

Making Everything Easier!™

jQuery

FOR

DUMMIES®

Learn to:

- Build site special effects such as fades, sliding panels, and tabbed navigation
- Create a photo gallery for your blog or Web site
- Customize Twitter® and RSS feeds
- Add jQuery plug-ins for WordPress®, Drupal®, Joomla!®, and more

Lynn Beighley

Author of *Drupal For Dummies*



Get More and Do More at Dummies.com®



Start with **FREE** Cheat Sheets

Cheat Sheets include

- Checklists
- Charts
- Common Instructions
- And Other Good Stuff!

To access the Cheat Sheet created specifically for this book, go to
www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/jquery

Get Smart at Dummies.com

Dummies.com makes your life easier with 1,000s of answers on everything from removing wallpaper to using the latest version of Windows.

Check out our

- Videos
- Illustrated Articles
- Step-by-Step Instructions

Plus, each month you can win valuable prizes by entering our Dummies.com sweepstakes.*

Want a weekly dose of Dummies? Sign up for Newsletters on

- Digital Photography
- Microsoft Windows & Office
- Personal Finance & Investing
- Health & Wellness
- Computing, iPods & Cell Phones
- eBay
- Internet
- Food, Home & Garden

Find out **“HOW”** at Dummies.com

*Sweepstakes not currently available in all countries; visit Dummies.com for official rules.





jQuery
FOR
DUMMIES®

by Lynn Beighley



WILEY

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

jQuery For Dummies®

Published by
Wiley Publishing, Inc.
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774
www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2010 by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published by Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2010926840

ISBN: 978-0-470-58445-3

Manufactured in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



About the Author

Lynn Beighley has been a Web developer and computer book author long before jQuery was a glimmer in John Resig's eye. This is her eleventh book. Lynn shares her off-kilter 1920's home with her husband, Drew, and two Bernese Mountain Dogs who are much too big to be the lap dogs they think they are.

Dedication

To Drew.

Author's Acknowledgments

I'd like to thank Kyle Looper for offering me the chance to write a second *Dummies* book on another great topic, and Susan Pink for her amazing dedication. She's a stickler for detail, and this book benefits greatly from it!

Publisher's Acknowledgments

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments at <http://dummies.custhelp.com>. For other comments, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

Acquisitions, Editorial

Project Editor: Susan Pink

Acquisitions Editor: KyleLooper

Copy Editor: Susan Pink

Technical Editor: Cody Lindley

Editorial Manager: Jodi Jensen

Editorial Assistant: Amanda Graham

Sr. Editorial Assistant: Cherie Case

Cartoons: Rich Tennant
(www.the5thwave.com)

Composition Services

Project Coordinator: Katherine Crocker

Layout and Graphics: Joyce Haughey

Proofreaders: Lindsay Littrell, Toni Settle

Indexer: BIM Indexing & Proofreading Services

Publishing and Editorial for Technology Dummies

Richard Swadley, Vice President and Executive Group Publisher

Andy Cummings, Vice President and Publisher

Mary Bednarek, Executive Acquisitions Director

Mary C. Corder, Editorial Director

Publishing for Consumer Dummies

Diane Graves Steele, Vice President and Publisher

Composition Services

Debbie Stailey, Director of Composition Services

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Getting Started with jQuery</i>	5
Chapter 1: Getting Up and Running with jQuery	7
Chapter 2: Accessing HTML Elements	21
Chapter 3: Selecting HTML Elements, Attributes, and Positions.....	35
Chapter 4: Managing Events	51
<i>Part II: Affecting Elements with Effects</i>	69
Chapter 5: Playing Hide-and-Seek with Web Page Elements	71
Chapter 6: Sliding and Fading Web Page Elements	91
Chapter 7: Animating Web Page Elements	107
<i>Part III: Manipulating Your Web Page</i>	123
Chapter 8: Making Web Page Content Dynamic.....	125
Chapter 9: Replacing, Removing, and Copying Web Page Elements.....	143
<i>Part IV: Using Plug-ins and Widgets</i>	155
Chapter 10: Understanding Plug-ins.....	157
Chapter 11: Playing with Image Effects	169
Chapter 12: Jazzing Up Forms	181
Chapter 13: Toying with Page Layout	191
Chapter 14: Incorporating a User Interface.....	203
<i>Part V: Building AJAX Applications</i>	217
Chapter 15: Understanding How AJAX Works with jQuery.....	219
Chapter 16: Using AJAX Plug-ins.....	231
<i>Part VI: Integrating jQuery with Content Management Systems</i>	243
Chapter 17: Cool Image Effects with jQuery and Drupal	245
Chapter 18: Integrating jQuery and Joomla!.....	259
Chapter 19: Building Better Blogs with jQuery and WordPress	273

