hi
Uncommon JavaScript Libraries in WordPress

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What do you mean “uncommon”?

Libraries not used in ‘typical’ development.
Ok, but what is “typical development”?
I don’t know.
Some common JavaScript tasks:

Parse data from objects
Add/remove attributes of nodes
Add/remove nodes
Populate nodes
Animate nodes
Validate data
Make something wiggle a little on :hover
Time Travel
weee
JavaScript!!!
JavaScript can do anything.

But I try to live by these wise words...
“Never do with JavaScript what you can with... not JavaScript.”

- Abraham Lincoln
A few libraries we’re all familiar with:

jQuery
Grunt and Gulp
MooTools
Chosen
Backbone
Angular
Ember
Scriptaculous

...yadda yadda who cares
There are two primary reasons
...to use an unfamiliar JavaScript library...
1. Use a different approach to solve a recurring problem.
Why? Learn something new.

- Consider a fresh approach to an old problem
- Learn new skills
- Have fun
- Learning
- Learn
- Learn stuff
- Learn things about stuff
2. The new library is required by the project.
Ok, but what’s included in core?
Let’s take a look...
jQuery (core, multiple sub-libraries)
jQuery UI (core, multiple sub-libraries)
Thickbox
Iris
MediaElement
TinyMCE
Underscore
Backbone
..and some others, as well as core js, such as media-upload, admin-gallery, wp-ajax-response
There are many.
Check out the wp_scripts global.
Whenever possible, use core.

Don’t leave the house for milk if there’s already perfectly good milk in your refrigerator.
However, core might not be what the project needs.
Here are some fancy use-cases.

One possible solution will follow, in the form of a cool JavaScript library.
Use Case:

“I need this data to be represented as an infinite landscape of constantly-scrolling waffles”
Sure, I’ll use **Three.js**.

*also I’ll need a deposit of twenty-thousand dollars*
Use Case:

“I need a detailed, scrolling timeline of events”
Welcome to TimelineJS

TimelineJS is an open-source tool that enables you to build visually-rich interactive timelines and is available in 40 languages.

You're looking at an example of one right now.

Click on the arrow to the right to learn more.
Use Case:

“I need to make a complex, multi-thread timeline-based animation”
Greensock Animation Platform

GSAP
The new standard for HTML5 animation

The new standard for HTML5 animation
Use Case:

“I need safe, reliable form validation”
Use Gravity Forms, what’s wrong with you
j/k, sometimes it needs to be custom

**Parsley** is a popular option for form validation.
Use Case:

“I need a library that generates a fart sound when a user scrolls up or down a page”
Wow. Maybe talk with your client.
But yes, there’s a library for that.
Ok, no more examples.
What are some risks? How weird can this get?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

Does core have a version of this library already?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

Does core have a version of this library already?

Yes?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

Does core have a version of this library already?

Yes? Yes? Yes?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

Does core have a version of this library already?

Yes? Yes?

It does?
Then what are you doing?
Then what are you doing?

........is it jQuery?
Is it jQuery?
IS IT??????!
ARE YOU ENQUEUEING YOUR OWN JQUERY?!?!!
(Please don’t do that)
“Search through core before adding more.”
- Burt Reynolds
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

How will this affect DOM scope?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

How late can I defer loading?
Risks: Things to ask when adding a library

Should I consider a no-js fallback?
developer

...and Director of Snarky Comments about Slider Plugins

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Thank you.

k bye

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