

Theme Changer Tutorial

By Jefferson Hulbert
Edited by Kathleen Schmidt
Special Thanks & Sources at End of Tutorial

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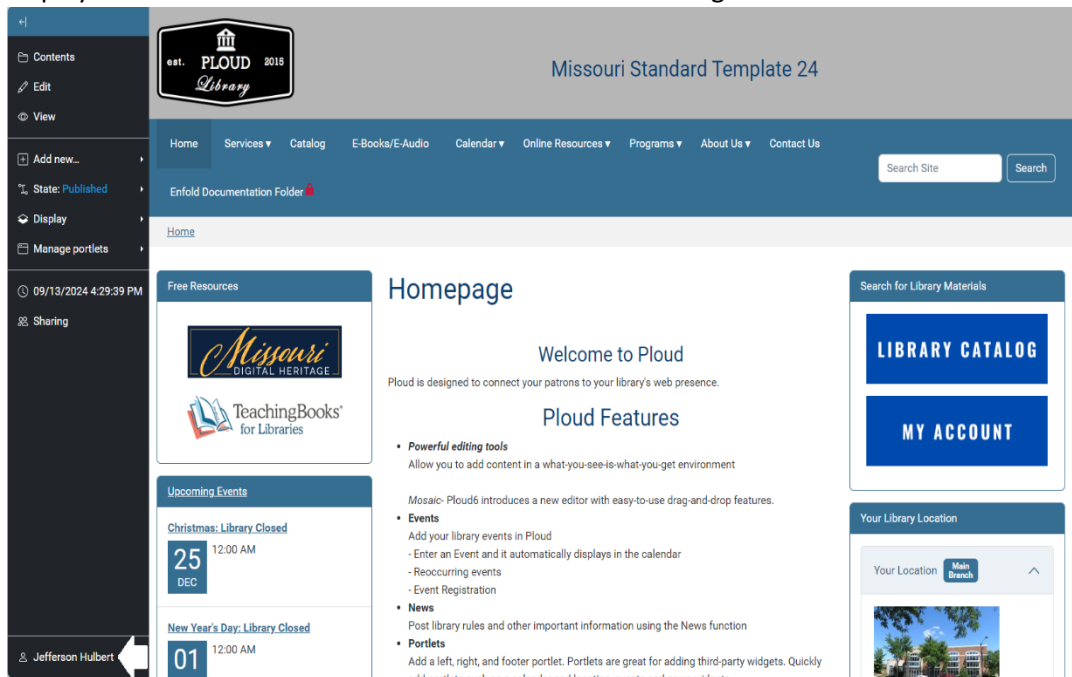
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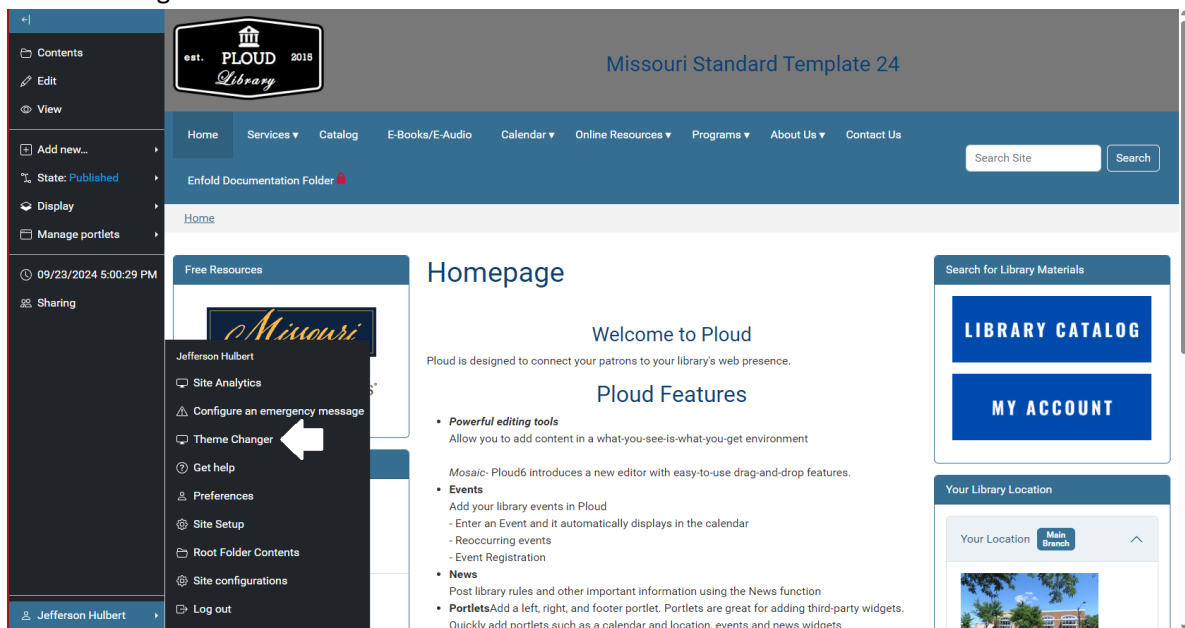
This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Getting to the Theme Changer

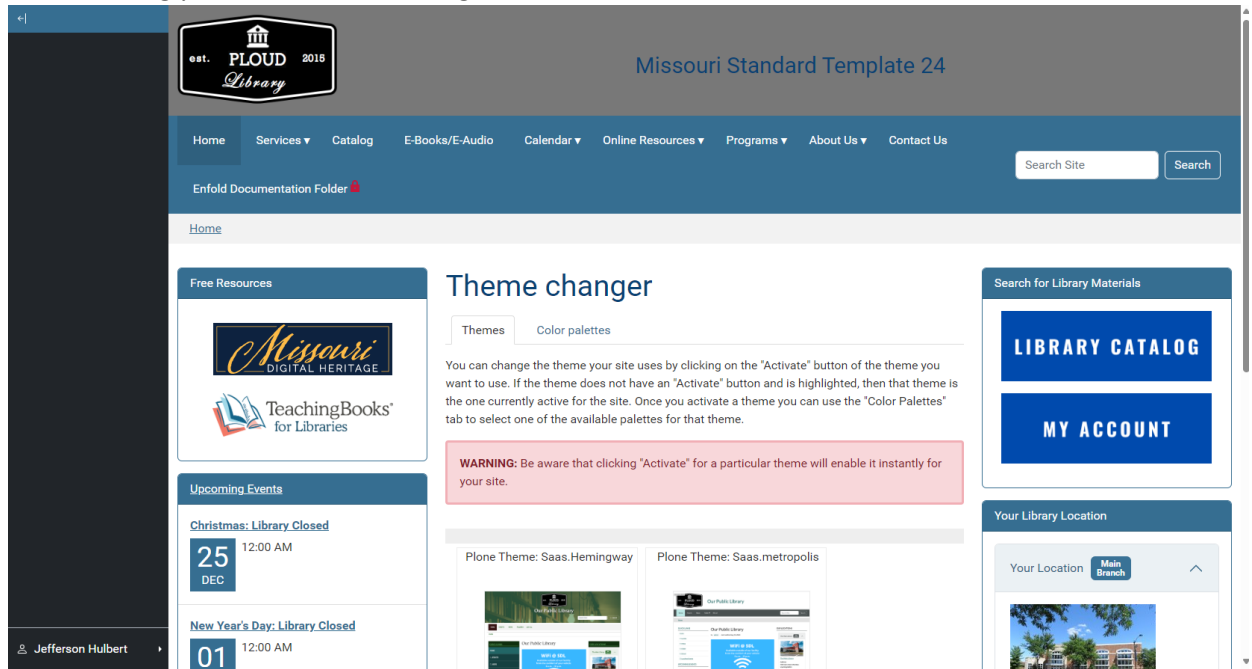
1. To begin, we will need to locate the admin button on the bottom left of the screen. It will also display the name associated with the account if it has enough room.



2. Once you select this option, a menu should appear. From this menu, you will want to select Theme Changer.



3. This will bring you to the Theme Changer section of the site.



4. As of the writing of this tutorial, you will have four options to select from: Saas.Hemingway, Saas.metropolis, Saas.theme, and Saas.slate.
5. Each theme comes with its own set of options and defaults, and we will go over them at least in part later in this tutorial. However, there is probably something useful you should know if you are switching over from Ploud (4) to Ploud (6) before we begin.
6. One benefit of Ploud (6) over Ploud (4) is that the templates are overall more uniform with each other. For example, in Ploud (4), the admin button would move based on theme; however, in Ploud (6), the admin button will always remain in the bottom left-hand corner regardless of theme.

Changing the Theme

- To change your theme, you will need to select **Activate** within that theme's respective box. In this example, selecting **Saas.slate's** **Activate** button would change the theme from the **Saas.theme**, theme to the **Saas.slate** theme.

TeachingBooks[®] for Libraries

Upcoming Events

Christmas: Library Closed
25 DEC 12:00 AM

New Year's Day: Library Closed
01 JAN 12:00 AM

Memorial Day: Library Closed
26 MAY 12:00 AM

Example News Item
Apr 03, 2024

Jefferson Hulbert

WARNING: Be aware that clicking "Activate" for a particular theme will enable it instantly for your site.

Phone Theme: Saas.Hemingway
A Diazo based Phone theme
Activate

Phone Theme: Saas.metropolis
A Diazo based Phone theme
Activate

Phone Theme: Saas.slate
A Diazo based Phone theme
Activate

Phone Theme: Saas.theme (active)
A Diazo based Phone theme

MY ACCOUNT

Your Library Location

Your Location Main Branch

Address
4118 FANNIN ST, Houston, TX 77004

Phone Numbers
(123) 123-4567

Hours
Enter your hours of operation here
Monday - Friday 9:00 Am - 6:00 PM
Saturday 11:00 Am - 5:00 PM
Sunday - Closed

- If a theme box does not have an **Activate** button, that means it is your currently applied theme.

