Introduction

- Hi! I’m Loring Prest. I’m a Professor, Electronic Resources Librarian, and the Library Webmaster at California University of Pennsylvania.
- Yes, we are in the town of California in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Since 2009, I’ve been using LibGuides as the platform for our entire library Web site.
- As a hosted system, we are sometimes at the mercy of the Springshare developers for the choice of design elements.
- But, thankfully, you can add Custom CSS codes to your LibGuides to change things without having to ask Springshare to do it.
- The challenge is knowing what CSS codes you need to override.
- In the next few minutes, I want to share with you some browser features that can assist you in editing the look and feel of LibGuides at the CSS level.

GO TO LIBRARY WEB SITE

Let’s begin by looking at the “Quick Links” box here on the library’s home page.

- Do you notice anything odd about the items in this box?
- Can you see that there is a difference in spacing between first 3 links and the last 4 links?
- OK, maybe it’s because I’m OCD, but this bothers me. And it’s not just here.

Let’s look at the “A” page in our A-Z List of Library Resources

- Note that this is NOT the LibGuides-generated A-Z list. These are pages I created and maintain myself.
- Compare the left and right columns. Do you notice anything odd?
- Yep, the spacing is not uniform and it looks bad—at least to me.
  - Why is this?
  - And how do you fix it?
- What I need is a tool that will show me exactly what code is controlling these Web page items.

If you haven’t used it before, I want to introduce you to: the INSPECT tool

- This tool is built into both Firefox and Chrome.
- So let me show you how I can use the INSPECT tool to fix my problem.
**INSPECT “ACS” in Firefox**

- In the right-hand column, I see that the spacing messes up beginning with the “Adherents.com” link.
- So, let’s start by INSPECTing the ACS link.
- Right click on “ACS...” (above Adherents.com) and select “Inspect Element”
  - The INSPECT tool opens two panes at the bottom:
    - HTML on left, and CSS on right.
  - The element that we asked to inspect is highlighted in blue.
  - In this case the hyperlink <a> tag
  - If you find the text hard to see, you can ZOOM this portion of your browser
    - Do CTRL - + twice
- Right now, we are viewing the hyperlink.
- But, you can navigate up through the larger elements to see more parts of the page, by clicking on . . .
  - <span> controls the hyperlink
  - <div> controls the entire line of the link item
  - <li> controls this list item
    - Click on the <li> to select that element
    - Leave mouse pointing at <li>
- Note that the <li> item is highlighted in blue.
- But there is also a purple bar. This shows that there is 5px of padding at the top of this element.
  - How do I know it is 5px?
  - Check out the CSS on the right.
  - You can also see this, graphically, by looking at the “Computed” tab (right pane).
  - Return to “Rules” tab.
- When you look in the CSS pane, you will see that each element has a little square icon. It’s kind of hard to see.
- It lets you “Highlight all elements” matching this selector.”
  - Click on icon.
- Now you can see that every list item <li> on the page has lit up. And they all show 5px of top padding.
- So, the padding is not my problem.
  - Turn off “Highlight all”

Part of the POWER of the INSPECT tool is that it lets you EDIT the CSS or the HTML.
- This power lets you play with settings to see what they do.
- For example, what if the padding-top: 15px?
  - Let’s try it and see!
  - Restore to 5px
Now, let’s look at the “Adherents.com” link, since it is adding extra spacing.

- Use the “Pick an element” feature to select the “more...” link.
- Click and mouse over `<div class="s-lg-label-moreinfo">`
- You see the YELLOW bar under “more”?
  - This is not padding. Padding is shown in purple.
    - Click on “Computed” tab for graphical display.
  - This is a margin. Margin is shown in yellow.
  - You can see in the “Computed” tab that there is 5px of bottom margin.
  - I can also see this in the “Rules” tab: the CSS: `margin-bottom: 5px;`
  - Is this rule used elsewhere on this page?
    - If I click on the “Highlight all,” I can see that it is!
    - And what you will see is that everywhere there is a “more” item, LibGuides is adding 5px of bottom margin.
    - But there is no extra margin added to resources WITHOUT the “more” link.
    - Therefore, I’m getting odd spacing.
    - Turn off Highlight.
  - To prove it, change the CSS to 0px
  - Problem SOLVED! The line spacing is all even now between all of the list items.
  - Well, until you close your browser, because this is only a temporary fix. We haven’t changed the server information.

