

Annotated Bibliography

Community Website for Local Mosque

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Source 1:

Robbins, Jennifer Niederst. *Learning Web Design: A Beginner's Guide to HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Web Graphics*. 5th ed., O'Reilly Media, 2018.

Annotation:

This book has been my go-to guide for learning the basics of web development. It breaks down HTML, CSS, and JavaScript in a way that actually makes sense, with real examples I can follow along with. I picked this book because I needed something that would take me from knowing a little bit of code to actually being able to build a working website. What I really like is that it doesn't just tell you how to code something, it explains why you should do it a certain way, especially when it comes to making sites accessible and easy to use. The tutorials on building navigation menus and forms have been super helpful for the mosque website's contact page and event calendar. The main downside is it doesn't really cover APIs, which I need for the prayer times feature, so I've had to look elsewhere for that. But honestly, the foundation this book gave me made learning API stuff way easier than it would've been otherwise.

Source 2:

Aladhan Prayer Times API Documentation." Aladhan.com, Islamic Network, 2024, aladhan.com/prayer-times-api. Accessed 15 Jan. 2026.

Annotation:

This is basically the instruction manual for the prayer times feature I'm building into the website. Aladhan is one of the most trusted Islamic prayer time calculators out there, and they offer a free API that I can use for the mosque. The documentation shows me exactly how to pull prayer times automatically and includes examples in different coding languages. I chose this because it's reliable, free, and widely respected in the Muslim community. What's cool is that it doesn't just give you the technical stuff, it also explains the different calculation methods that various Islamic scholars use around the world, which helped me figure out which settings would work best for our community. They even have a testing tool where I could play around with it before writing any code. The tricky part is that it assumes you already know how APIs work, so I had to watch some YouTube tutorials on APIs in general before I could really understand what I was reading here.

Source 3:

Clark, Joe. Building Accessible Websites. New Riders, 2003.

Annotation:

This is a very old resource, but the core ideas about making websites accessible are still relevant and helpful. It taught me about things like proper heading structure, writing good alt text for images, making sure people can navigate with just a keyboard, and choosing colors that have enough contrast. I picked this up because I want the mosque website to work for everyone in our community, including older folks who might not be super tech-savvy and people with disabilities. What really stuck with me were the stories about real people trying to use badly designed websites and getting completely stuck. It made me realize accessibility isn't just about following rules, it's about actually respecting the people who'll use what I build. The downside is the book came out before smartphones were really a thing, so it doesn't talk about mobile design at all. But the basic principles about clear structure and good HTML are timeless and have shaped how I'm building everything.

Source 4:

Interview with Imam Mohammed Mouhdin. Personal interview. 10 Jan. 2026.

Annotation:

I sat down with our Imam for about 45 minutes to talk about what the mosque actually needs from a website. Right now, they're using WhatsApp groups and announcements at Friday prayers, which means a lot of people miss important information about events or schedule changes. Talking to Imam Rahman was essential because he understands both what the community needs and what's culturally appropriate from an Islamic perspective. He explained stuff I wouldn't have thought about on my own, like why certain types of images wouldn't be appropriate and how important it is to potentially include Arabic alongside English. The biggest takeaway was that getting prayer times exactly right is critical because if those are wrong, people won't trust anything else on the site. The limitation was that he's not a tech person, so he couldn't really give me feedback on actual design mockups or technical features. That's why I also needed to survey regular community members to get their input on the details.

Source 5:

Krug, Steve. Don't Make Me Think, Revisited: A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability. 3rd ed., New Riders, 2014.

Annotation:

This book totally changed how I think about website design. The main idea is that good websites should be so obvious and easy to use that people don't have to stop and figure things out. Krug talks about making navigation crystal clear and designing for people who scan pages quickly instead of reading every word which is perfect for a community website where people just want to find prayer times or check when the next event is. I chose this because knowing how to code is one thing, but knowing how to make something people can actually use is totally different. The chapter on mobile design was especially helpful since most people will probably check the mosque website on their phones. Reading this made me go back and simplify my early wireframes because I was trying to cram too much onto each page. The book mostly uses examples from business websites, so I've had to adapt some ideas for a mosque context where we're not trying to sell anything, just help people connect with their community and build on top of what the community has already built.

