. With often more than 200 million shades to choose from, where does one begin?

It's important to start by thinking about basic color theory. Colors have meanings for most people. Most of us can relate to at least the basics; chances are good that no one would create a graphic with a black background for a preschool storytime about teddy bears. But, is black ever appropriate as a background color on the web? What about red? Is blue the only "calming" color? The answers, as with many things online, is "it depends." For a quick primer on color theory, I recommend visiting [A Look Into Color Theory for Web Design](#), which is an easy read for

non-designers and includes a lot of great visual examples.

Once you have a firm handle on the meanings of the various colors, you're ready to start thinking about which ones to use. Let's say that you've decided that sunny yellow is the ideal background for that teddy bear storytime graphic. What colors go with your yellow, that won't look wrong and might be good for something like text? At this point, there are many good online tools to help you pick complementary colors for your design. Here are two to get you started:

- [Adobe Kuler](#) (pictured above)
- [Color Scheme Designer](#)



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Featured Module

Each issue we'll highlight a Drupal module (add-on) that you can add to your existing OPLIN Web Kit.

Evanced Importer

This is a new module that allows for the direct import of your events from your library's Evanced registration system. Created by Worthington Libraries and released to the Drupal community, it is currently in alpha but appears to be very stable and is already in use by several libraries, including Worthington. Instead of having to create separate event listings in Drupal, now you can just import your Evanced events.

This module has been added by Wood County District Public Library, an OPLIN Web Kit site that will be launching in the very near future. Interested in adding this module to your Website Kit? Contact OPLIN Support at support@oplin.org.

Need help?

You can reach OPLIN Support (and usually Laura, too) via our chat room

(<http://support.oplin.org>)

Website Kit Documentation

Get the most recent documentation for your OPLIN Web Kit here.

(<http://www.oplin.org/content/website-kit-documentation>)



If you were to ask us which Web Kit has the most going on under the hood, we would almost certainly point to the recently-released Cuyahoga Falls Library site.

On the front end, some things are obvious. For instance, CFL has separate, custom themes for both kids and teens (see screenshot of kids theme, lower right). The library is also making use of several added modules, including one that automatically creates a site map and one that creates individual menu blocks on the left side, depending on the context of the user. Both of these are especially useful for Cuyahoga Falls, which has an extremely large site architecture. These modules can provide more help to users who may find themselves otherwise overwhelmed with the depth of the site's structure.

FOCUS ON Cuyahoga Falls Library

This highly-customized site has a lot of power behind the scenes

Some features are not quite as obvious. CFL has separate blogs that it created for both the kids and teens sections, and customized scripts pull in the most recent entries from those blogs. Custom RSS feeds of these were created as well. Some of the blocks on the site's home page also make use of specialized scripts, pulling in data so that the content can be even more dynamic as needed.

You may also notice other tailor-made features, such as the "Upcoming Events" listing on the front page, and the custom-made "Request a Purchase" form.

You can see the CFL Dynamic Website Kit at:

<http://www.cuyahogafallslibrary.org>



MAKE ^{one} thing BETTER

Get rid of the exclamation points

Using this punctuation mark may seem natural, but in actuality it decreases the credibility of your site.

When library staff plan programs, they can get very excited, and often websites reflect this. “Come to our library’s cool program!” the sites often proclaim. Yet, this very enthusiasm is often harming your library’s image. Here’s why:

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, exclamation points just aren’t used in professional writing. Take a look at professionally

produced magazines or newspapers. Chances are, you’ll be hard put to find one instance of an exclamation point anywhere. About the only time the *New York Times* uses an exclamation point is to declare that a major war is over. By ending all of your site’s stories with an exclamation point, you are inadvertently decreasing the professionalism of your site, thus also potentially harming the credibility of the library.

Secondly, any time an exclamation point is used, by default it downgrades the importance of every-

thing else around it. After all, that’s what an exclamation mark does; it indicates that the item it is attached to is more important than absolutely everything else.

Do your library’s image a favor—get rid of the exclamation points.



Q&A: What’s that “Access Denied” message?

Q: Sometimes, when I try to log in to my Web Kit, I get an “Access Denied” message. Why is that? I know I used the correct password.

A: Yep, you used the right password, and the system still won’t let you in! This means that you (or someone working on your site on that computer) didn’t log out of the system properly the last time. As a result, the browser thinks you’re trying to log in again on the same machine, and refuses to let you do it. (This is why logging out properly is important.) The solution? Clear *all* of the cookies out of your browser. This will solve the problem 99.9% of the

time. Not sure how to do this? Contact OPLIN Support by going to <http://support.oplin.org>—all the contact info is there, and live webchat, too.

Access Denied

Which libraries have a Web Kit underway?

- Bexley Public Library
- Brown County Public Library
- Cardington-Lincoln Public Library
- Homer Public Library
- Wood County Public Library
- Champaign County Public Library
- Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library