

Scala project

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Table of content

Introduction	3
Link of the demo video of our application	3
Link to github repository of the project :	3
System Architecture	4
Overview of Project Structure	4
Main Source Code Structure (src/main/scala)	5
Backend – Functional Core in Scala 3	6
Data Flow and Interaction	7
Web Interface Overview (/public)	7
Structure and Components	8
index.html	8
app.js	8
How the Frontend Works	9
Key Features	10
Domain Model (Scala)	10
Book.scala	11
User.scala	11
Transaction.scala	12
Business Logic & Services	12
LibraryCatalog.scala	13
Structure	13
Functional Operations	13
Search	13
Book Loan	13
Book Return	13
Recommendations	14
Synchronization	14
LibraryCatalogCodec.scala – JSON Serialization	14
Time Handling	14
Custom Decoding for User	14
Custom Decoding for Transaction	14
Full Catalog Encoder/Decoder	14
Testing Strategy	15
Overview	15
Test Structure	15
Test Coverage Report Summary	18
Key Metrics	19

Running the Console Application	
sbt "runMain LibraryApp"	19
Challenges and Lessins Learned	21
Critical Analysis and Perspectives	21
Conclusion	22

Introduction

This project was developed as part of the *Functional Programming with Scala* course and consists in building a fully functional **Library Management System**, combining the power of Scala 3's functional programming features with a clean and interactive web interface.

The goal of this system is to simulate the real-life operations of a library: managing a catalog of books, allowing users to search for and borrow books, tracking loans and returns, and offering personalized recommendations based on user history. Users are identified by a unique ID and can interact with the system through an intuitive interface that provides access to book search, availability status, and suggested titles.

From a technical perspective, the backend logic is written in **Scala 3**, following a pure functional programming approach. It makes use of:

- Algebraic Data Types (e.g., sealed traits for users),
- Opaque and union types for domain modeling (ISBNs, User IDs),
- Functional error handling with Either, Try, and Option,
- And ScalaTest/ScalaCheck for unit and property-based testing.

Library data is persisted in a structured JSON file (Library.json), and the system ensures data integrity through validation mechanisms. The web front-end, built separately, connects to the core logic to provide a seamless user experience, showing key stats such as total books, current users, and ongoing transactions.

This report details the architecture, key implementation decisions and development process behind the system.

Link of the demo video of our application

demo video link

Remark: examples of system usage are shown on the demo video as well on the link above

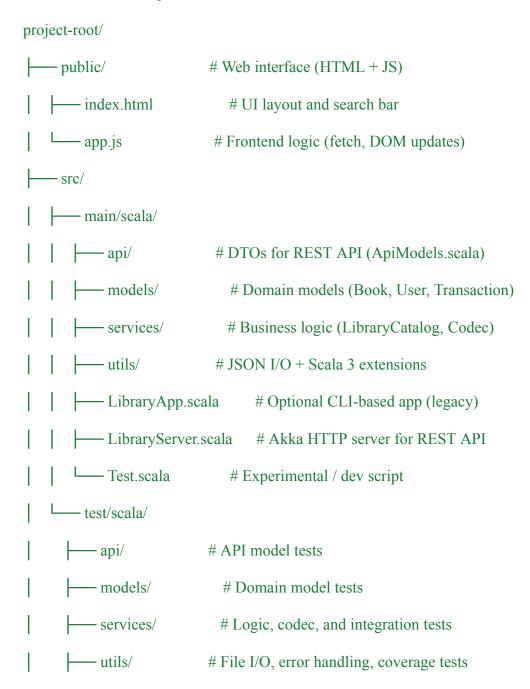
Link to github repository of the project:

Project github repository

System Architecture

The Library Management System is composed of two main layers: a functional backend written in Scala 3, and a web-based frontend implemented in HTML/CSS/JavaScript. The architecture follows a modular, type-safe, and layered design, enabling maintainability, extensibility, and testability.

