

607-Wk11-Discussion

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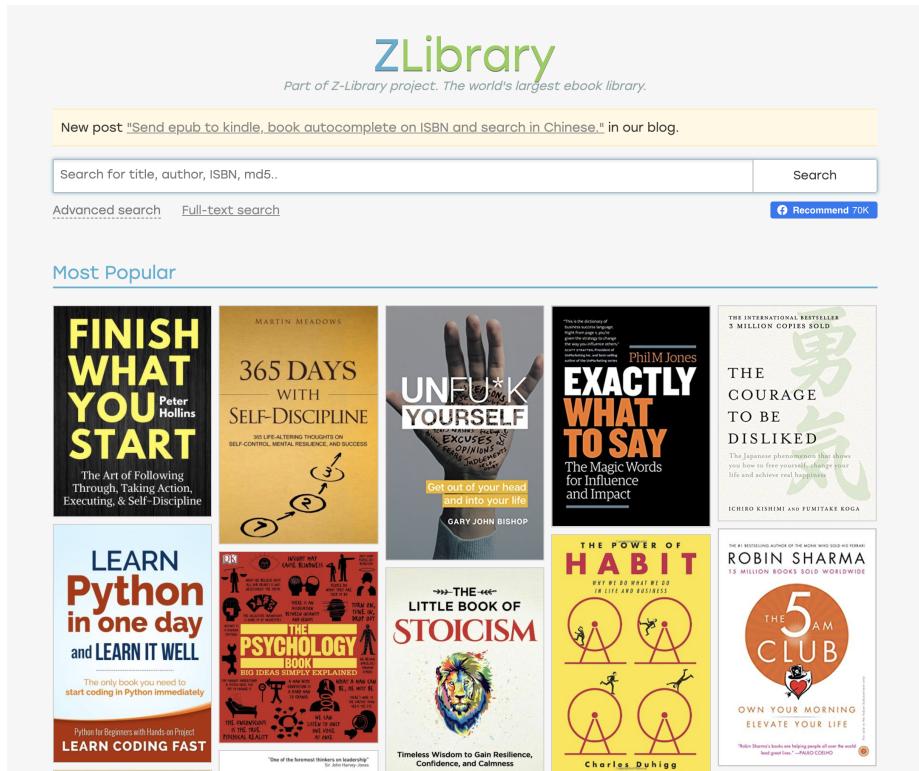
DATA 607: Review of “Z Library” Recommender System

Introduction

This is a review of the recommender system of the site **ZLibrary** located at <https://b-ok.org>. This website offers links to download electronic versions of public domain and copyrighted books. Depending on the book, there are different formats available for download such as .pdf, .epub, .mobi, .txt, .doc, and others.

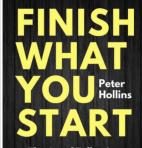
Scenario Design

The site offers access to copyrighted books so is under constant threat of being shutdown or at least to have content removed because of copyright violation. Therefore, the recommender system is basic as likely time and money investment in continuously improving recommendations will not pay back. Once in the main page of the site, you enter some information related to the book such as, title, author, ISBN code and the system will search for matches using this information.



At the time of this review the site offered **4,884,388 books** **76,132,882 articles for free**. It has a huge selection of items, similar in scope to the items offered by eRetail sellers such as Amazon. The site offers the most basic functionality of search through their database if you know descriptors for the book/article that you are looking for. Therefore, if you know what you want, you look for it and you find it or not. Afterwards, you can either search for a new item or search through the recommendations of similar items offered by the site.

Main | Finish What You Start: The Art of Following Through, Taking Action, Executing, & Self-Discipline



Finish What You Start: The Art of Following Through, Taking Action, Executing, & Self-Discipline

Peter Hollins

Practical tactics to grow your willpower, stop procrastination, focus like a laser, and achieve whatever you set your mind to.

Following through and finishing what you start - more valuable skills than you realize. They are a combination of traits that enables you to create the life you want - without having to compromise or wait. The alternative is a status quo that you're stuck in.

Is your life a series of unfinished tasks and intentions? That stops now. *Finish What You Start* is a unique deep dive into the psychology and science of accomplishment, productivity, and getting things done. It takes a thorough look why we are sometimes stuck, and gives detailed, step by step solutions you can start using today. Every phase of finishing and following through is covered, and even click to read more

Year: 2018 Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Language: english Pages: 71

ISBN 10: 1986622312 ISBN 13: 9781986622318

File: EPUB, 152 KB

[Download \(epub, 152 KB\)](#) [Send-to-Kindle or Email](#) [Save for later](#)

You may be interested in



If a match is found, similar options are offered to the user. Some of the options appear connected to the item previously searched for. Let's see how the site looks for similar items.

