

# **Map Project Recap**

## **Github repository:**

<https://github.com/DennisNick/cs411-project>

## **Short Summary:**

So, for this project, the team focused on working with NYTimes API, and multiple separate Google APIs. Using the Django framework, we successfully created a website that uses a map to pin specific articles to their location of relevance and give users the ability to read and save them.

Along the way, we were able to create a comfortable interface for the user, as well as proper functionality on all API calls and OAuthentication. Additionally, we were able to use Amazon Web Services to remotely host the database and connect locally.

## **Additional Documentation:**

To see any other documentation required for this semester, please look inside of the docs/ folder in the github repository.

## **Issues:**

There were a number of issues along the way. The biggest among them was obviously time constraints on building some of the functionality of the website. Additionally, setting up the remote database, configuring front end / back end communication, and generating proper API calls and parsing the returned information correctly were all additional issues. However, everything was solved within a timely enough matter.

One other extremely minor issue was display of the articles from the Collections database table on the User's user page. Django's in-line front end / back end communication is difficult to assuage, and so this was somewhat difficult to configure. However, the storage was confirmed without issue.

## **Changes:**

Original user cases may mention the ability for user comments on stored articles, emotionally analyzing feedback on articles, and the like. Yet, as the project went along, the team decided that some functionality originally thought of would be both unneeded

and a pain to store properly, and so the functionality was discarded in favor of productivity. Personally speaking, I think this was the best approach. Wasting our time configuring functionality for the website that may have ultimately been useless would have been a major detriment to our ability to finish the project properly.

On that note, team communication centering around what aspects of the website to change, keep or add was excellent. At each turn where these issues arose, they were decided upon as a group, and thus was carefully considered among us in terms of priority and workload.

Changes of note:

- No sentimentality analysis (preliminary idea, time constraint, discarded)
- No user commenting on articles (preliminary idea, deemed unnecessary, discarded)
- Sidebar appearance (original idea was a pop-up, changed for in-browser appearance).
- Authentication (originally undecided, settled upon Google's Oauth, easily implemented).
- Map scope (originally global focus, changed for more US national, while not ignoring global articles – simply minimized them).

### **Final Remarks**

It was a pleasure to work as a team, and complete this project together with great success. Communication was great, effort was great, and overall results showed through.