Overview of Project Structure



FinalCovera	geBoostTest.scala	# High-coverage test file
—— Data/	# Persistent JSC	ON data (Library.json)
build.sbt	# Build config	uration (SBT)
L—README.md	# Proiect	documentation

Main Source Code Structure (src/main/scala)

The main Scala source code is organized into modular packages, each serving a specific responsibility:

Path	Purpose
api/ApiModels.scala	API layer DTOs: defines case classes like LoanRequest, ApiResponse.
models/Book.scala	Defines the Book case class and ISBN type alias.
models/User.scala	User models with sealed trait User and its subtypes (Student, etc.).
models/Transaction.scala	Transaction trait and subtypes: Loan, Return, Reservation.
services/LibraryCatalog.scala	Functional core of the app: search, loan, return, recommend, stats, etc.
services/LibraryCatalogCodec.scala	Circe JSON codecs for all domain models.

utils/JsonIO.scala	File I/O helpers for saving and loading the full catalog as JSON.
utils/UnionAndExtensionExamples.scala	Demonstrates advanced Scala 3 features like union types and extensions.
LibraryApp.scala	Legacy command-line interface (CLI), now superseded by the REST server.
LibraryServer.scala	Akka HTTP-based REST API server.
Test.scala	Exploratory or debug utility file (not used in production flow).

1

This modular structure follows the separation of concerns principle, ensuring clarity and scalability in code organization.

Backend - Functional Core in Scala 3

The backend uses modern functional programming paradigms and Scala 3 features such as:

- Algebraic Data Types (sealed trait, case class) for modeling,
- Immutable state (catalog updates produce new instances),
- Safe error handling using Either and Option,
- Functional I/O using Circe for JSON encoding/decoding.

Domain Layer (models/)

- Book, User, and Transaction are modeled as immutable case classes and sealed traits.
- Uses type aliases like ISBN, UserID for improved clarity.
- Transaction types (Loan, Return, Reservation) carry timestamps and user associations.

Service Layer (services/)

• LibraryCatalog is the **pure functional core**, supporting:

- Searching books by title/author
- o Borrowing/returning/reserving
- Recommending books based on user history
- Statistics (top genres/authors)
- All methods are **pure**, deterministic, and testable.
- synchronizeBookAvailability ensures internal state matches transaction history.

Persistence Layer

- Implemented with LibraryCatalogCodec.scala using Circe's Encoder/Decoder typeclasses.
- Supports custom JSON handling for User, Transaction, and LocalDateTime.
- File I/O is encapsulated and tested to ensure data integrity with Library.json.

Data Flow and Interaction

- Input/Output: All library data is persisted in a single Library.json file, which stores:
 - the complete book catalog (books),
 - o user data (users),
 - transaction history (transactions, including Loan and Return types).
- Interaction Loop:
 - On application start, the system loads Library.json into immutable Scala data structures.
 - Users interact with the frontend (search, borrow, get recommendations).
 - The Scala backend processes requests, updates in-memory structures, and writes changes back to Library.json.

Web Interface Overview (/public)

The public folder of the project contains the **entire web interface** of the Library Management System. It includes two key files:

- index.html the static HTML layout and styling of the user interface,
- app.js the dynamic behavior and frontend logic written in JavaScript.

Together, they create a responsive, single-page application (SPA) that allows users to interact with the library system in real time.

Structure and Components

index.html

This file defines the **static skeleton** of the interface, composed of the following sections:

- **Header**: Displays the title and tagline of the application.
- Statistics Area (#stats): Populated dynamically to show real-time counts of books, users, and transactions.

• Sidebar:

- User Identification: Input for user ID.
- Search Interface: Input field to search books by title.
- Action Buttons:
 - Show available books.
 - Show personal recommendations,
 - Show all books.

• Main Content:

- o Book list display area,
- Section title and dynamic updates via JavaScript,
- Support for alerts and loading spinners.