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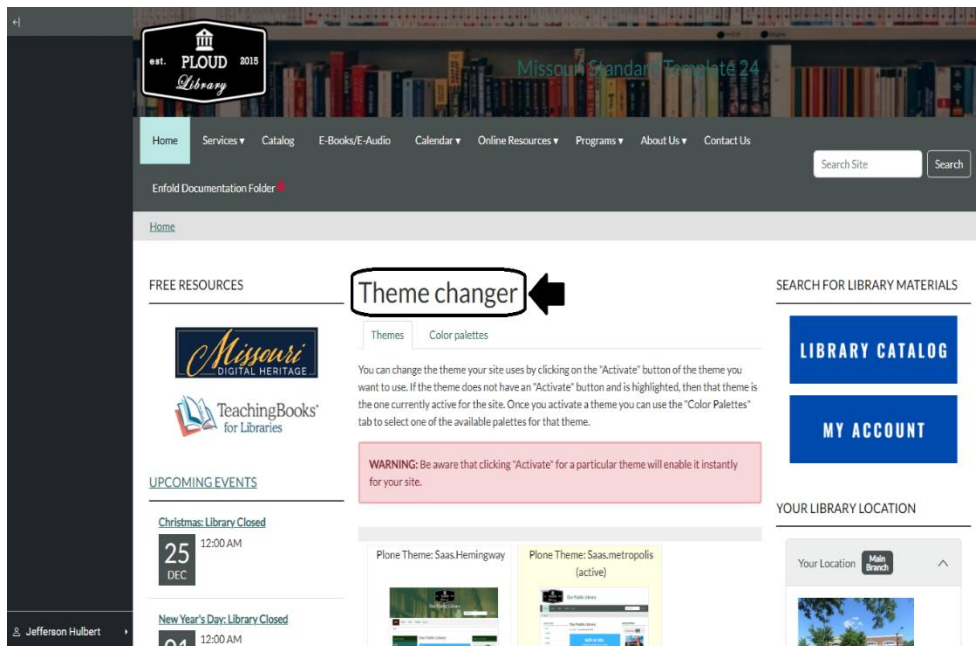
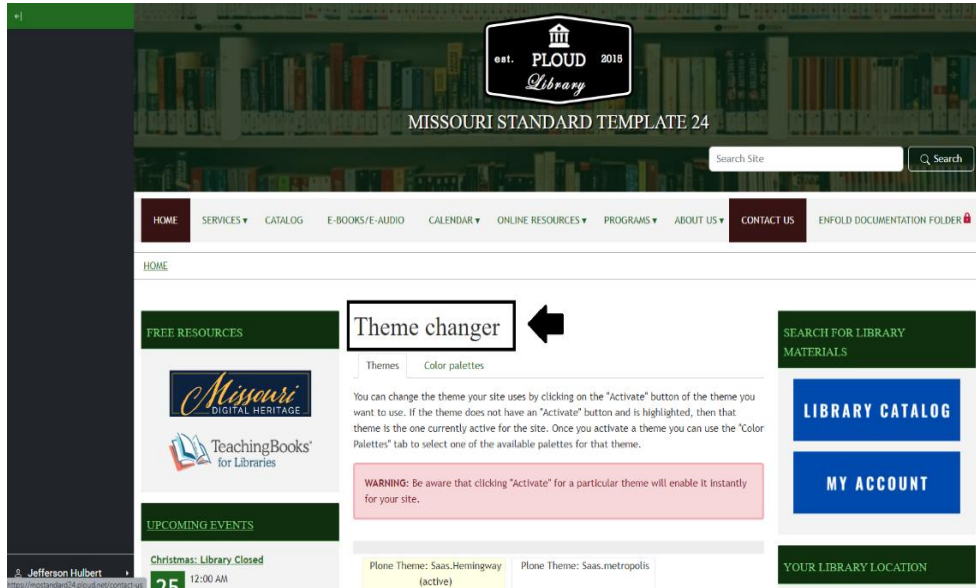
Phone Numbers
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We are currently on the Saas.theme - Theme

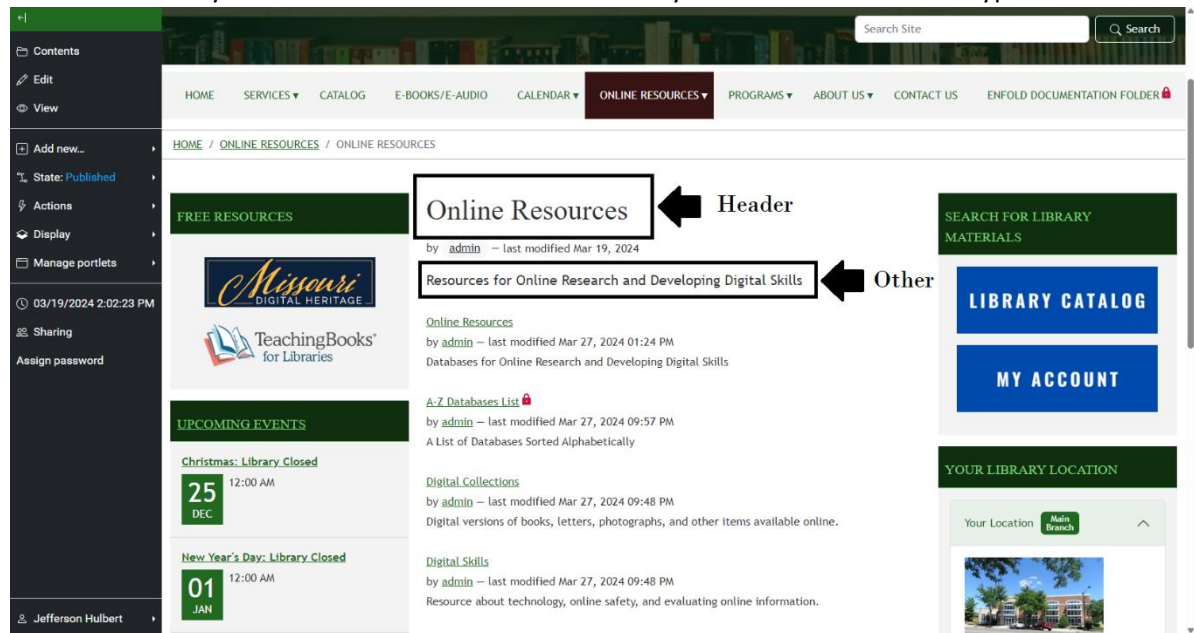
Choice of Theme's Effect on Font

9. Your choice of theme will change a few things. First, it will set a default font type for the website. For example, the header font in this menu changes from when we changed from Saas.Hemingway to Saas.metropolis. In the Saas.Hemingway theme, the text "Theme Changer" is written in Palatino font, while in the Saas.metropolis theme, it is written in Lato.



10. The font of the theme, for the most part, will be consistently used throughout the site, so this gives you a general idea of how your text will look.

11. The Saas.Hemingway theme is a bit of an oddity in that it will display your headings and default title font in one font and other elements in another. Based on my testing, it seems like this rule is consistently applied to the respective elements; however, other themes use the same font or one that is closely resembles that font more consistently in all different element types.

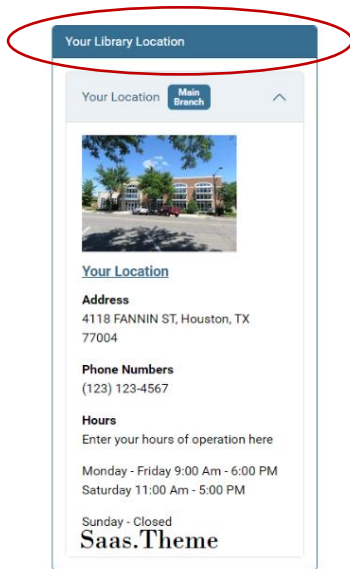


12. However, before selecting a theme based on its font, it is important to know that there could be some variation for how it appears to you vs. other users. While it is beyond the scope of the tutorial to explain exactly why, in part because I'm not super familiar with how this works, the short answer is that not all computers have all the same font types installed and not all browsers support all font types, so the website will keep checking for font types until it finds one that is compatible. Go to [Special Thanks – Font Family Information](#) in this document for more information.
13. Pages can be customized, so their body text can appear in a different font than the theme indicates. To learn how to do so, please contact the State Library.

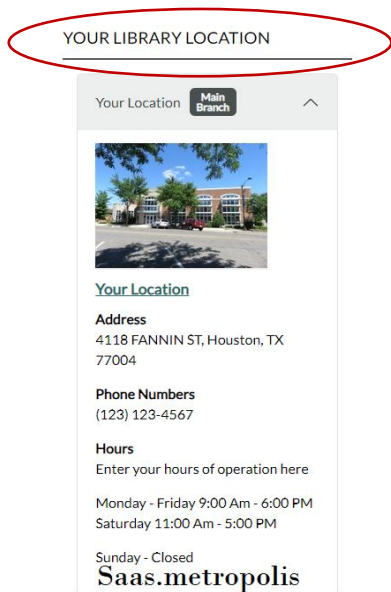
Choice of Theme's Effect on Portlets

14. Your choice of theme will also make other visual changes to your site. For example, let's look at the same portlet in different themes.