So, how do you permanently fix LibGuides?

- First, you need to know what CSS element is involved.
- INSPECT ELEMENT tells you
  - This is a `<div>` of the class “s-lg-label-moreinfo”
  - You can see this on the HTML and the CSS sides.
    - Note that the CSS of margin-bottom applies to several element types.
    - But the one in green highlight is the one that is active here.
  - We also know that this CSS comes from a Springshare CSS file [lg-public.min.css], specifically, line 7.
- Since this a Springshare file, it is not “yours” to edit.
- But what I can do, as a LibGuide admin, is to specify a custom CSS for my LibGuides that will override this one.
- And that could include changing the margin-bottom setting FOR THIS CLASS of element to 0px.
- Right click on the CSS element and copy and paste the edited RULE to a temporary text file.
  - Note that this copies MULTIPLE SELECTORS.
    - `.s-lg-content-lib-review, .s-lg-content-more-info, .s-lg-content-perm-use, .s-lg-label-moreinfo { margin-bottom: 0px; }
  - Remove the selectors that don’t apply!
Now, before we change the Custom CSS in LibGuides admin, let’s figure out how to fix another problem.

- Did you notice a difference in the word “more” in Adherents.com and “more” in Advertising: Digitized Collections?
  - Different font sizes. Why?
- The short answer is because
  - Adherents is a LINK.
  - Advertising is a DATABASE.
  - Springshare has a different CSS for each type of resource.
- Use Pick an Element to select “more” under Advertising.
- View CSS panel for <button> element.
  - Scroll down the CSS to .s-lg-label-more-info button.
  - Shows that font-size: 0.9em.
  - All DATABASES in LibGuides use a smaller “more” font than LINKS!!
- The easy fix is to change this CSS to 1.0 so that it matches the LINK size, but you could engineer a setting to make them all 0.9em.
  - Change CSS to 1.0
  - Copy edited RULE to text file
    - .s-lg-label-more-info button { font-size: 1.0em; font-style: italic; }

Fix the Problem in LibGuides Admin Custom CSS

- So, to fix these problems permanently, I need to go to LibGuides Admin.
  - LibGuides Admin > Look & Feel > Custom JS/CSS
- You can see that I have already customized several items.
- Here’s where you could copy and paste the CSS from your text file.
  - Remember to wrap all your CSS in <style> … </style> tags if they aren’t already there.
- To speed things up, I’ve already added the CSS code to fix the margin-bottom and the font-size problems.
  - But I commented them out so I could show you the problems.
- And now, live at the Springshare booth, I can remove the commenting . . .
  - Remove the comment tag /* at start of each row
  - Remove space between / and * at start of my editing comment
- . . . Problem fixed!
  - Go back to “A” page
  - Refresh page to see changes.

Other INSPECT ELEMENTS Tricks

- In addition to using INSPECT to fix a problem . . .
- You can also use it to test alternative designs. You can try out new colors, spacing, fonts, etc.
• **INSPECT** hides a couple of other features under the Settings menu
  o *Go to Settings*
  o You have **color options** under “Themes”
  o And you can turn on the Toolbox Buttons for:
    ▪ **Toggle rulers for the page**
    ▪ **Measure a portion of the page**
  o Return to Inspector tab
• **If I turn on Toggle rulers . . .**
  o Get a feel for the size of elements on the page
• **You can use the Measure tool . . .**
  o Precisely measure an element for when you want to specify a size

Finally, let me say a few words about **COLORZILLA**
• **INSPECT** offers a color picker tool, but . . .
• **ColorZilla is better.**
  o *Go to Home Page*
• I used ColorZilla to **match the color** of some of the elements on the home page to the Cal U logo.
  o Note all the RED elements. They are all the same color as the CAL U logo background.
  ▪ **Click on ColorZilla in FF system tray**
  o Point at logo and click. Hex code is copied, so you can paste it into code.
• ColorZilla also has a nice **Color Picker** feature
  o Open Color Picker
  o Note the range of color codes: Hex, RGB, etc.
• Other ColorZilla Tools . . .
  o Open menu and review items . . .

**INSPECT** has helped me a lot over the years. I hope it helps you.

**Thank you!**
You can also find information on my **Browser Features for Editing LibGuides** guide:
[http://library.calu.edu/springyflash](http://library.calu.edu/springyflash)