Dear Professor Seaborn,

I’m writing this letter to express my concern regarding the marking of assignment 4 that was due on Saturday July 30th. I believe my assignment should be rewarded higher marks. I will discuss the reasons in the following.

The first thing being the deduction on mark because there was “no way to rate/comment on textbooks or users”. In fact our site did have this feature. However, in order to access this, users have to be logged into the webpage (or signup as our members). The login information (user name and passowrd) as well as instructions are provided in the document titled “README.txt” which we uploaded with the assignment on MarkUs. Let me just take sometime to explain why we set up the feature in this way. The purpose of essentially is to prevent hackers from leaving irrelevant comments (e.g. advertisements) or even fabricated comments that would potentially mislead any users. Thus, by setting up such feature (i.e. have to login first), the users would have to sign up for the website which in turns allow us to verify their creditability with the information provided; this can ensure the site will not be floated with useless or unreliable information and therefore provide users with a clean and safe website. Once the user login to the website, he would be able to search the courses/books as usual (as all other users who didn't login) but would be able to like/comment the courses/books, and therefore be able to “to rate/comment on textbooks or users”.

The TA’s comments also suggested that there were too many fields in the search. We provided these many fields in our search page seeking to provide optimal search results for our users. However, there were no requirement set in the number of fields that needed to be filled in order to complete the search. We understand that users may not have complete information for the course or book he wanted to look up, therefore, we added multiple fields which could help him filter out excessive information and find what he needed. The multiple fields also help users in a way as they could look up certain author or department that they are interested in. For example, they could enter “csc” into the “department” field, where he could find books or courses within the computer science department.

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And according to our testing, the recommendation system should work as well after user login and provide their year of study and major. Our recommendation algorithm is designed base on users’ year-of-study and major, and if we search course then system will recommend relevant books for this course (if we search book then provide relevant courses). For example, after we login and then we click on the Profile button to change the year of study as 2 and major as csc, we can search the course by clicking on “search courses” button and giving “csc” as Department info, then after we click search button, the system should show all the recommend books relevant to the “csc” Department (in our database there’s only one book which is ‘introduction to Algorithms’).

If the recommendation section keeps showing message “Please provide more information to optimize your experience”, it might caused by several reasons: 1. User hasn’t login yet, 2. User has login but didn’t provide year of study and major as reference or 3. User has provided enough information, but in our database doesn’t show there’s anyone provide the relevant courses/books to exchange.