It includes embedded CSS styles for:

- Aesthetic design (gradients, shadows, responsive layout),
- Highlighting book availability (green/red tags),
- Clean mobile adaptability (using media queries).

app.js

This script handles **all user interactions** and **data communication** with the backend API (/api/...), including:

• Fetching data:

- o /api/books, /api/users, /api/transactions for stats.
- o /api/books/available to show borrowable books.
- o /api/books/search for keyword searches.
- o /api/users/:id/recommendations for book suggestions.

• User actions:

- o Borrowing a book: /api/books/loan
- Returning a book: /api/books/return

• Real-time DOM updates:

- Displaying books as cards (createBookCard()),
- Updating section titles and counts,
- Showing visual alerts and loaders.

• User feedback:

- Success and error alerts using showAlert(),
- Inline loading animations during asynchronous calls.

How the Frontend Works

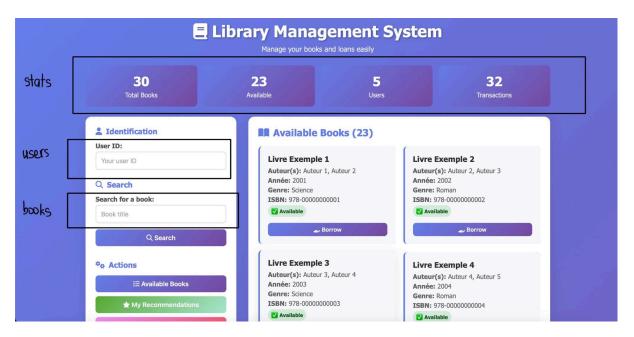
```
## Running the Web Server

sbt run

Access at http://localhost:8080
```

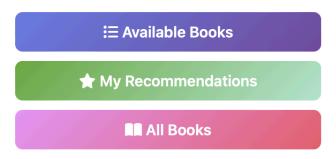
Here's a typical user interaction flow:

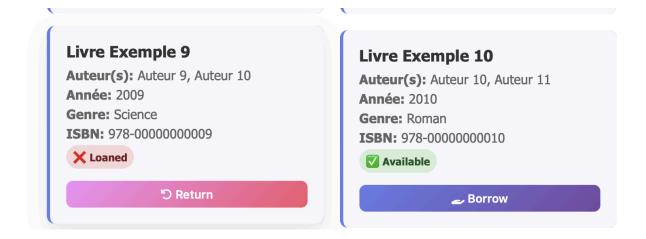
1. The user opens the page, which loads app.js.



- 2. On load, the app:
 - Fetches stats, books, and users from the backend.
 - Displays initial book list (e.g., available books).
- 3. The user enters their ID and:
 - Searches a book → real-time filtering from /books/search,
 - Views recommendations → query to /users/{id}/recommendations,
 - Borrows a book → POST to /books/loan,
 - \circ Returns a book \rightarrow POST to /books/return.

* Actions





4. Any data change triggers automatic UI updates (book list and stats).

Key Features

- **Decoupled from backend logic**: All interactions go through RESTful APIs.
- Fully dynamic: No page reloads are needed thanks to fetch + DOM manipulation.
- Mobile-friendly design: Supports different screen sizes.
- Clear user feedback: Through alerts, spinners, and contextual messages.
- **Multi-user support**: Several users can interact with the system simultaneously.
- Real-time statistics and recommendations: The UI updates automatically the number of transactions after each action.

Domain Model (Scala)

The **domain model** defines the core data structures used in the application. It is implemented in the models/ package using **algebraic data types (ADTs)** and **case classes**, which are idiomatic in functional programming with Scala.

This modeling provides a **type-safe** and **immutable** foundation for all operations related to users, books, and transactions.