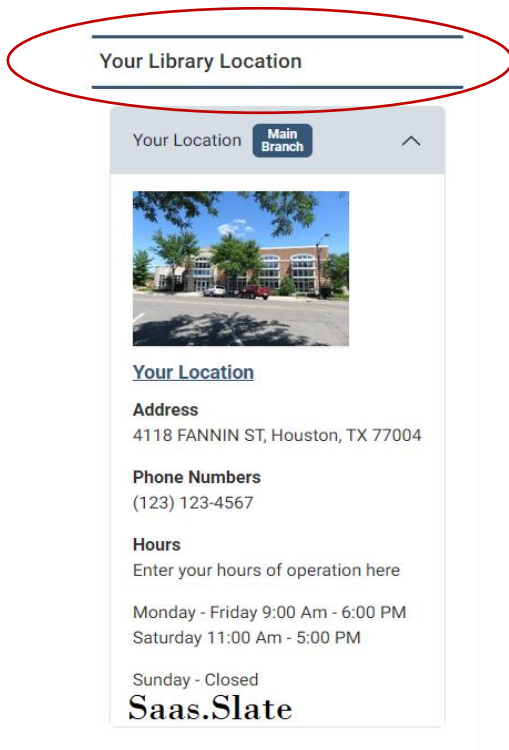
15. In Saas.theme, instead of having the label be above the box, it merges the label inside the box giving it this effect:



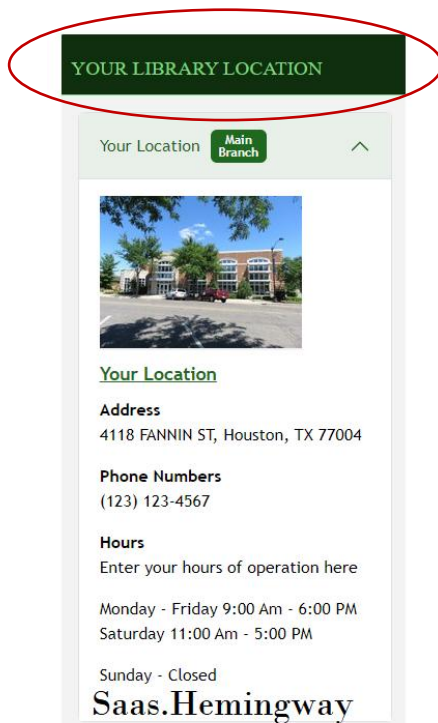
16. Saas.metropolis has one thick line underneath the label:



17. Saas.slate has two lines one above the Your Library Location label and one below:



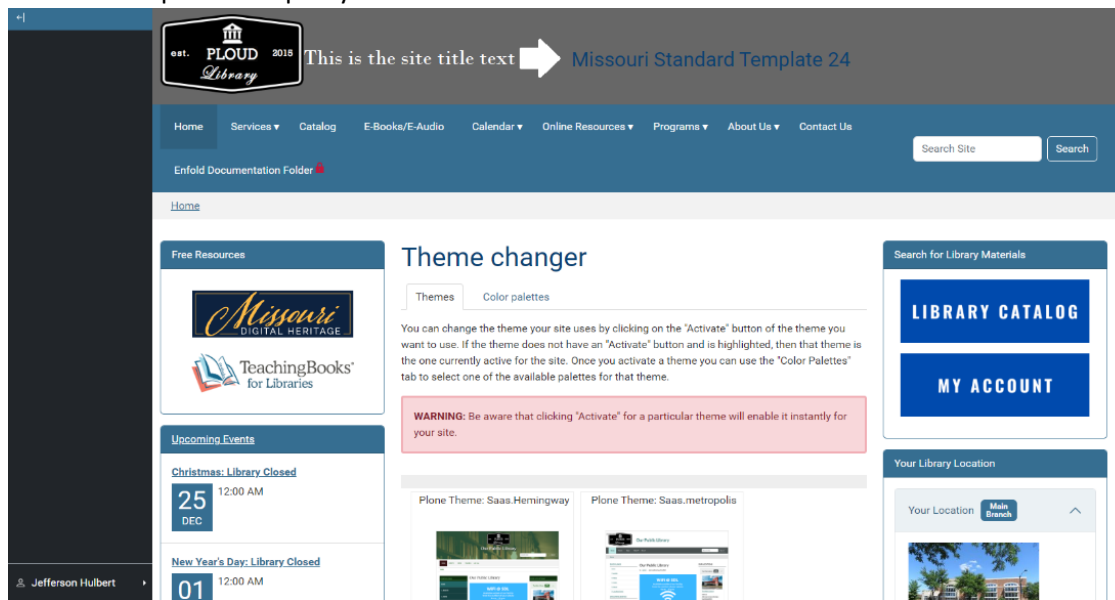
18. Saas.Hemingway is similar to Saas.theme, the only major difference being all of the palettes apply a notable background color, whereas only one palette in Saas.theme does.



19. Other portlets might have slight visual differences depending on which theme you choose; thus, a good rule of thumb is to look at your portlets as you switch between themes and decide which one you like the most.

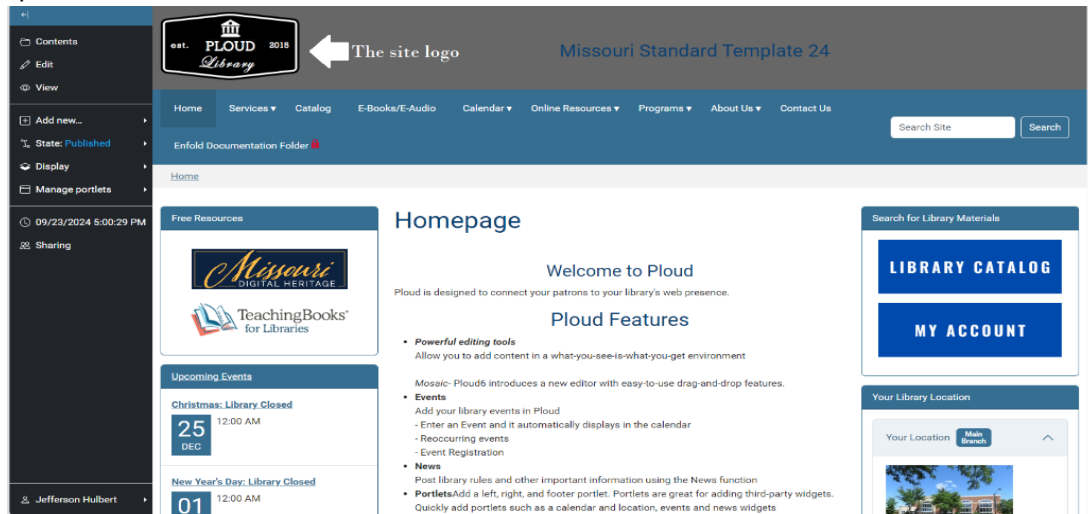
Choice of Theme's Effect on Site Title Text and Logo

20. Another visual element your choice of theme will impact is your site title text; this is the image that shows up at the top of your site.

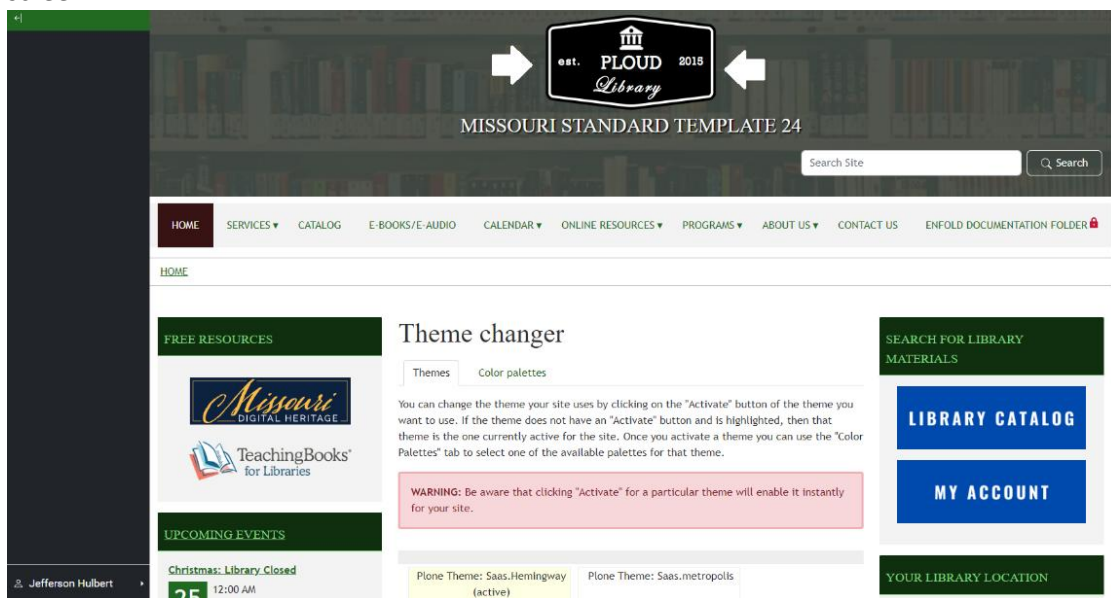


21. Depending on how your site configurations are set up, changing your theme may change the font color and font type of the site title text.
22. How the site title text looks and its positioning can be overridden. To find out how to do so, please consult our [Site Configurations Tutorial](#).
23. The choice of theme can also influence where your site logo is located. However, this is a little complicated as this varies based on device.

