



Book Buddy

Team 5 - Code Avengers

Pace University Capstone Project - Spring 2024



Agenda

1. Team Members
2. Problem Statement
3. Project Description
4. Market Analysis
5. Personas
6. Technologies
7. Sprint Schedule
8. Team Working Agreement
9. Retrospective



Team Members

Jimmy Karoly	Scrum Master
Dhanasri Salla	Machine Learning Engineer
Sai Sandeep Mandava	Machine Learning Engineer
Praveen Raj Gujju	QA and Testing
Anusha Meka	Developer
Sairam Vinjamoori	Developer
Krushal Rama	Developer
Alekhya Bommineni	Developer



Problem Statement

Recommendation systems are incredibly important to how users find new products, information and suggestions. These systems are great but can have biases in what they recommend. This is especially prevalent in the book industry where recommendation systems tend to prioritize white authors and authors that are more popular, this leads to people getting a less diverse set of recommendations instead of truly discovering things that are different that they might like.

It's important for people to get information from a variety of different voices with different experiences than their own, unfortunately most recommendation systems limit exposure to different perspectives.

We intend to research and develop a way for readers to find new authors that are under the radar and authors that have different life experiences. The application will combine this recommendation system with an e-commerce site where the user can purchase the books that are recommended.



Project Description

We plan to create a website that can function as a book e-commerce site with a robust recommendation engine that can help users find new authors and books they otherwise would have trouble finding.

The ML Model will take different diversity metrics into account and be able to find new authors, books, or genres of writing that they user will be interested in.

The site itself will contain a modern UI with wish list features and full e-commerce functionality.



Market Analysis

The dominance of the online book market has grown rapidly especially since the start of the pandemic where the growth was accelerated further by the closure of many brick and mortar stores.

In 2024, the industry revenue is projected to reach \$7.9 billion.

Today, most recommendation systems are based off popularity rankings and just suggest the most popular books to their users.

We plan to differentiate ourselves by highlighting less known authors and authors from different backgrounds

Personas



User Persona



Alex Müller

About



Age: 62 Years



New York, NY



Education: Bachelor's



Gender: Male



Job Title: Retired Bank Manager

Reading Habits

- Alex reads daily
- He can usually finish 3-4 books in a month

Profile

Alex is an avid book reader and always loves looking for new books. Lately he's been underwhelmed by the recommendations he's gotten from the leading book sites, and wants a place that will specifically recommend underrepresented authors.

Goals

- He wants to find new authors
- He doesn't just want the same popularity based recommendations

Pain Points






- Likes GoodReads but would want one place that could give recommendations and he could purchase them
- Gets recommended the same thing repeatedly

User Persona



Jennifer Farmer

About

-  **Age: 26 Years**
-  **Miami, FL**
-  **Education: Bachelor's**
-  **Gender: Female**
-  **Job Title: Graduate Student**

Reading Habits

- Jennifer reads daily
- Most reading for school she can finish 2 books of her own choosing a month

Profile

Jennifer is a 26 year old graduate student and she is interested in philosophy and gender studies. She reads a lot for school but also likes to find time to read for leisure.

Goals

- She wants to find books in her field of study that are written by less-known authors
- She wants to find one place for new recommendations and purchasing

Pain Points

- Difficulty finding diverse book recommendations outside the mainstream
- Doesn't have a lot of time to devote to finding new books

User Persona



Joseph Harps

About



Age: 32 Years



Los Angeles, CA



Education: Master's



Gender: Male



Job Title: Software Developer

Reading Habits

- Joseph tries to read once or twice a week
- He can usually finish 1 book a month

Profile

Joseph is a busy software developer and doesn't have a lot of time to read. He wants to branch out and find new topics to read about from different perspectives. He wants to experience books outside of the normal bestsellers.

Goals

- Since he doesn't have a lot of time he wants something that is easy to use and doesn't require much setup.

Pain Points

- Doesn't know where to start looking
- Good Reads seems to always recommend the same things



Technologies



React



python



Java



Firebase

PyTorch



PostgreSQL



Sprint 1 Schedule

Task Name	Priority	Timeline	Complete?
Finalize Project Topic	High	3 Days	Yes
Research and find technologies to use	Medium	3 Days	Yes
Create Team roles	Medium	1 Day	Yes
Identify key features needed in MVP	High	4 Days	Yes
Complete Presentation	High	5 Days	Yes



Team Working Agreement

Team Agreement

- All team members agree to attend all meetings scheduled every week on Wednesday, either before or after class
- If a team member can't attend a meeting then they will let the group know ahead of time, and we can talk about the possibility of rescheduling and if rescheduling is not possible then the absent teammate will agree to whatever is decided by the majority that attends the meeting
- If a team member needs help then they will reach out to the team in advance and not wait until the night before something is due
- All team members should feel open to sharing their opinion and group consensus will decide the direction we will go in, if not opposing opinions are shared then the assumption will be that you are in agreement.]
- Team members will stay active in the group chat and pay attention to questions and participate in group discussions about project details
- Work will be divided as evenly as possible and is expected to be complete in a timely manner
- Members agree to respect the time and other obligations of fellow team members, by attending meetings on time and responding in the group chat in a timely manner.
- Work will be done to the best of every members ability



Retrospective

What went well:

Team decided their roles quickly

Brainstorming for an idea was good

What can be improved:

Team communication

Time management

Action Items:

Create schedule earlier and make clearer deadlines

Weekly call for check in



Sprint 2 Goals

- Finalize System Requirements and Design
- Conduct research into different ML models and algorithms
- Plan UX and UI



WikiPage Link

<https://github.com/htmhw/2024S-Code-Avengers/wiki>