

PREFACE

The World Wide Web has become a major force in journalism. Virtually every newspaper and magazine has a Web site, and many publications exist only on the Web.

For journalism students and instructors, this presents a challenge. The essential skills of good journalism remain the same and require a good deal of class time to cover. Yet many jobs now require students to have at least a basic knowledge of putting news and features online. For instructors, the challenge is teaching these skills in classes that already place many demands on a limited amount of time. Many working journalists face a similar challenge in quickly mastering the task of Web building.

There are countless books on the market that teach HTML and Web-building skills. Many are very good. But they generally attempt to be all things to all people, and consequently, even the “Quick Guides” run hundreds of pages and cover features most readers will never need.

Building Basic News Sites takes a new approach. By focusing on the skills actually used in the construction of online newspaper and magazine sites, this book offers a quick guide to understanding how common Web building tasks are accomplished, and it can get readers up and running rapidly.

While the book provides a guide to HTML, it is not only about using HTML. Rather, it covers a range of skills needed to produce visually appealing basic Web sites, from creating Web pages, graphics and audio and video components to putting everything online and making it readily available to Web surfers. The book liberally uses computer screen shots to illustrate the operations. Instead of providing instruction in using specific programs, this book provides the basic details that readers will find helpful no matter what programs they use.

A companion Web site (www.mhhe.com/BBNS) offers exercises tied to each chapter; reference materials; and links to sites that provide tutorials and resources for more advanced Web work.

I hope you find that this book gets you into the exciting world of Web

Building Basic News Sites

news site development quickly and painlessly. Please feel free to share feedback with me by writing me at mail@thomlieb.com.

Thom Lieb, 2000

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