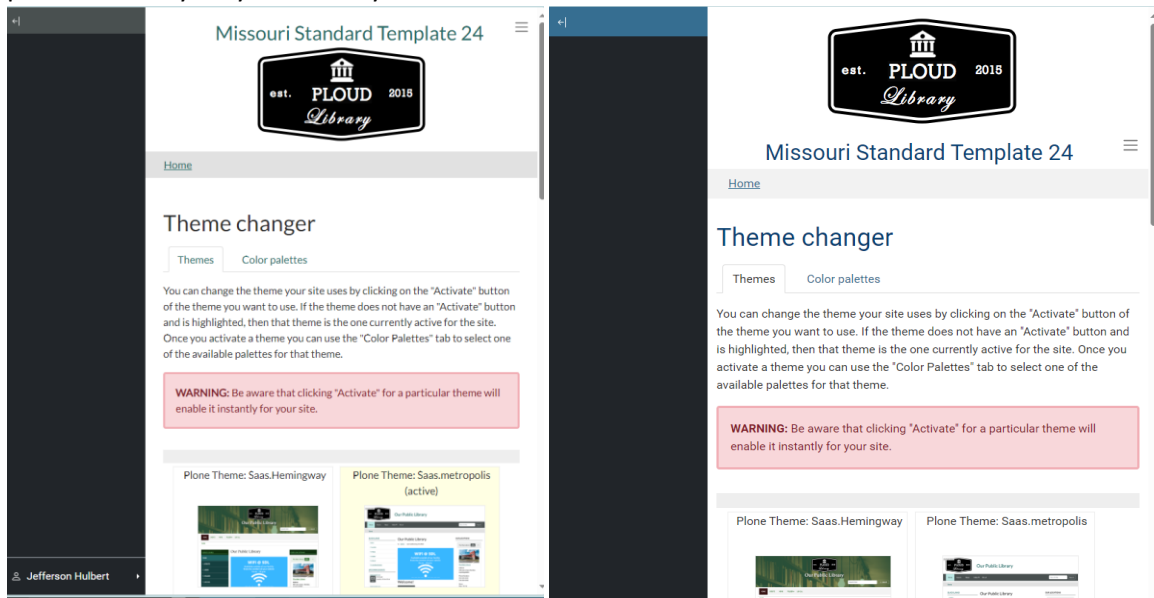
24. On desktop, most themes will place the site logo on the left assuming that there is enough space.



25. The exception is Saas.Hemingway, which defaults to having the site logo in the middle of the screen.



26. If you condense the window on desktop, it will push it towards the middle though its exact placement may vary based on your theme and device.



27. Thus, we recommend you test your site for how it will display on **mobile devices** and on **desktops**.



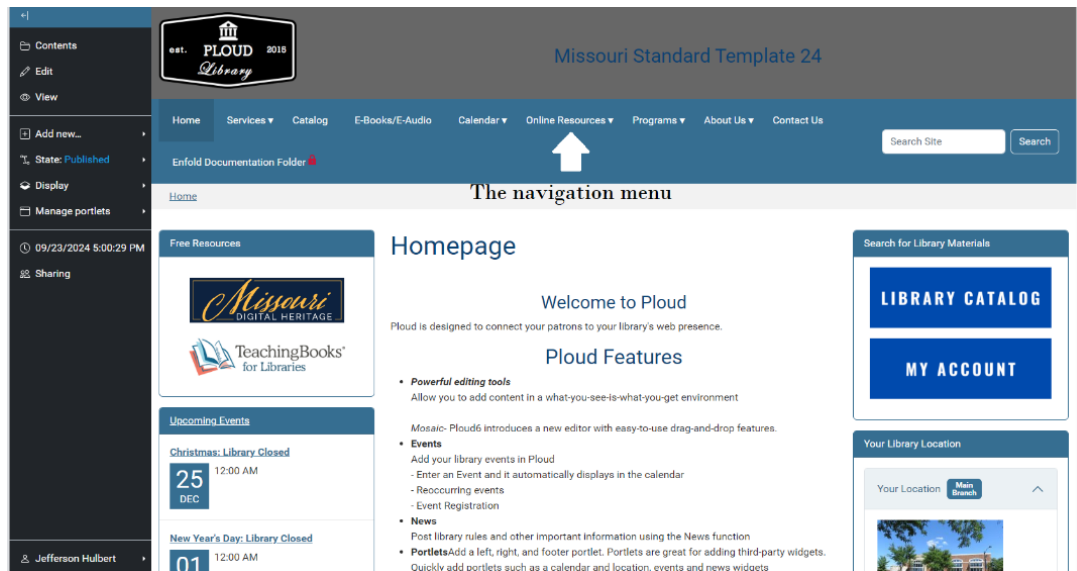
[HOME](#)

Homepage

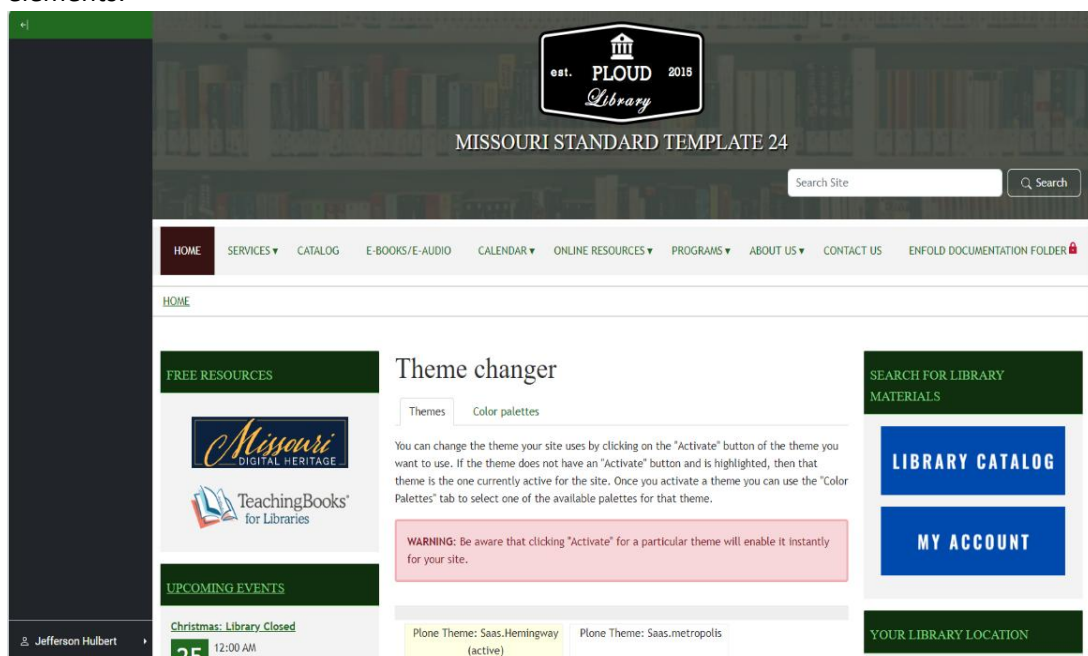
Choice of Theme's Effect on Navigation Menu

28. Another more significant change is how each one handles the navigation menu for desktop users.

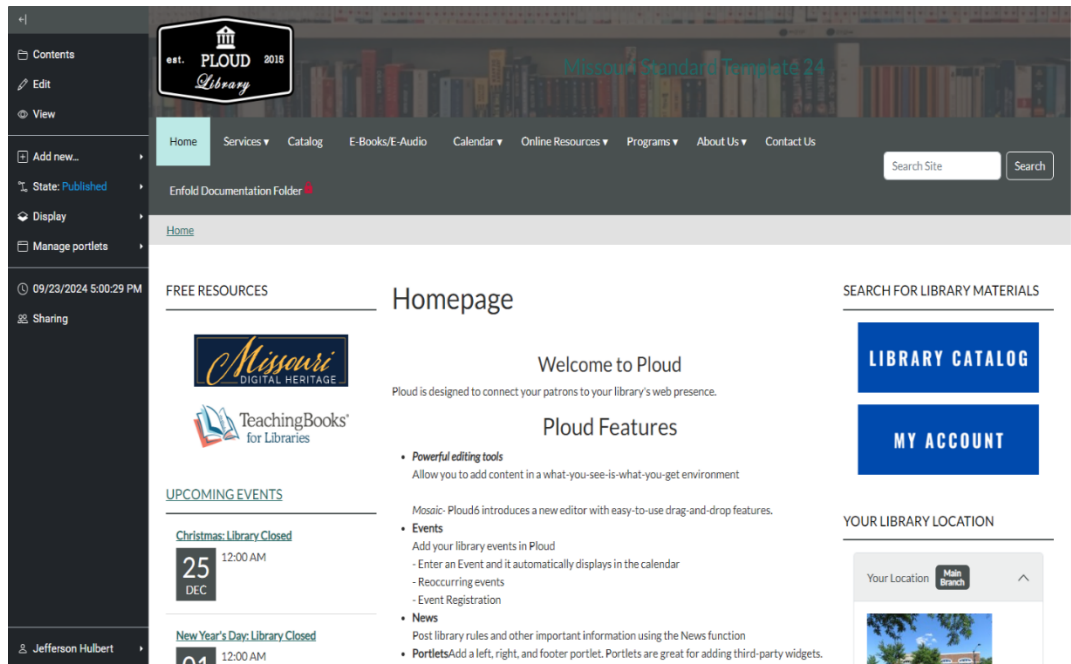
29. The navigation menu will be located near the top of the site and, on desktops, look something like this:



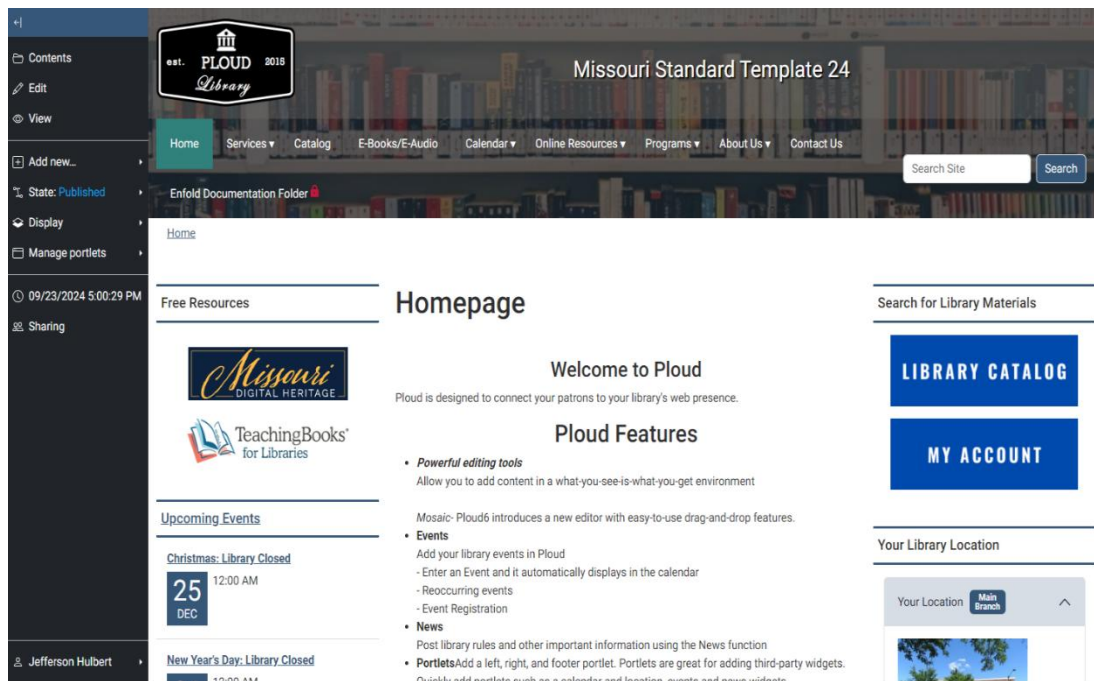
30. Saas.Hemingway puts a small barrier between the navigation menu and the rest of the header elements.



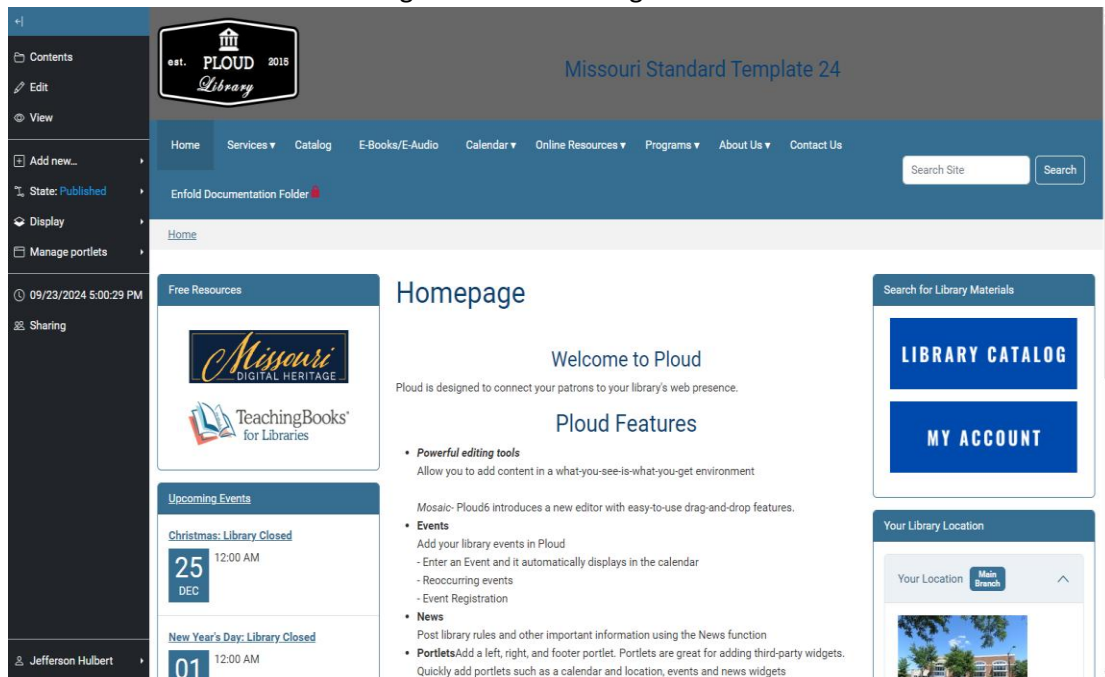
31. Saas.metropolis has the navigation menu with a solid background color and is with the rest of the header elements:



32. Saas.slate has it so that the navigation menu will appear as a mostly transparent film with the rest of the header elements:

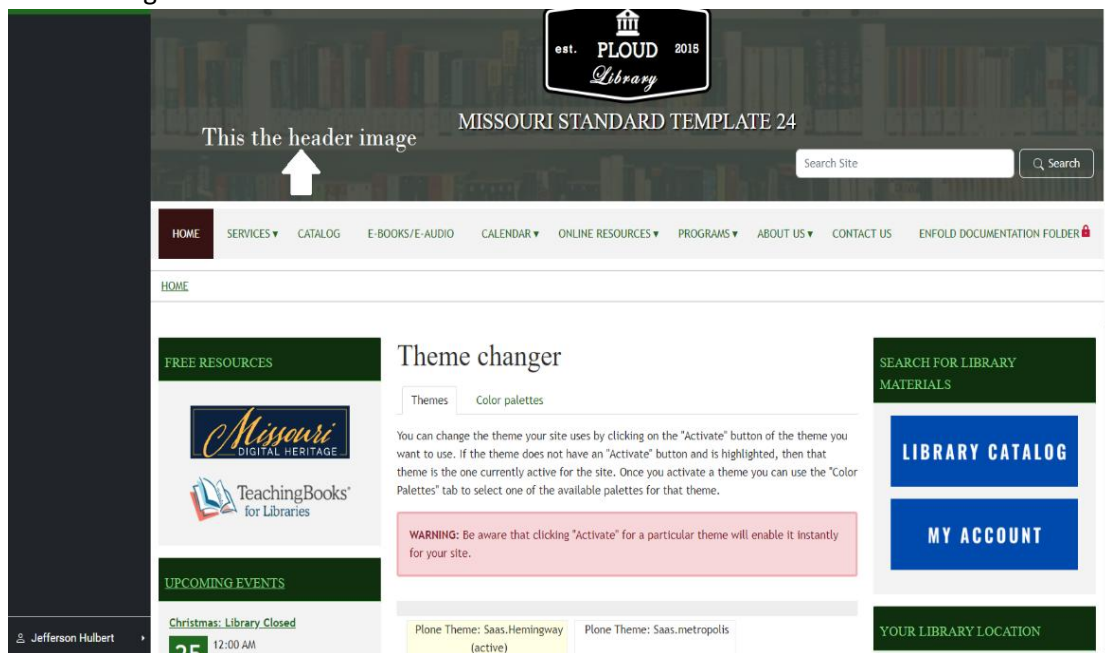


33. Saas.theme also has a solid background for the navigation menu:

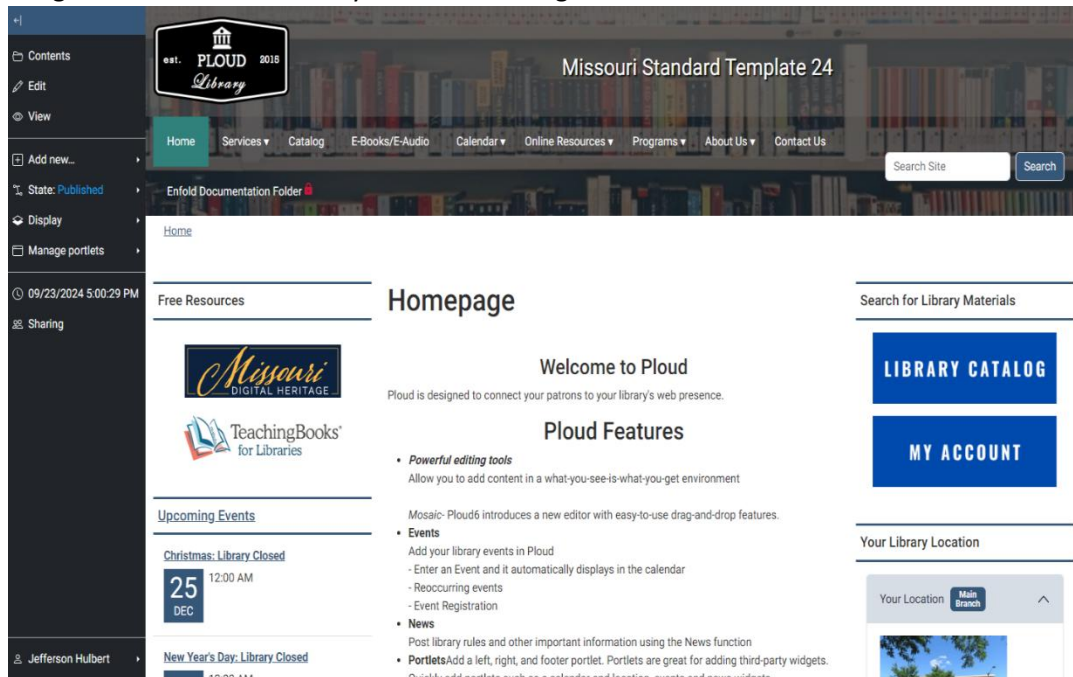


Choice of Theme's Effect on Header Image

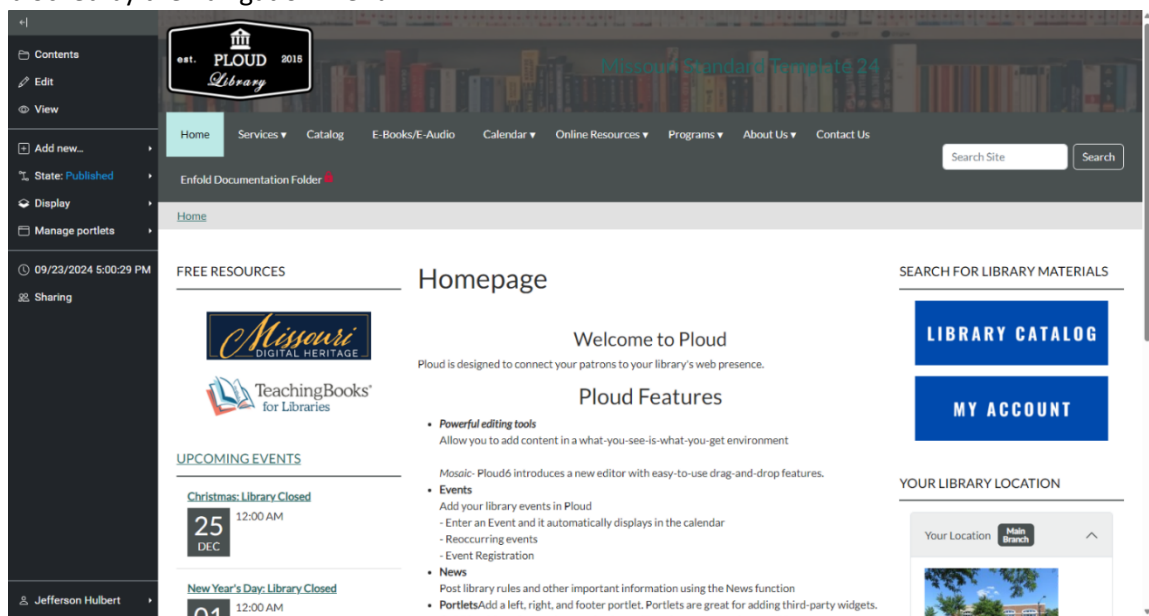
34. The other element that most drastically changes between themes is how they handle the header image.



35. Both Saas.Hemingway as seen above and Saas.slate as seen below will have most of the header image visible due to how they handle the navigation menu.



36. Saas.metropolis and Saas.theme have a header image visible, but on desktop, it is partially blocked by the navigation menu.



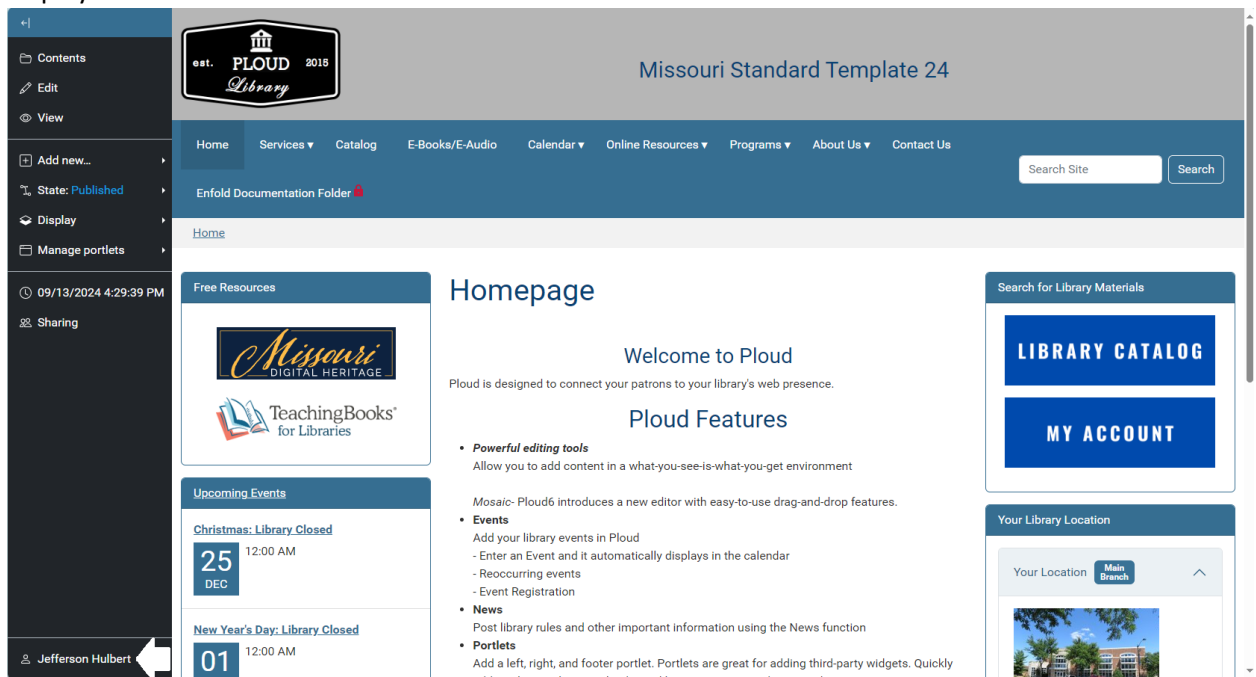
37. Saas.theme was recently updated to also allow the use of a header image.

38. These elements such as the header image, site logo, among others can be altered in the Site configurations. To learn how to make these changes, please consult the [Site Configurations Tutorial](#).

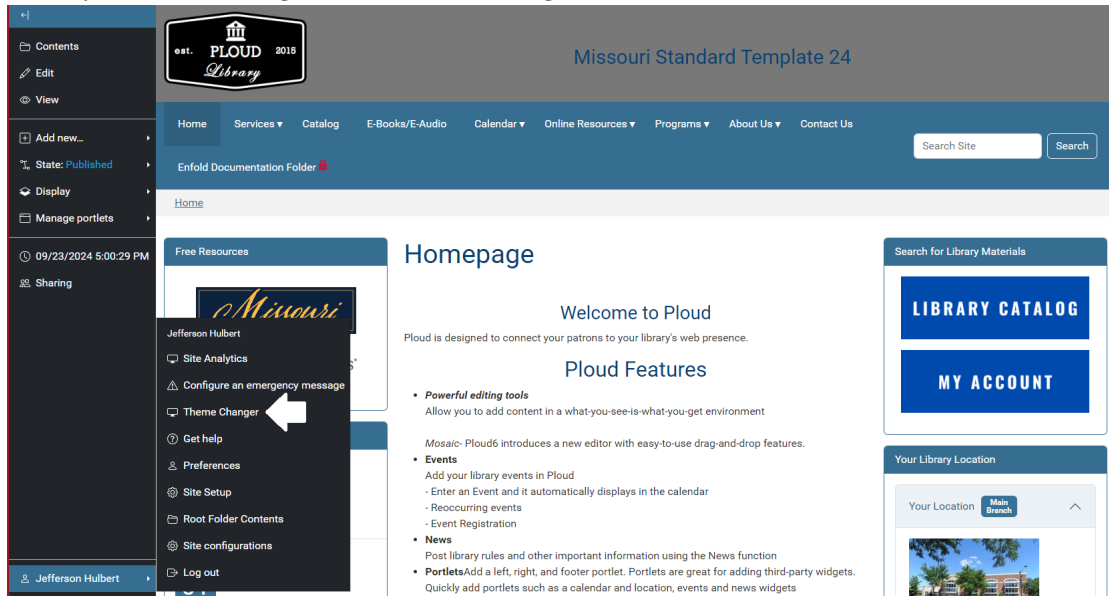
Changing the Color Palette

39. You are not simply limited to the preset colors on the theme. Each theme comes with its own set of palettes for you to choose from. However, keep in mind that these palettes get reset to the default every time you change themes, so make sure you note which palette you were using if you are considering changing themes.

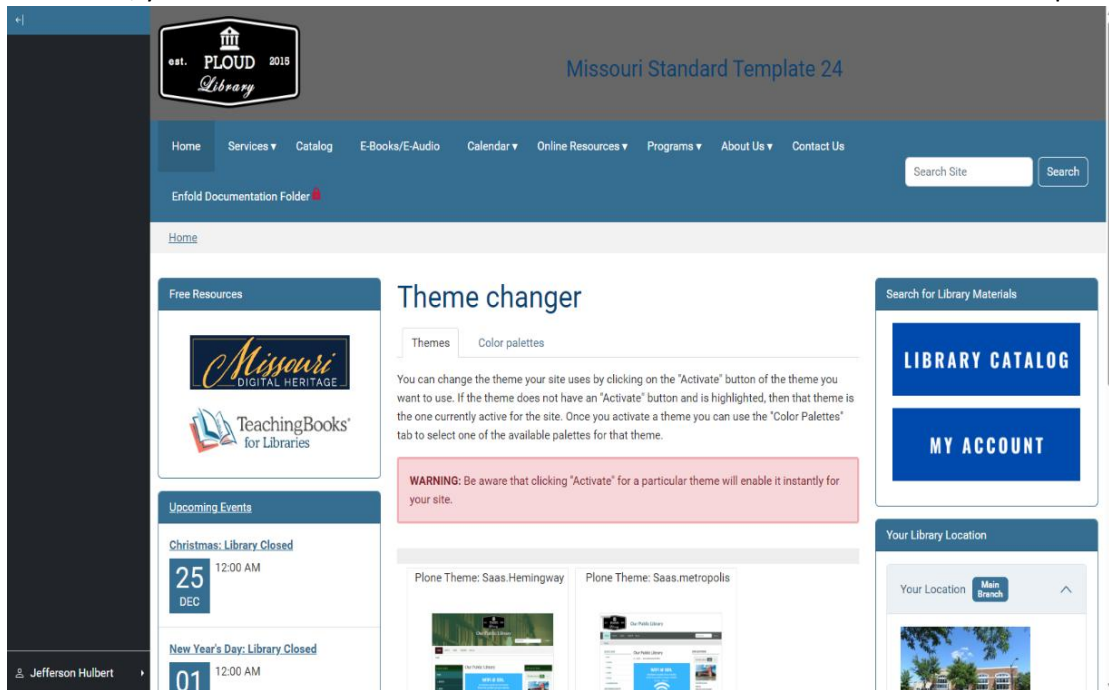
40. To change a theme's palette, go to your admin menu in the bottom lefthand corner. It will display the name associated with the account.