<i>Part VII: The Part of Tens</i>	283
Chapter 20: Ten Don't-Miss Plug-ins.....	285
Chapter 21: Ten Design and Code Tricks.....	297
Chapter 22: Ten jQuery Resources.....	307
<i>Index</i>	319

Table of Contents



<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book	1
How to Use This Book.....	2
Foolish Assumptions.....	2
How This Book Is Organized	2
Part I: Getting Started with jQuery	2
Part II: Affecting Elements with Effects	3
Part III: Manipulating Your Web Page	3
Part IV: Using Plug-ins and Widgets.....	3
Part V: Building AJAX Applications	3
Part VI: Integrating jQuery with Content Management Systems	3
Part VII: The Part of Tens.....	4
Icons Used in This Book	4
Where to Go from Here.....	4
<i>Part I: Getting Started with jQuery</i>	5
Chapter 1: Getting Up and Running with jQuery	7
Finding Out What jQuery Can Do for You	7
Defining jQuery.....	8
Understanding jQuery effects and events	9
Using plug-ins	9
Installing jQuery.....	10
Downloading jQuery.....	10
Setting up a testing directory	11
Calling jQuery from a Web page	13
Viewing a Web page on your computer	14
Creating Your First jQuery Code	15
Chapter 2: Accessing HTML Elements	21
Understanding Elements	21
Overview of elements.....	21
Common HTML elements	23
Getting and Setting Element Values	24
Understanding element attribute values	24
Getting element attribute values	24
Getting element content.....	26

Setting element attribute values	28
Removing element attribute values	29
Changing HTML Content	30
Changing Text Content	32
Chapter 3: Selecting HTML Elements, Attributes, and Positions . . .	35
Using jQuery Selectors	35
Selecting specific element types	36
Selecting all elements	38
Selecting an id	39
Selecting classes	40
Selecting by order	43
Selecting from Forms	46
Selecting Attributes	47
Selecting Visibility	48
Selecting Parents and Children	48
Chapter 4: Managing Events.	51
Using jQuery When the Page Loads	51
Handling Events	52
Clicking and double-clicking	53
Giving an element focus	57
Detecting a keyboard event	59
Detecting a mouse event	61
Working with Interaction Helpers	63
Hovering	63
Toggling functions	65
Part II: Affecting Elements with Effects	69
Chapter 5: Playing Hide-and-Seek with Web Page Elements	71
Hiding Elements with jQuery	71
Hiding an element by type with a button	71
Hiding an element by id when clicked	74
Hiding an element by using the this keyword	76
Hiding an element with animation	76
Showing Elements with jQuery	79
Showing an element by id	79
Showing an element with animation	81
Toggling Visibility with jQuery	83
Using a toggle	84
Toggling with animation	86
Using a callback function	88

Chapter 6: Sliding and Fading Web Page Elements 91

- Sliding Elements with jQuery 91
 - Sliding down 92
 - Sliding up 94
 - Changing the slide speed 96
 - Sliding with a toggle effect 96
 - Sliding with a callback function 97
- Fading Elements with jQuery 100
 - Fading in 100
 - Fading out 102
 - Partial fading 104

Chapter 7: Animating Web Page Elements 107

- Understanding How jQuery Animation Works 107
- Animating Elements with jQuery 111
 - Animating height and width 111
 - Animating margin width and padding 113
 - Animating opacity 115
 - Animating font size and word spacing 117
- Controlling Animation Duration 119
- Animating with Show, Hide, and Toggle 120
- Disabling All jQuery Animation 121