Reverse Engineer

Viewing the page source code and looking at the section of the recommended books we notice a line that checks for `#inputTags`.

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  const availableTags = [];
  const CurrentBook = new Book({id:"3691923","title":"Finish What You Start: The Art of Following Through, Taking Action, Executing, & Self-Discipline"})
  const CurrentUser = new User(null)
  const tags = new TagsInput($('#inputTags'), CurrentUser, CurrentBook.id, availableTags)
```

Appears that every item has a series of 25 terms that appeared most frequently in the item. The image below shows for some books, these 25 terms and the frequency at which they appear in the item. When a file is entered in the database, it is scanned for a word term frequency is performed in order to help categorise the item for the recommender system.

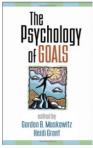


[New Developments in Goal Setting and Task Performance](#)
Edwin A. Locke, Gary P. Latham

New Developments in
Goal Setting and
Task Performance

goals⁴³¹⁷ psychology⁹⁸⁰ feedback⁹²⁰ commitment⁸⁷¹ latham⁸⁶⁷ locke⁷⁶⁹ organizational⁶¹⁵ strategies⁵³³
motivation⁵⁰⁸ goal commitment⁴⁸⁸ leadership³⁸⁵ participants³⁸⁰ cognitive³²⁴ achievement³²³
applied psychology³²³ regulation³²² creativity²⁵³ teams²⁵³ goal orientation²⁴⁴ outcomes²³⁶
social psychology²²⁷ employees²²⁷ implementation²²³ intentions²¹⁰ versus¹⁹⁵

Year: 2013 Language: english File: PDF, 10.98 MB



[The Psychology of Goals](#)
Gordon B. Moskowitz PhD, Heidi Grant PhD

goals¹⁶⁷⁸ participants¹⁰⁰⁵ psychology⁸⁷¹ goal pursuit⁵⁹⁸ social psychology⁵⁹¹ regulatory⁵⁶¹ motivation⁵⁰⁰
higgins⁴⁰³ implementation³⁶⁴ cognitive³⁴⁸ implicit³²⁴ regulation²⁸⁶ bargh²⁷⁶ priming²⁶⁶ activation²⁶⁵
gollwitzer²⁶⁰ psychological²⁴⁴ monitoring²⁴⁰ implementation intentions²³⁵ prevention²³⁴ discrepancy²³⁰
accessibility²²⁹ motivation²²⁷ cognition²²⁴ avoidance²²¹

Year: 2009 Language: english File: PDF, 3.55 MB



[Handbook of Motivation Science](#)
James Y. Shah, Wendi L. Gardner

psychology¹⁶⁸³ goals¹⁸⁴¹ motivation¹⁶⁰⁹ social psychology¹²³¹ participants¹⁰⁴⁰ psychological⁶⁴⁸
motivational⁶²⁵ pursuit⁴⁶⁶ cognitive⁴⁰⁷ regulation⁴⁰⁶ eds³⁹⁴ achievement³⁹³ motives³⁷¹ promotion³⁵⁸
outcomes³⁵⁴ prevention³⁵² higgins³⁴⁶ regulatory³⁴² attachment³⁴¹ motivated³²² avoidance³¹¹
goal pursuit³⁰⁶ behaviors²⁹³ behavioral²⁸⁸ versus²⁸⁸

Year: 2008 Language: english File: PDF, 3.62 MB

If this works, the function offers added functionality to the site beyond just an item search based on title, author, ISBN code.

Recommendations

It is though provoking that some thought has been giving in the recommender system of this site. It could be shut down at any minute and is not clear what is the financial value that the site gains by offering this service.

The site is easy to navigate, what it offers is clear and offers value to the user because the user does not have to pay anything. The recommender system seems to be based on similarities in the corpus of the text rather than similarities to what other users have searched for. This functionality could be added but there is no great incentive for an user to register. Anonymous users have a download limit of 3 items per 24 hours, while registered users have a limit of 10 items per 24 hours.

Would it make sense to offer a more user targeted recommender? Term frequency matches seems to work well in generating similar matches in the case when the user does not identify itself. In the case of Amazon with a similar number of different items, the user has to identify him/herself to provide shipping and payment information. Something that is not required in this case. Therefore, Amazon can use their “Item-to-Item Collaborative Filtering” algorithm to create suggestions for every user. In the case of **ZLibrary**, the user has not a similar incentive for identification and the site cannot create a more personalized list of suggestions.