# The Reel World: How-To

## Introduction

The Reel World is a web application site that allows users interaction and input with the movies and information that is displayed on the site. There are several different levels of user and the amount of interaction/functionality each user level has differs accordingly. So, we will now describe how to use The Reel World and different aspects of the site by going through the different views of each user level.

## Guest Users

This user level has access to the most basic functionalities of the site, based purely on visiting and no other steps like logging in. Guest users are able to first access the homepage of the site, which depicts all the movies in the repository (sorted alphabetically initially) through a cover image, title, genre, rating, and IMDB link. If a movie has been added to our repository, it’s here on the home page. Here, guest users have the option to search, sort, and filter as well.

Searching is done by inputting a possible title string or piece of one into the search bar and hitting “GO”. Any titles that include the inputted string will then appear on the page. Hitting the sort button produces a drop down list that allows you to choose to sort alphabetically by title, or by rating (high to low). Selecting by rating sorts all the movies by their rating, and refreshing the page or choosing “By Title” sorts it alphabetically again. Selecting the filter button shows another drop-down list that includes a list of possible genres and any genres that may have been added by other movies later on. Here, you can also select more than one genre and that will pull up any genres you choose after hitting “OK.”

Once you’ve found the movie you’re looking for or interested in whether done by searching, sorting, or filtering, you can select the movie and it will take you to the standardized individual movie page. This page reiterates the title, but now shows information on the actors and the description of the movie as well. This page also has the associated comment section with that movie. Guest users are able to make comments, but the associated name will be “Guest” because guest users do not have a made username. Once posted, the comment cannot be edited or deleted except by moderators.

Guests do not have access to the “My Requests” page or the “Add A Movie” form, for that they have to log in. That being said, guests are able to interact with the signup and log in form. “Sign Up” displays an input area for a full name, username, and password, all of which are required fields. Signing up immediately logs you in. The login prompt requires your username and password and will either log you in immediately, or will display an error message if you’re not found in the user database. Either way, this is how guests are elevated to the normal user level that we will discuss next.

## Users

The standard user level has all the same functionalities as a guest, but with the added bonus of access to the “My Requests” page and the “Add A Movie” form. We’ll start with how users can request movies to be added to the repository. The first field (which is required) is the title. Then, you can put in a description of the movie in a textarea. Next is the genre input, which has predictive text searching through all the genre options already in our database. You can also add up to two new genres with the “Add Genres” button. Next, you should input a rating, which is a decimal number out of 10. You can then choose actors, which has a field much like the genre field. There’s a predictive text dropdown that allows you to choose as many actors as you’d like, or you can add up to two new ones. To add a new actor entry, you input the actor’s name, as well as an IMDB link to verify the actor’s identity. The two other needed links on the form are the link to the IMDB page for the movie (for admin verification), and for the display image of the cover. Then, you can submit the request, displaying a submission confirmation at the top, or you can cancel the request and reset the form.

Once a request is submitted, users can also see the status of the request on the “My Requests” page. This page depicts the cover, title, genres, actors, description, rating, and date submitted initially. You also have the option to cancel your request while it is still pending as well. Once an admin has approved or denied your movie entry request, you can see the comments they made and the date/time it was approved or denied.

Users also have the added benefit of having their full name displayed when leaving a comment section in the individual movie page comment sections. Once a comment is posted, users will see an “Edit” and “Delete” button. Editing the comment will allow you to repost the comment with your changes to the bottom of the comment section. On the other hand, the delete button will delete that specific comment. Users are only able to edit and delete their own comments as a result, unless they’re moderators (which we’ll talk about next).

## Moderators

Moderators have all the same abilities as normal users and guests, again building on top of the access of the levels under them. The defining traits of users with moderator status is the ability to delete any user comments in the movie comment sections. Next to all comments in the comment section will be a “Delete” button, allowing moderators to remove inappropriate comments from the individual movie pages. That being said, moderators can still edit and delete any comments that they made themselves. It should be noted that moderators are their own user class, but their access is able to be combined with that of the administrators, which is the level that we will discuss next.

## Administrators

In The Reel World, administrators have the same power as users and guests, and possibly moderators, making them the highest user level in our web application. The difference between admins and other users is their ability to access the “Pending Requests” page of the site. This page depicts any pending requests made by any users to be approved or denied. The admins can see the entry in a similar format to the “My Requests” page mentioned earlier; you can see the cover, title, genre, actors, description, and rating. There is also a link to the IMDB site to verify the movie, which guests will have access to when browsing the home page. Under that is the date/time of the submission and a comment box. The admin can type any comments in the box, which will be shown on the “My Requests” page on the movie entry for whoever made the request. Then, hitting “Approve” will clear the entry from pending requests, add it to the repository on the homepage, and update the request entry on the user page (the one who requested the movie). The comments and approval or deny status will be updated as a result. Conversely, if the admin selects the “Decline” button, the request will be cleared, and the user who requested the movie will still see related comments and status.

## Conclusion

So, you’ve now seen the full abilities of all user levels for interaction with The Reel World web application. Guests have basic functionality on the home page with searching, sorting, and filtering, standard users can make dedicated comments and requests, moderators can delete the comments of anyone in the comment section, and administrators can accept or deny movie requests, and can possibly be moderators as well. If you have any questions about other functionalities on our site, please don’t hesitate to reach out!