Part III: Manipulating Your Web Page 123

Chapter 8: Making Web Page Content Dynamic 125

- Getting and Setting Text Content 125
- Getting and Setting HTML Content 128
- Getting and Setting Form Values 131
- Inserting Content Inside Elements 134
 - Appending content 135
 - Prepending content 136
- Inserting Content Outside an Element 138
- Moving Elements Around 139
- Wrapping Content Around an Element 141

Chapter 9: Replacing, Removing, and Copying Web Page Elements 143

- Replacing Elements 143
 - Replacing an element with `replaceWith()` 143
 - Replacing a parent element while retaining child elements 144
 - Replacing an element with `replaceAll()` 146

Removing Elements	147
Removing elements	148
Removing content	149
Cloning Elements	151
Cloning elements with events	151
Copying elements along with their events and data	152

Part IV: Using Plug-ins and Widgets..... 155

Chapter 10: Understanding Plug-ins 157

How jQuery Plug-ins Work.....	157
Getting jQuery Plug-ins	158
Testing Your First jQuery Plug-ins	160
Making your page snow	160
Highlighting table rows and columns.....	163
Adding a tooltip.....	165

Chapter 11: Playing with Image Effects 169

Creating a Lightbox with Colorbox	169
Getting Colorbox.....	171
Creating a basic image Colorbox	172
Adding a title to a lightbox	174
Displaying a set of images in a lightbox.....	174
Displaying a slideshow.....	177
Creating an Image Gallery.....	177
Getting Galleria.....	177
Creating a basic image gallery	179

Chapter 12: Jazzing Up Forms 181

Displaying Default Values	181
Validating Form Fields	184
Creating a Date Picker.....	187

Chapter 13: Toying with Page Layout 191

Creating an Accordion Menu	191
Paginating Content	196
Creating a Floating <div> Element.....	198

Chapter 14: Incorporating a User Interface 203

Using the jQuery User Interface.....	203
Choosing Custom Download Options	205
Selecting a theme.....	206
Customizing a theme.....	207

Downloading a theme..... 210
 Building your download file..... 211
 Using jQuery UI Widgets 213
 Adding an accordion 213
 Creating a datepicker 214
 Displaying tabs 214

Part V: Building AJAX Applications 217

Chapter 15: Understanding How AJAX Works with jQuery 219

Understanding AJAX 219
 Loading Data with AJAX..... 220
 Getting the contents of a text file..... 220
 Getting the contents of a Web page 221
 Getting part of a Web page 223
 Sending Data with AJAX..... 225

Chapter 16: Using AJAX Plug-ins 231

How AJAX jQuery Plug-ins Work 231
 Using AJAX File Uploader 232
 Rotating Dynamic Content 234
 Creating AJAX Pop-Up Windows..... 238

Part VI: Integrating jQuery with Content Management Systems 243

Chapter 17: Cool Image Effects with jQuery and Drupal 245

Investigating Drupal Modules 245
 Finding Drupal modules 245
 Downloading Drupal modules 246
 Enabling the Image and Image Gallery modules 249
 Adding images to your gallery 250
 Creating Image Effects in Drupal 252
 Getting the Thickbox jQuery module for Drupal 252
 Enabling Thickbox 252
 Using Thickbox with your Image Gallery 254
 Integrating jQuery in Drupal 255
 Configuring Drupal to recognize jQuery 255
 Including the jQuery library in Drupal content..... 256

Chapter 18: Integrating jQuery and Joomla! 259

Understanding How jQuery Works with Joomla!.....	259
Configuring Joomla! to recognize jQuery.....	260
Accessing jQuery from Joomla!.....	261
Finding jQuery Extensions for Joomla!	265
Using jQuery Extensions with Joomla!.....	265
Creating an image gallery	266
Displaying tweets from Twitter on your Joomla! page	270

Chapter 19: Building Better Blogs with jQuery and WordPress 273

Making jQuery Work with WordPress.....	273
Finding WordPress jQuery-Based Plug-ins	277
Using the Colorbox jQuery Plug-in with WordPress	281