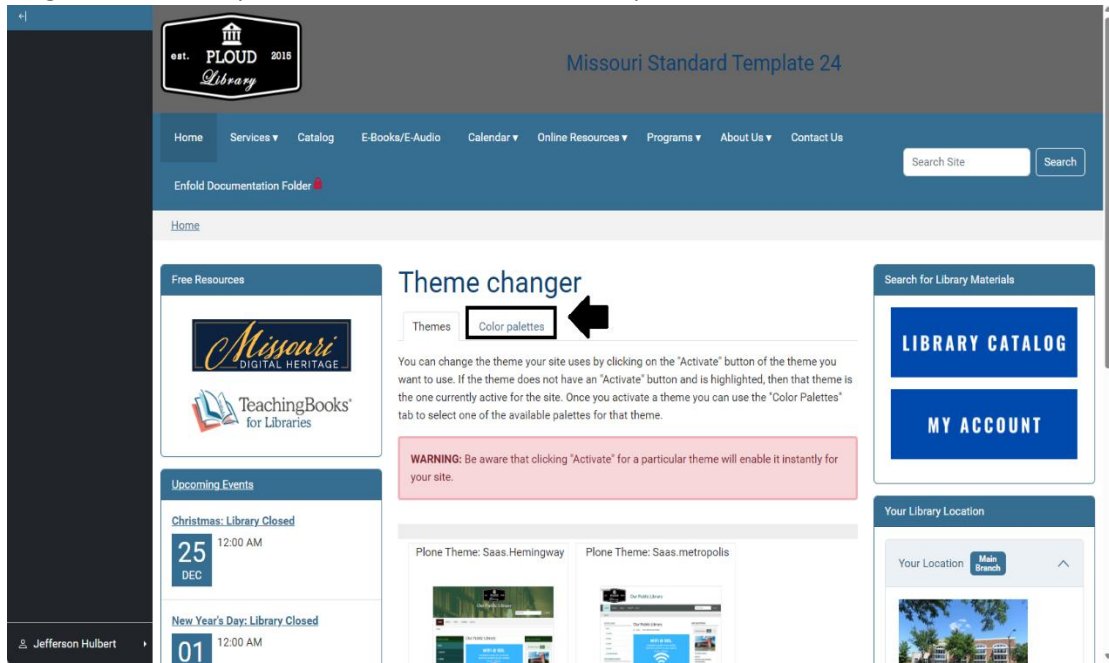
41. Then, you will want to go to the Theme Changer.



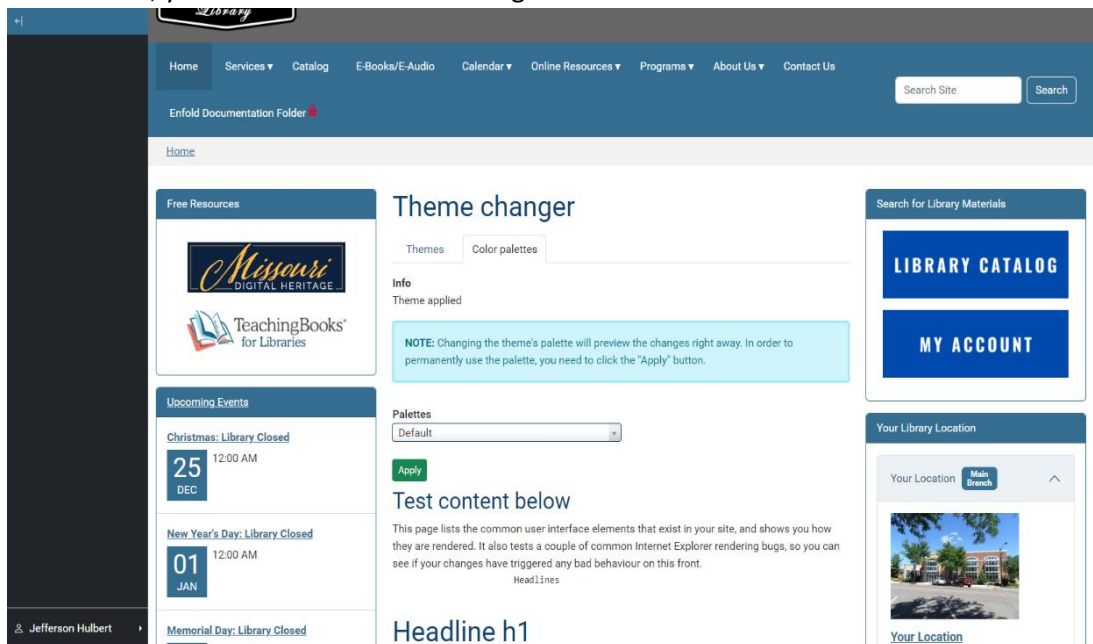
42. Once here, you will see two tabs in the center: one labeled Themes and the other Color palettes.



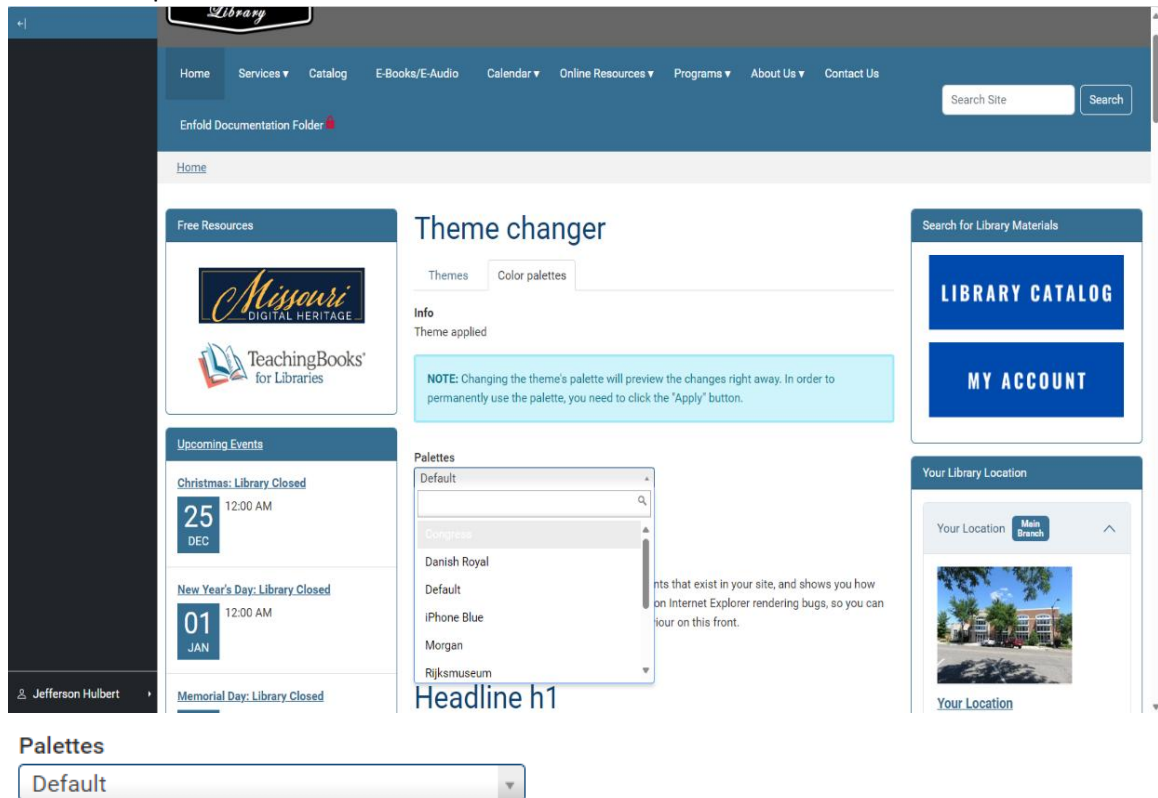
43. To get to the Color palettes section, select the Color palettes tab on this screen.



