



Dreamweaver Library Items

Library Items are individual page elements (consisting of HTML code) placed within your HTML document. The advantage of using them appears in situations where you have the exact same code (art) on multiple pages. With libraries you can create the code once and then place that library in each HTML file. When you need to make an update you only update the library and Dreamweaver then updates all occurrences of the library (across multiple HTML files in your site).

The most common usage of libraries are footers (copyright notice, contact info, text navigation) and primary page navigation. A simple example is having © 2007 at the bottom of every page and needing to update it to the current year. If you only have a five page site, then this isn't a big deal, but if you have hundreds of pages than it is much easier to update a library and let Dreamweaver update all appropriate pages.

Creating a Library Item

In our sample files lets open *index.htm* and create a library item for our footer.

- Select the footer content with your mouse (© 2007 through the *MSP5 Class* link)
- In the **Assets panel** click on the **Library icon**  at the very bottom, then click on the **New Library Item icon** 
- This will create a library item containing the element(s) that you have selected. It will give you a message stating that it might not look the same when placed in other documents because the stylesheet information is not copied with it. Click on *OK*.
- You now have an *Untitled* library item in the list. Double-click on it and rename it *Footer*.
- With it selected you can see a preview of it at the top of the **Assets panel**. You'll notice that it is not styled the same as in *index.htm*
- Now when you click off of the footer in your document you'll notice that it is highlighted in yellow. When you click back on it the entire footer content is selected. In the step above Dreamweaver both created the library item and replaced your content with the new library item.
- You can no longer edit this content directly in your HTML file. Notice the name of the library item in the **Properties Inspector** (when you have it selected).
- Now open *barns.htm* and lets swap the footer content for the new Footer library.
 - Simply select all of the footer content in the file, click on *Footer* in the **Assets/Library panel**, and then click on the *Insert* button at the bottom left corner of the **Assets panel**.
 - Close and save this file, now repeat this step for *faq.htm*.

Updating Libraries

To update, or modify a library item you just open it, make your changes and save. Dreamweaver will then update all occurrence of it within your site. You can open the library two different ways:

1. If you currently have an HTML file open that has the library placed in it, click on the library, then click the **Open button** in the **Properties Inspector**.
 2. In the **Assets panel**, make sure you are clicked on the **Library category**, then double-click on the library name in the list.
- In our sample site, open the *Footer* library in one of these ways
 - Once it is open, change *2007* to *2008*, then close the file. When Dreamweaver asks, go ahead and save the file.
 - Dreamweaver will now ask whether you want to **Update Library Items** and show you a list of all files that it is placed in. Click on the *Update* button and it will go make the changes. Click the *Done* button when it is finished.
 - You can now check all of your files and see that they have been updated (you will need to save them if they were already open).