Part VII: The Part of Tens 283**Chapter 20: Ten Don't-Miss Plug-ins 285**

uploadify	285
jCarousel.....	288
qTip	289
jQuery pager.....	290
jQuery Flash	291
toggleElements.....	292
Coda-Slider 2.0	293
pagination.....	294
Humanized Messages for jQuery	295
Single Drop Down Menu	296

Chapter 21: Ten Design and Code Tricks 297

Detecting Browser Types	297
Animating a Background Image	299
Resizing Text	299
Disabling the Right-Click Menu	300
Loading jQuery from Google	301
Creating a Simple Slide Panel.....	302
Creating a Disappearing Effect.....	303
Using a jQuery Cheat Sheet	304
Making Elements Clickable.....	305
Streamlining document.ready Code.....	306

Chapter 22: Ten jQuery Resources 307

jQuery Web site	307
jQuery on Wikipedia.....	308
jQuery for Absolute Beginners Video Series.....	309

Visual jQuery.....	310
Use jQuery.....	311
jQuery Plug-ins.....	313
Smashing Magazine.....	314
Speckyboy Design Magazine.....	315
Nettuts+.....	315
Woorkup.....	316
<i>Index.....</i>	319

Introduction

jQuery is all around you. You see it on hugely popular sites such as Twitter and Facebook. When you visit Yahoo! or Google, there it is. Someone's Aunt Mary has a snazzy Web site with jQuery effects for her pet photography business. But there you are, using animated gifs. Your site looks dated, and you aren't keeping up with your competition. It's time for you to add the power of jQuery to your site.

Welcome to the first edition of *jQuery For Dummies*, the book that was written especially for people who want to include jQuery code and plug-ins on their Web sites but haven't a clue how to start.

Maybe you've already tried to add jQuery to your site, but the documentation you've found is targeted to programmers. You want to know how to add some simple but compelling jQuery effects to your pages or some great pre-built jQuery plug-ins, but you don't have the time to dig through tedious and yawn-inducing technical explanations of how to make it all work.

You need this book.

In *jQuery For Dummies*, I use everyday language to show you how to write jQuery code and use jQuery plug-ins. I don't assume that you know to program. You don't even need to know how to write HTML, although you'll get more out of this book if you do. The goal of this book is to show you, without the technical jargon, how to take advantage of jQuery with only a few lines of code added to your HTML pages.

About This Book

This isn't the kind of book you need to read from start to finish. You can pick up this book, turn to just about any page, and start reading. Each of its 22 chapters covers a specific aspect of jQuery — such as downloading jQuery, building simple jQuery effects, using amazing jQuery plug-ins, or integrating jQuery with popular Content Management Systems such as Drupal, Joomla!, and WordPress.

How to Use This Book

This book works like a reference. Decide on a topic you want to find out about. Look for it in the table of contents or in the index. Then turn to the area of interest and read as much as you need.

You don't have to memorize anything. This is a need-to-know book. Need to know how create an accordion menu? Pick up the book. Need to know how to fade in or fade out something on your Web page? Pick up the book. Want to find an awesome jQuery plug-in to display your photographs in an image gallery? You're all set.

This book rarely directs you elsewhere for information — just about everything that you need to know about jQuery is right here.

Finally, this book contains a lot of code. You can type the code or download it from the companion Web site at www.dummies.com/go/jqueryfd.

Foolish Assumptions

I'm making only one assumption about who you are: You're a nonprogrammer who has heard of jQuery and wants to add it to your own site. Both Macintosh and Windows users can use this book.

How This Book Is Organized

Inside this book, you find chapters arranged in seven parts. Each chapter breaks down into sections that cover various aspects of the chapter's main subject. The chapters are in a logical sequence, so reading them in order makes sense. But the book is modular enough that you can pick it up and start reading at any point.

Here's the lowdown on what's in each of the seven parts.