Book.scala

```
case class Book(
  isbn: ISBN,
  title: String,
  authors: List[String],
  publicationYear: Int,
  genre: String,
  available: Boolean
)
type ISBN = String
```

The Book class represents the metadata and availability of a library book. It includes:

- A unique identifier (isbn),
- Title and authors (as a list),
- Year of publication and genre,
- An available flag to track borrowing status.

A type alias is used for ISBN to improve domain clarity and support potential use of **opaque types** later in the project.

User.scala

The User model is defined as a **sealed trait hierarchy**, representing the different types of users in the system.

```
sealed trait User {

def id: UserID

def name: String
```

Subtypes include:

- Student with an additional field level (e.g., Undergraduate, Graduate)
- Faculty with a department
- Librarian with a position

A type alias is used for user IDs:

```
type UserID = String
```

This structure allows for:

- Pattern matching on user types,
- Strong typing with shared interface methods (id, name),
- Easy extension in future (e.g., adding Guest or Alumnus).

Transaction.scala

The Transaction trait models any user-book interaction, timestamped with a LocalDateTime.

```
sealed trait Transaction {
  def book: Book
  def user: User
  def timestamp: LocalDateTime
}
```

Concrete implementations include:

- Loan: book borrowing,
- Return: book return,
- Reservation: reservation for future borrowing.

By using a **sealed trait**, all possible transaction types are known at compile time, enabling exhaustive pattern matching and functional error handling.

Business Logic & Services

The services/ package encapsulates the **core logic** of the Library Management System. It defines how books are borrowed or returned, how users are validated, how recommendations are generated, and how the system synchronizes the availability of books.

LibraryCatalog.scala

This is the main service class that acts as an **immutable data container** and provides **pure functional operations** on the state of the library.

Structure

```
case class LibraryCatalog(
  books: List[Book],
  users: List[User],
  transactions: List[Transaction]
)
```

Functional Operations

All methods return either new instances of LibraryCatalog (immutability) or Either[String, LibraryCatalog] to handle errors functionally.

Search

- findByTitle(title: String)
- findByAuthor(author: String)
- availableBooks
 - → All use a reusable findBooks(predicate) helper.

Book Loan

def loanBook(isbn: ISBN, userId: UserID): Either[String, LibraryCatalog]

- Checks if the book is available and user exists.
- Marks the book as unavailable.
- Adds a Loan transaction.

Book Return

def returnBook(isbn: ISBN, userId: UserID): Either[String, LibraryCatalog]

- Verifies the book is borrowed.
- Marks the book as available.
- Adds a Return transaction.

Recommendations

def recommendBooks(userId: UserID): List[Book]

- Based on the user's borrowing history (Loan transactions).
- Suggests available books from preferred genres, sorted by frequency.

Synchronization

def synchronizeBookAvailability: LibraryCatalog

- Ensures availability flags in books match transaction history.
- Useful in case of manual or inconsistent data updates.

LibraryCatalogCodec.scala – JSON Serialization

This file defines all the **Circe encoders and decoders** needed to persist and reload the catalog as JSON (used with Library.json).

Time Handling

```
given Encoder[LocalDateTime]
given Decoder[LocalDateTime]
```

→ Converts timestamps to ISO string format.

Custom Decoding for User

```
given Decoder[User] = ...
```

→ Maps any simple user object to a default Student if specific fields are missing. This enables backward compatibility with minimal JSON data.

Custom Decoding for Transaction

```
given Decoder[Transaction] = ...
```

→ Simplifies JSON loading by treating all transactions as Loan by default (can be improved later to match by type if needed).

Full Catalog Encoder/Decoder

```
given Encoder[LibraryCatalog]
```

given Decoder[LibraryCatalog]

→ Enables full reading/writing of the library state to/from Library.json.

Testing Strategy

Overview

Testing in this project is handled using the **ScalaTest** and **ScalaCheck** frameworks. The objective was to validate both the **correctness** and **resilience** of the system across all layers, from domain logic to API integration and persistence.