Source 6:

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1." W3C Web Accessibility Initiative, World Wide Web Consortium, 5 June 2018, www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/quickref/. Accessed 18 Jan. 2026

Annotation:

These are the official rules for making websites accessible, and they're intense. The guidelines cover everything from color contrast ratios to making sure screen readers can understand your site properly. I'm using this as my checklist to make sure the mosque website meets actual professional accessibility standards. What's helpful is that it doesn't only list the requirements. It also shows you examples of what to do and what not to do, which is very helpful. For example, I learned that my contract form needs labels that both look visually appealing and work for screen readers, which requires some specific coding.

Source 7:

Survey of Community Members. Self-conducted survey. 15-25 Jan. 2026.

Annotation:

I created a survey with 25 questions and got 47 people from the mosque to fill it out. I asked about what devices they use, which features matter most to them, and what frustrates them about how the mosque currently shares information. Some people filled it out online, others on paper. I did this because I needed to hear directly from the people who'll actually use the website instead of just guessing what they want. The results surprised me in a few ways. 78% mostly use their phones for the internet, way more than I expected. Almost everyone said accurate prayer times were super important, but fewer people cared about online donations than I thought they would. The open-ended responses were gold; people talked about how annoying it is when important messages get buried in WhatsApp groups and how they can never find old announcements when they need them. The problem is I probably didn't reach everyone, especially really elderly community members or people who barely use technology at all, who actually might need the website most. But even with that limitation, the survey gave me solid data to base my decisions on.

Source 8:

Marcotte, Ethan. "Responsive Web Design." A List Apart, Issue 306, 25 May 2010, alistapart.com/article/responsive-web-design/. Accessed 20 Jan. 2026.

Annotation:

This article from 2010 basically invented the modern approach to making websites work on any device. Marcotte's idea is to build one website that flexibly adjusts to different screen sizes instead of making separate versions for mobile and desktop. Even though it's old, these concepts are still how everyone builds websites today. I chose this because my survey showed most community members will use their phones to check the mosque website so it absolutely has to work well on small screens. What I appreciated was that Marcotte explains not just the technical howto, but the whole philosophy of designing for flexibility. Seeing examples of the same content reshaping itself from desktop to phone helped me picture how my own designs should adapt. The article is outdated in some ways. There are newer, easier tools now like Flexbox and CSS Grid that didn't exist when this was written. So I've been learning those modern techniques too, but this article gave me that foundational mindset.

Source 9:

Abdulrazzaq, Farah. "Designing Islamic Websites: Cultural Considerations and Best Practices." Islamic Digital Media Conference Proceedings, 2019, pp. 112-128.

Annotation:

This paper looks at how to design websites for Islamic organizations in ways that respect cultural values and traditions while still looking modern. The author studied 50 Islamic websites and talked to designers and religious scholars about the tension between contemporary design trends and Islamic aesthetics. I needed this because general web design advice is fine, but I wanted to make sure the mosque website feels authentically Islamic, not just like any generic organization site. The discussion about colors was really helpful like how green has special meaning in Islam, representing paradise and growth. The section on images was especially important because it explained why many Islamic sites avoid pictures of people or animals, preferring geometric patterns and calligraphy instead. That made sense of what I'd noticed in other mosque websites during my research. The downside is the paper mostly looks at big institutional sites like national Islamic organizations, so some recommendations felt too formal for a small community mosque. But the cultural principles still apply no matter the size.

Source 10:

Meeting with Ashraful Abid (Capstone Mentor). Weekly technical consultations. 12 Jan. 2026 - ongoing.

Annotation:

Every week I meet with my mentor (Ashraful), who's a professional software engineer and has built websites for community organizations before. He helps me work through coding problems, reviews my code to catch mistakes, and guides me on big decisions like which hosting service to use or whether I should use a framework. I asked him to be my mentor because he has the technical skills that I'm learning and has real experience with non-profit projects, so he knows what it is like to build something without utilizing a big budget. He's also big on writing clean code with good comments, which isn't just for me to understand but so whoever maintains the site after I graduate can figure out what's going on. The only limitation is that he's busy with his actual job, so I can't just call him whenever I'm stuck. I have to prepare specific questions and try to solve things myself first, which honestly has made me a better problem-solver