Part I: Getting Started with jQuery

The chapters in this part are a layperson's introduction to what jQuery is all about, where to get it, and how to use it in a Web page. This part is a good place to start if you've never looked at jQuery code, aren't clear on what a Web server is, and don't know how to build a basic Web page.

The best thing about Part I is that it starts at the very beginning and doesn't assume that you know how to download, upload, and build Web pages. It also

covers the most fundamental parts of using jQuery: connecting the jQuery library to a Web page, selecting elements on your Web page, and making special effects happen when you want them to. When you finish Part I, you'll be able to change the content or appearance of elements on your page when a visitor mouses over a link on your page, clicks an image, and more.

Part II: Affecting Elements with Effects

The goal of the chapters in Part II is to show you how to start changing the appearance of your Web page in response to user actions with jQuery. I take you beyond simply showing and hiding elements on a page to fun actions such as fading in and out and animating.

Part III: Manipulating Your Web Page

Whereas Part II focuses on making elements on your page move, fade in and out, and animate, Part III gets to the heart of the matter. This is where you find out how to change the text and content on your page.

Part IV: Using Plug-ins and Widgets

You take your site to a new level in Part IV, where you discover the plentiful free jQuery plug-ins developed by scores of talented programmers. The plug-ins are just waiting for you to download and integrate into your own site. And did I mention that they're free?

Part V: Building AJAX Applications

In Part V, you gain a broad understanding of AJAX and integrate some robust jQuery AJAX plug-ins into your own site. AJAX is complicated and can involve the integration of several programming languages. It's a topic that could easily fill up an entire book, but this part gives you a simple introduction and points you in the right direction for getting started.

Part VI: Integrating jQuery with Content Management Systems

Content Management Systems (CMS) are wildly popular, and it's no wonder. With a CMS, you can build an entire robust Web site in just a few hours. And

three of the most widely used CMS — Drupal, Joomla!, and WordPress — support jQuery. Part VI gives you pointers on including jQuery with all three.

Part VII: The Part of Tens

This wouldn't be a *Dummies* book without a collection of lists of interesting snippets: ten jQuery plug-ins or add-ons for your Web site, ten jQuery design tricks, and ten sites you can visit to find out even more about jQuery. You find all this in Part VII.

Icons Used in This Book

Those nifty little pictures in the margin aren't there to just pretty up the place. They also have practical functions.



Hold it — technical details lurk just around the corner. Read on only if you want to find out a little more about the inner workings of jQuery. But if your eyes glaze over, move on.



Pay special attention to this icon; it lets you know that some particularly useful tidbit is at hand — perhaps a shortcut or a little-used command that pays off big. And sometimes tips point you to important information in other parts of this book.



This icon indicates important, often basic, information that you should try to remember. You will need this information again and again, both in the examples in this book and in your own jQuery explorations.



Danger, Will Robinson! This icon highlights information that may help you avert disaster. And by disaster, I mean your code won't run, your plug-in won't function, and your day will be shot. You'll spend far too long trying to track down the problem. Instead, give this icon special attention.

Where to Go from Here

Yes, you can get there from here. With this book in hand, you're ready to add exciting jQuery effects and functionality to your Web pages. Browse through the table of contents and decide where you want to start. Your Web pages will never be the same!

Part I

Getting Started with jQuery

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



“We should cast a circle, invoke the elements,
and direct the energy. If that doesn’t work,
we’ll read the manual.”

In this part . . .

You have to begin somewhere, and here's the place. Before you can use jQuery, you have to get the jQuery library. Then you need to know what to do with it. And just what is jQuery, anyway? These chapters give you all the answers.

After you have the jQuery library squared away, it's time to use it. Simply follow the clear, easy examples to add code to your Web page.

You'll also discover how to pinpoint Web page elements, such as images, divs, and links. And how to call jQuery when specific events occur, such as when an element is clicked or a div is moused over.

If you don't know anything about jQuery, or you don't know how to select elements, or you don't know how to detect events, start here.