The test suite is composed of multiple strategies:

- Unit tests for fine-grained logic (using AnyFunSuite)
- **Property-based tests** with random data generators (AnyPropSpec + ScalaCheck)
- Persistence tests for JSON I/O and deserialization consistency
- Integration tests simulating full workflows (loan → return → recommend → save/load)
- Error-handling tests targeting invalid inputs, malformed files, and decoding failures

Test Structure

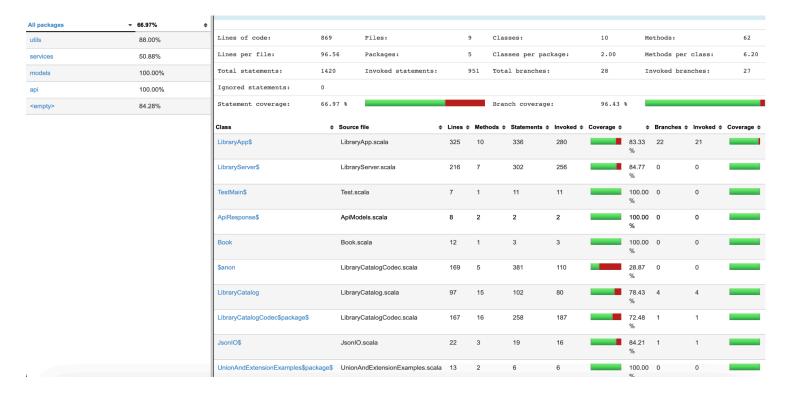
The test suite is organized under src/test/scala/ and structured by functional domain:

Path	File(s)	Purpose
services/	LibraryCatalogTest.scala LibraryAppCoverageTest.scala LibraryCatalogCoverageTest.scala LibraryAppFullCoverageTest.scala	Unit tests for core logic: loan, return, recommend, statistics, and CLI behavior
	LibraryCatalogPropertyTest.scala	Property-based tests using random input generators

	LibraryIntegrationTest.scala	Full workflow integration test: loan → return → recommend
	LibraryCatalogCodecTest.scala LibraryCatalogCodecFullCoverageT est.scala LibraryCatalogCodecAgressiveTest .scala LibraryCatalogCodecDirectTest.sc ala	Serialization/deserializat ion of catalog and domain models
	LibraryServer*Test.scala (e.g. LibraryServerLogicCoverageTest.s cala, LibraryServerHttpErrorCoverageTe st.scala, etc.)	HTTP API tests: routing, logic, error handling, integration, edge cases
models/	BookCoverageTest.scala UserCoverageTest.scala TransactionCoverageTest.scala	Tests for domain models and their variants
utils/	JsonIOTest.scala JsonIOCoverageTest.scala JsonIOErrorCoverageTest.scala JsonIOFullCoverageTest.scala	JSON I/O correctness, error management, and file consistency
	UnionAndExtensionExamplesTest.sc ala	Scala 3 language features (union types,

	UnionAndExtensionExamplesFullCov erageTest.scala	extension methods, pattern matching, etc.)
api/	ApiModelsFullCoverageTest.scala ApiResponseFullCoverageTest.scal a	API DTO serialization/deserializati on and equality checks
misc/	TestMainFullCoverageTest.scala TestScala3Syntax.scala QuickBoostCoverageTest.scala FinalCoverageBoostTest.scala	Syntax validation and extra tests for 100% coverage
	LibraryApp*CoverageTest.scala (e.g. LibraryAppMaxCoverageTest.scala, LibraryAppSessionCoverageTest.sc ala, etc.)	Additional CLI-related tests (loop, sessions, complete coverage variants)
	LibraryServer*CoverageTest.scala (e.g. LibraryServerFinalCoverageTest.s cala, LibraryServerRoutingCoverageTest Fixed.scala, etc.)	Granular HTTP logic and routing coverage with error branches

Test Coverage Report Summary



By the end of the testing phase, the test suite reached a total of **66.97% statement coverage**, up from the initial **8%**, thanks to extensive additions across all components.

