

5 Evaluation

One of the questions posed in the survey to students was : Would you be willing to provide feedback and participate in testing as the database is developed? and the response is shown in Figure 15, the majority of the students responded positively to the suggestion and the intention was to have the prototype hosted on a cloud platform like Heroku for student testing. However, hosting the application to Heroku proved to be challenging and could not be completed within the limited time of this thesis. Alternatively, 3 user tests with students were conducted. 2 students have a background in computer of science and the other has a background in engineering. All of the participants were familiar with the context of the system and its development. The three participants will be referenced as P1-P3 (with P3 being the engineering student).

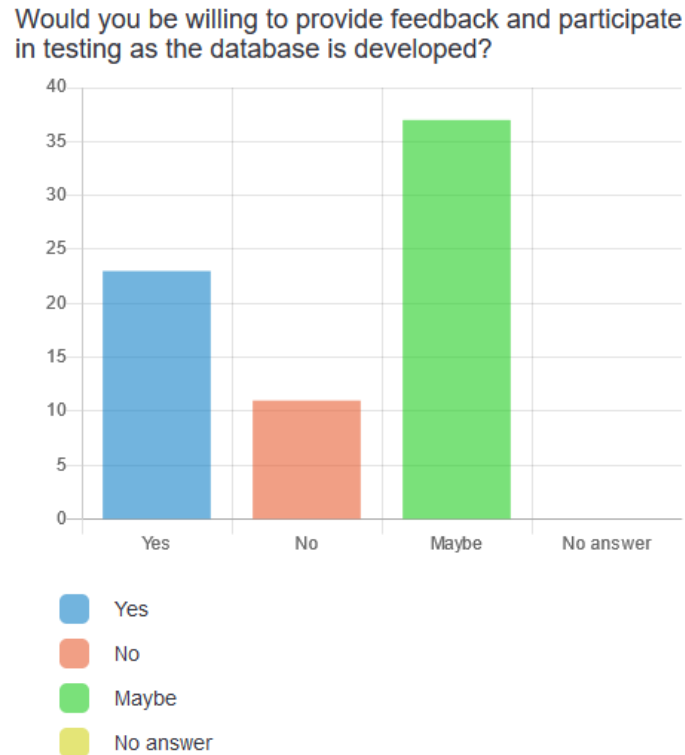


Figure 15: Testing question

5.1 Participant feedback

All 3 participants tested a locally hosted system and conveyed that the system ran smoothly and that it was easy to use, "It is quite responsive when used locally and the posting pages are simple and intuitive" said P2, "The system is really basic and fulfills the requirement, so there is not much to complain about" stated P1. However, all 3 participants had some concerns about the front-end, P2 and P3 did not give concrete suggestions but both mentioned that "the pages could look a bit better and the color scheme does not match with the chosen formatting and font". On the other hand, P1 suggested using FU Refubium as inspiration for the front-end instead of STROD. Refubium "is an institutional repository that provides Freie Universität members with a free-of-cost framework to electronically publish documents, doctoral and habilitation theses, as well as research data." [13]. P1 suggested adding the thesisHub as an extension to Refubium, as Refubium consists of a fully functioning display and sorting system of the available theses.

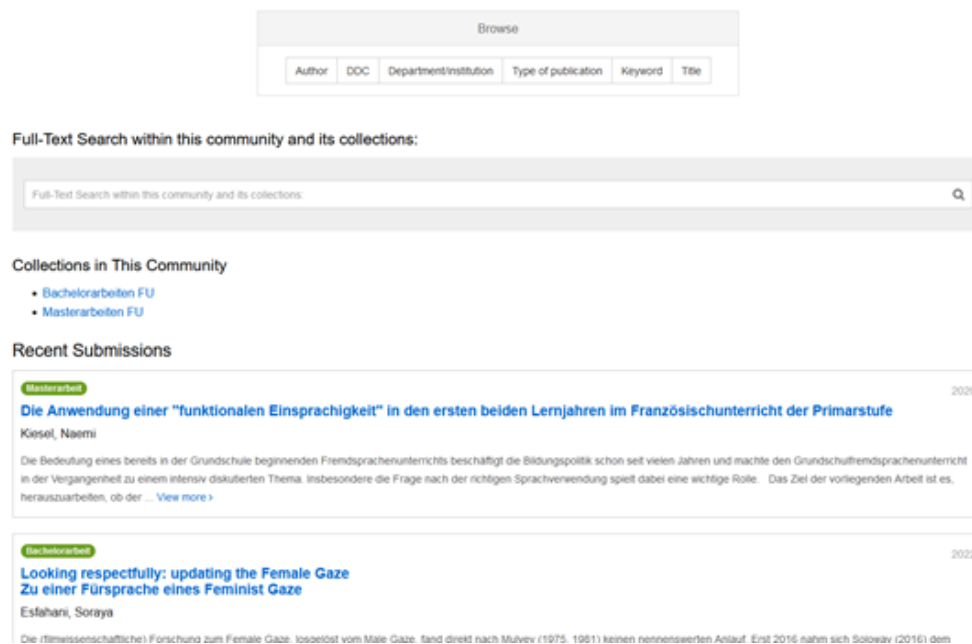


Figure 16: Refubium

Although, Refubium has 1 aspect of the intended thesisHub implemented in the display and a functioning sorting system, it is lacking in many other aspects. First, the sorting system would need to be improved to accommodate for other filtering options such as: degree program, academic level, etc... .Second, the posting system would have to be reworked as it is too complicated in its current state, requiring multiple steps(the current login system is shown in Figure 16) which can quickly become burdensome and time-consuming, especially when dealing with the upload of multiple items. In addition, the discussed features such as the student forum and the guidelines have to be added.

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Figure 17: part of the Refubium posting page