Chapter 1

Getting Up and Running with jQuery

In This Chapter

- ▶ Getting jQuery
 - ▶ Creating a test environment
 - ▶ Using jQuery in a Web page
 - ▶ Executing code after a Web page loads
-

Perhaps you're reading this book because you need to create an image viewer for your Web site. Maybe you want to make something on your page fade in and out. Or maybe you want to give visitors to your site a way to upload files. jQuery can help you add hundreds of impressive interactive effects to your Web page quickly and easily.

In this chapter, you find an overview of how jQuery works, how to use it in your own Web pages, and how to create your first simple Web page with a jQuery effect.

Finding Out What jQuery Can Do for You

jQuery gives Web developers and designers an easy way to create sophisticated effects with almost no coding. Because jQuery is so easy to implement, its popularity is growing. You see examples of jQuery all over the Web. Facebook and Twitter, for example, use a number of jQuery effects.

When you post a new tweet on Twitter, the page doesn't reload. Instead, the code behind the Web page calls a jQuery function to make your new tweet appear and all the other tweets on your page move down. Another jQuery feature on Twitter is the notification you receive when a new tweet arrives, as shown in Figure 1-1.

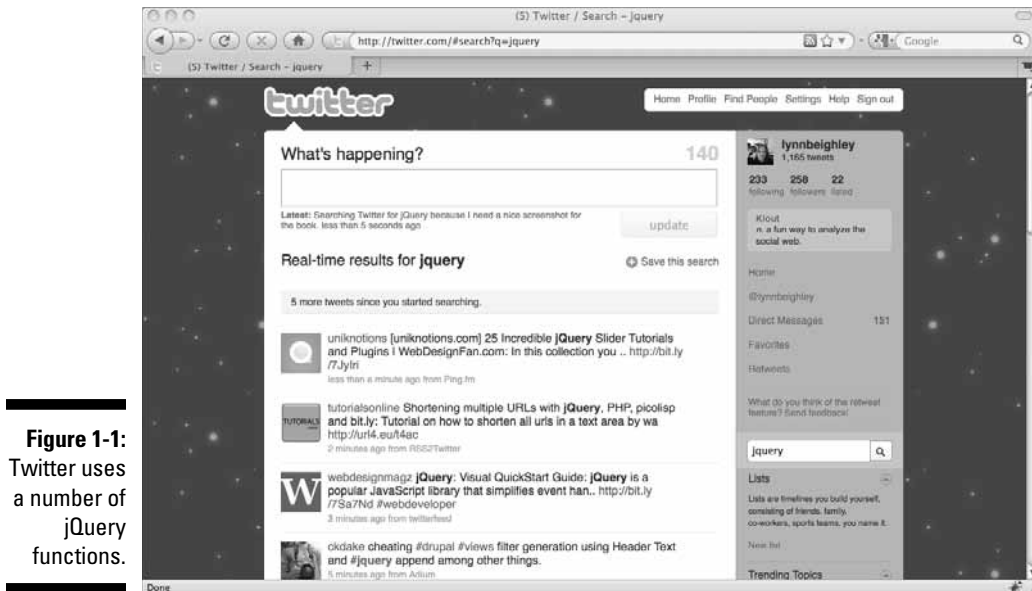


Figure 1-1: Twitter uses a number of jQuery functions.

If you click the notification, the new tweets appear on your page, and the older tweets slide down. The Web page never reloads; instead, the content on the page changes dynamically.

Defining jQuery

To understand jQuery, it helps to know a little about JavaScript, a programming language that your Web browser understands. JavaScript code can interact with images and text on your Web page — for example, hiding an image, moving text, or changing content after a certain period of time or when a visitor to your page does something, such as roll his mouse cursor over a link. JavaScript code can make an image appear when someone visiting a Web page clicks a button, can make a window pop up 30 seconds after you browse to a Web page, or can check to make sure a visitor to your site filled out a Web form correctly. JavaScript is robust and commonly used to add interactivity and dynamic effects to Web pages. But JavaScript is a complete programming language, and to use it effectively, you have to learn to program.

jQuery is an add-on library for JavaScript. Think of jQuery as JavaScript code that's been written for you. In general, all you have to do is include a line or two of code in your page that calls the jQuery code. jQuery does the hard JavaScript coding work for you.