Package	Coverage	Notes
models	100.00%	All case classes like Book, User, and Transaction fully covered
api	100.00%	DTOs (LoanRequest, ReturnRequest, ApiResponse, etc.) fully tested
utils	88.00%	Includes JsonIO.scala, various edge case and error handling tested

services	50.88%	Business logic (e.g. LibraryCatalog, Codec) – many tests written, but coverage limited due to complexity
<empty></empty>	84.28%	Includes main applications like LibraryApp.scala, LibraryServer.scala, TestMain.scala

Key Metrics

• Total coverage: 66.97%

• Statement coverage: 951 / 1420 statements

• **Branch coverage**: 27 / 28 branches

Goal: While the original target was 80%, reaching nearly **67%** with broad branch coverage (96%) provides confidence in system reliability.

Running the Console Application

sbt "runMain LibraryApp"

```
1. Search for a book
2. Borrow a book
3. Return a book
4. Show my recommendations
5. List available books
6. Exit

Your choice: 1
Title to search: Livre Exemple 10

Ilvre Exemple 10 - Auteur 10, Auteur 11 (2010)

1. Search for a book
2. Borrow a book
3. Return a book
4. Show my recommendations
5. List available books
6. Exit

Your choice: 2
Your user ID: 1
10 of the book to borrow: 978-0000000001

V Book borrowed successfully.

1. Search for a book
3. Return a book
4. Show my recommendations
5. List available books
6. Exit

Your choice: 2
Your user ID: 1
10 of the book to borrow: 978-00000000001

V Book borrowed successfully.
```

```
1. Search for a book
2. Borrow a book
3. Return a book
4. Show my recommendations
5. List available books
6. Exit

Your choice: 4

Your user ID: 1

Y Recommendations:
- Livre Exemple 2 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 3 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 4 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 4 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 4 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 5 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 6 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 7 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 8 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 9 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 9 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 9 (Roman)
- Livre Exemple 18 (Science)
- Livre Exemple 19 (Science)
- Livre Exemple 29 (Science)
- Livre Exemple 20 (Science)
-
```

Here is an example of errors that occur when the user does not write in the correct format / the number does not exist:

```
Your choice: 2
Your user ID: 1
ID of the book to borrow: q
Error: Book not available or User not found
```

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Throughout the project, ensuring immutability and pure functions required careful design, especially for catalog updates and state management. Integrating the frontend and backend, as well as designing a clean API, presented challenges in handling asynchronous updates and maintaining a responsive user interface. Property-based testing was particularly valuable for uncovering edge cases and improving reliability. Providing clear feedback and usability in the interface was also a key focus.

Critical Analysis and Perspectives

While the library management system meets the main functional requirements and demonstrates functional programming principles, several limitations and areas for improvement remain. The current implementation relies on in-memory data structures, which limits scalability and persistence. Error handling is present but could be further refined, especially for invalid actions and edge cases. The user interface, while functional, could be enhanced for better usability.

From a technical perspective, the use of immutable data models and pure functions improves reliability and testability. However, operations such as file I/O could benefit from more explicit effect management. The modular design allows for easy addition of new features (e.g., reservations, reviews), and future versions could integrate authentication, authorization, and database support for scalability and security. Asynchronous operations and optimized data structures could further enhance performance.

For future work, integrating a persistent database, improving concurrency management, and expanding the user interface would make the system more production-ready. Exploring advanced Scala features could also provide educational value and further demonstrate the power of functional programming.

Conclusion

This project demonstrates the power and flexibility of functional programming in Scala for building real-world applications. By combining a robust backend with a modern web interface, we created a system that is both reliable and user-friendly. The modular architecture, type safety, and comprehensive testing ensure maintainability and extensibility for future development.