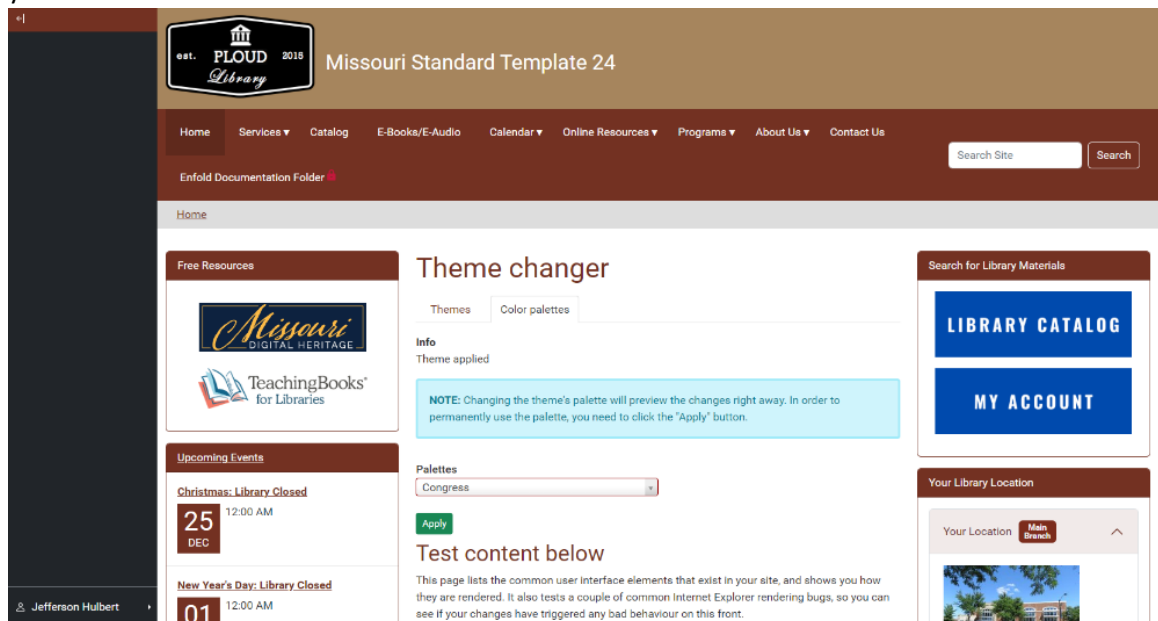
44. If successful, you should see this something similar to this:



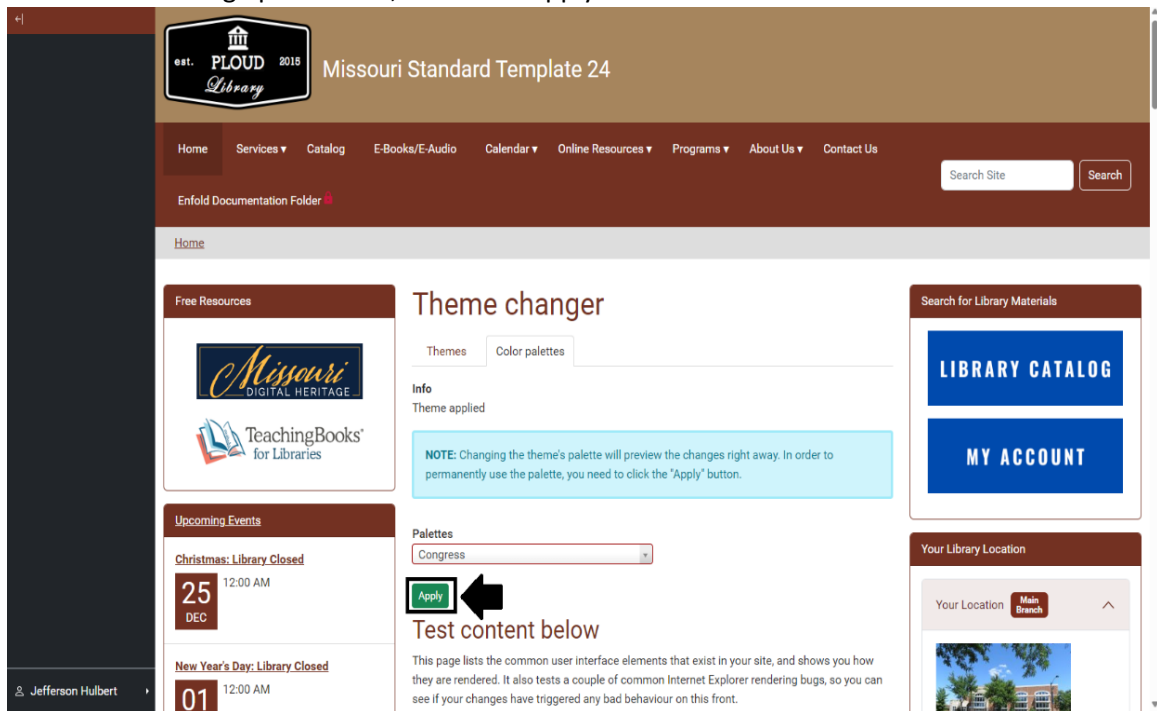
45. Each of the different themes comes with multiple different palettes. To preview one, use the Palettes drop-down menu and select one.



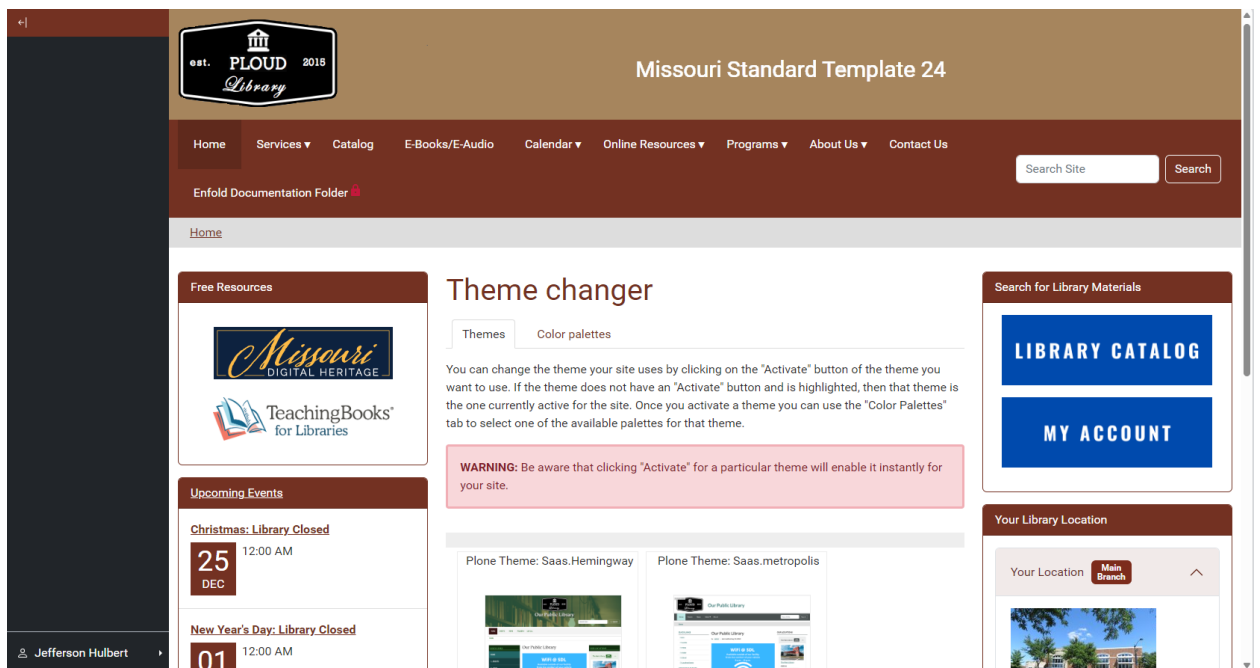
46. This will temporarily apply a different color palette. Note: there is a glitch that will temporarily align your site title text to the left in preview mode, but this will likely go away once you finalize your choice.



47. To make this change permanent, select the Apply button.



48. In our example, since the palette was applied, the site title has moved back to the middle of the screen.



49. Remember, if it is not looking exactly right after you select Apply, one of the first things you should try is clearing the cache and seeing if that fixes the issue.
50. You may also want to consult the [Site Configurations Tutorial](#) to adjust the header overlay color as a part of your testing.
51. You may need to experiment a little bit to figure out what works best for you and all of your patrons. Keep testing and figure out the perfect combination!

Special Thanks

- Nora Wesselmann – Author of Original Missouri State Library Tutorial for Ploud Themes
- [Enfold Knowledge Base](#)
- Erik Kulvinskis & Enfold Team – for training relating to the differences between Ploud 4 and 6 (particularly for the portlets), also for fixing a bug related to Font rendering

Identifying Fonts

Be careful some of the following sites are trying to sell or recommend a service.

- Erik D. Kennedy – [Identifying Fonts the Complete Guide](#)
- Itmar haim – [What font is this? How to See what Font a Website is using?](#)
- Will Morris – [How to see What Font a Website is using](#)
- Gaurav Rajput – [Response to Checking the Website font](#)

Importance of Mobile Testing

Be careful some of the following sites are trying to sell or recommend a service.

- Vijayakumar Arunachalam – [Important of Mobile Responsive Testing and its Challenges](#)
- Maria-Cristina Muntean – [Why Testing your Website on Different Screen Sizes is Critical for User Experience](#)
- Kelvin – [Mobile App Web Testing](#)
- George Mason University – [How to... test your website for mobile devices](#)

Font Family Information

- John Korchok – [Response to Palatino Font Missing](#)
- W3 Schools – [CSS Font-Family Property](#) and [HTML DOM Font Family](#)
- FogleBird & S. Navarro – [Stack Overflow Answer to Multiple Fonts in Font-Family Property](#)
- MDn – [Web Docs: Font Family](#)
- Rikard – [Response to Palatino Font not loading on windows](#)
- Yuhao.L – [Replies to Web fonts - rendering using a font that's not installed](#)
- Esther – [Response to Why do some websites keep using local fonts?](#)

Span Font Family

- Cat Code – [Specifying Font Family](#)
- Michael Pilgaard – [Font Type and Font size for text in HTML](#)

Old Ploud Tutorials

- Enfold Systems – [Introduction to Ploud Illinois Libraries](#)
- Dean Davis – [Illinois Introduction YouTube Video](#)
- Texas Ploud Home – [Palette Cheat Sheet](#) (Out of date/Based on Ploud 4)
- Library of Michigan: Michigan's Ploud Home – [Basic Functionality](#)
- Michigan Department of Education – [Ploud -- New Template YouTube Video](#) (based on Ploud 4)
- Library of Michigan: Michigan's Ploud Home – [Basic Functionality](#)
- Texas Ploud Home – [Training Videos](#)