COMP 3005 Project Proposal

Background

This project is motivated by the interests of avid readers. As there are seemingly infinite books in the world related to all kinds of different genres, many readers may struggle to find new novels that peak their interest. Reading is an enjoyable passtime, however, the search for new material that provides an appropriate balance between pleasure and challenge can be quite cumbersome. This application will strive to make this process much less involved to alleviate the sense of dread that some readers may feel as they approach the end of their favourite novel.

This goal of this application is to allow users to create a list of books they have read/enjoyed as well as a list of topics/genres they wish to pursue in the future. The application will then match this data with that of other users in order to provide relevant book recommendations. This app will be similar to the existing GoodReads app/website.

Application Requirements

1. Store data (title, cover, description, author) for many books in a variety of genres.
2. Allow the user to create a list of books they have read as well as an optional rating based on how much they enjoyed each book (ratings will be editable).
3. Allow users to create a list of their favourite authors.
4. Provide a list of reviews for any particular book and allow users to write their own reviews of books that they choose.
5. The database will allow users to search for books in many ways including: by topic or genre, by title, by author, or by ISBN.
6. Users will be able to easily add to and edit their "reading list" as well as maintain a list of topics they are interseted in.
7. The application should provide users a list of recommendations that will be automatically generated and updated based on their personal data.
8. Recommendations will be based off of many factors including: books related to the user's topics of interest, books by similar authors, books read by others with similar interests etc.
9. The target size of the database would be upwards of 10, 000 books.
10. The application hosting should be web based and allow users to a simple interface to browse and easily view and edit their data using any popular browser (chrome, safari, firefox etc.).

Due Diligence

The proposed database will only store titles and covers of books and relevant information willingly provided by users of the application. While the covers of books are technically copyrighted by its owner, it is my belief (and genearlly accepted) that use of book covers on public websites is acceptable and usually encouraged as it provide free publicity to the authors. The application will provide no way for users to actually read any books through it, it is the responsibility of the user to obtain a legal copy of any book recommended by the app. The application will also refrain from displaying significant passages from any book it stores, no more than what is freely available in the downloadable sample provided by most books.

In conclusion, though the risk of copyright infringement exists for the use of book covers on the app, I believe the risk is neglegible as the authors would probably make more money by allowing me to advertise their books than they would suing me for displaying of its cover.

Sample Documents

Sample of recommendations (from Goodreads)

Sample of book display (from Goodreads)
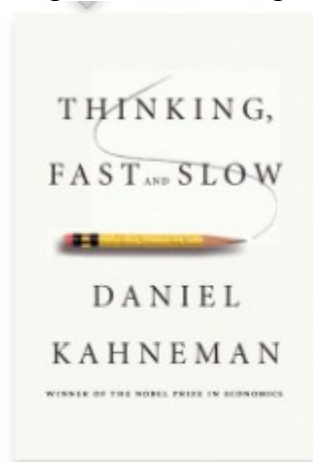
Thinking, Fast and Slow

by Daniel Kahneman

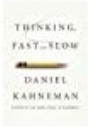★★★★½ 4.16 · Rating details · 330,724 ratings · 11,654 reviews

In the highly anticipated *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, Kahneman takes us on a groundbreaking tour of the mind and explains the two systems that drive the way we think. System 1 is fast, intuitive, and emotional; System 2 is slower, more deliberative, and more logical. Kahneman exposes the extraordinary capabilities—and also the faults and biases—of fast thinking, and reveals t ...more

Want to Read

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Sample of read/reading list (from Goodreads)

cover	title	author	avg rating	rating	shelves	date read	date added ▾		
	Game Theory: A Very Short Introduction	Binmore, Ken	3.22	★★★★★	currently-reading [edit]	not set [edit]	Jan 27, 2021	edit view »	✕
	Thinking, Fast and Slow	Kahneman, Daniel	4.16	★★★★★	currently-reading [edit]	not set [edit]	Jan 27, 2021	edit view »	✕
	Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder	Taleb, Nassim Nicholas *	4.10	★★★★★	currently-reading [edit]	not set [edit]	Jan 27, 2021	edit view »	✕
	Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets	Taleb, Nassim Nicholas *	4.07	★★★★★	currently-reading [edit]	not set [edit]	Jan 27, 2021	edit view »	✕