**Affordable Learning Georgia Affordable Materials Grants  
Continuous Improvement Grants Final Report**

*(or Mini-Grants, for R17 and earlier)*

# General Information

Date: 16 August 2024

Grant Round: 24

Grant Number: M252

Institution Name(s): University of Georgia

Team Members: John Weatherford, Principal Lecturer, New Media Institute, University of Georgia, johnweatherford@uga.edu; Chris Gerlach, Lecturer, New Media Institute, University of Georgia, chrisgerlach@uga.edu; Tyler Mazurek, Instructor, New Media Institute, University of Georgia, tylermazurek@uga.edu; Kyla Sterling, Associate Academic Professional, New Media Institute, University of Georgia, ksterling@uga.edu;

Project Lead: John Weatherford

Course Name(s) and Course Numbers: Web Development; NMIX 4010, NMIX 4010E, NMIX 6010, NMIX 6010E

Final Semester of Project: Summer 2024

***If applicable to your project:***

Average Number of Students Per Course Section: 22

Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: 7

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation of Revised Resources: 150

# Project Narrative

**Purpose, Plan, and Timeline**

The New Media Institute (NMI) ALG CIG grant team aimed to enhance the OER for the University of Georgia New Media Institute’s Web Development course hosted at https://nmi.cool/webdev/, an OER regularly used by over a half-dozen faculty members teaching over a multiple sections at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Over the previous year, the OER served nearly 60,000 views to over 7,000 visitors.

In particular, the revision focused on four main areas:

1. A comprehensive content audit to remove outdated lessons, update all lessons to current best practices, and better organize all content for consistency and simplicity.
2. A rigorous accessibility audit of all content.
3. A major expansion of the WordPress unit, with a focus on the platform's new Full Site Editing experience.
4. Updating the site’s decade-old theme to a modern, Full Site Editing compatible theme.

**Original Works Revised**

All work took place to revised the OER “Web Development,” by John Weatherford, Leah Moss, Kyla Sterling, and Tyler Mazurek, previously hosted at <https://nmi.cool/web/>.

The revised OER, “Web Development,” by John Weatherford, Leah Moss, Kyla Sterling, Tyler Mazurek, and Christopher Gerlach, is now hosted at <https://nmi.cool/webdev/>.

**How the Project Plan was Carried Out**

We carried out the project plan largely according to the timeline and details included in the project proposal.

* November - December 2023: began content audit.
* January - February 2024: launched a separate instance of the previous WordPress site (nmi.cool/web) at nmi.cool/webdev/; concluded content audit and began implementation of content audit.
* March and April 2024: began work on accessibility audit and new WordPress lessons; began developing a new, custom Full Site Editing theme, plus associated patterns and content blocks.
* May 2024: moved the new site (nmi.cool/webdev) to managed WordPress hosting, dramatically improving site performance.
* June - July 2024: team member Tyler Mazurek taught using the newly-revised OER in a pilot section of NMIX 6010E: Web Development.

**Lessons Learned**

Overall, the process went extremely smoothly. The team collaborated well using Slack + Google Workspace for planning and communication, and previous experience with ALG provided a clear vision for progress.

The biggest lessons learned both had to do with project management. First, curriculum development, much like software development, is an iterative process. As work progresses, new issues and opportunities present themselves. Regularly evaluating and prioritizing the scope of work proved essential. Second, curriculum development, again like software development, is never finished. The team made tremendous progress that undoubtedly wouldn’t have been made without the support provided by the grant, and many long-standing issues were addressed. However, in the process of completing the work identified by the grant, numerous new needs and opportunities were identified. Our hope is that the dramatically revised, modernized, and improved tech stack that was implemented in the grant, along with more consistent content structures, will provide a strong foundation for consistent ongoing updates.

# Materials Description

All materials described below, and entire Web Development OER, shared under CC BY 4.0, accessible at <https://nmi.cool/webdev/>.

* New, custom Full Site Editing theme for entire *Web Development* OER, hosted at <https://nmi.cool/webdev>.
* Revised, simplified grading structure for course, with additional emphasis on creative process work
* 13 new pages / lessons (most complete; some still in progress): What we’ll learn - building modern web sites; Oh, the mistakes you’ll make!; Effective troubleshooting; What we’ll learn - manually building single-column web sites; Files and Folders: Best practices and common mistakes; HTML: Development workflows; HTML and CSS Playground; CSS Variables (colors + typefaces); What we’ll learn - building responsive, mobile-first, multi-column websites using a framework; Bootstrap CSS and JS file best practices; Bootstrap Grid: Seeing the Matrix: Containers, rows and columns; What we’ll learn - running modern websites with a content management system; What we’ll learn - building a website for yourself + stretching your skills;

# Materials Links

All materials hosted at <https://nmi.cool/webdev/>. Installable WordPress exports available upon request—write to John Weatherford at johnweatherford@uga.edu.

# Future Plans

NMI faculty regularly share our program’s OER work in a multitude of presentations, social / email communications, and outreach efforts, and we will proudly feature the revisions supported by this grant in all such work going forward.

The modern, Full Site Editing (FSE) template, patterns, and content blocks created with this grant combined with the updated technical content of the Web Development OER, NMI faculty now have a foundation to regularly provide and document incremental updates to the Web Development course site.

Additionally, NMI faculty have already begun to leverage the FSE WordPress template, patterns, and content blocks created in this grant in several additional WordPress OERs, with work already underway on the OERs for NMIX 2010 / 2010E: Introduction to New Media and NMIX 4410 / 6410: New Media Capstone.