**Booksterdam – An online Bookstore**

**“Buy Books from your Fellowmates on Campus”**

**Designed and Developed by** Vivek Pandey

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**Temporary Web Link:** [**http://booksterdam.azurewebsites.net**](http://booksterdam.azurewebsites.net)

**Code and related project files can be viewed at:** [**https://github.com/Viveckh/Booksterdam**](https://github.com/Viveckh/Booksterdam)

**Project Overview**

Booksterdam is an online bookstore which aims to connect students within a college campus so that they can purchase and sell used books among each other in cheaper prices. The primary purpose of the bookstore is to lessen the textbooks expenses in college by linking students taking similar courses. It allows students to view and search through books their fellow students are trying to sell within their campus, and also list their own used books for sale through a very easy and straightforward interface. At first glance, it might just seem like any another web store associated with books, but upon closer look, you will realize that the store is particularly tailored keeping the need of students in mind. The store is intentionally designed to discourage businesses selling books for profit by making it cumbersome to post items in bulk.

**Background**

Meet Ashley.

Every semester, Ashley buys her course books from the campus Bookstore, Amazon, or similar websites spending a few hundred dollars. A lot of these books just lay in a corner of her dorm unused after the semester is over. She sometimes tries selling them back online but she barely receives a quarter of the original price she paid after the online posting service charges and shipping costs. The campus bookstore, on the other hand, pays less than 20% of the original book price. She has tried bombarding student groups on Facebook with “Anyone wants to buy…?” posts, but in vain. By the time she graduates, she could be losing a few thousand dollars just on books!

While Ashley’s old textbooks are laying unused, Jessica next door is taking a similar course and is looking to purchase one of the books Ashley has. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could connect Jessica and Ashley up?

Well, that’s where Booksterdam comes into play. By connecting the sellers and buyers within the same college, both the parties will benefit. The goal is circulate the books within the campus among students decreasing the need for students to spend more on new expensive books.

Without shipping and third-party commissions to account for, Ashely would be willing to sell the book for a comparatively cheaper price. And Jessica would have the book on her hands within minutes in an unbeatable price.

**Methodology**

Booksterdam is developed using the agile software development methodology under which each functionality is implemented and thoroughly tested before moving to the next one. The technologies used were carefully chosen based on the needs of the application while also ensuring that the application is scalable to accommodate new functionalities and support a growing user base if it comes to that.

**Functionalities**

* Post all the books

**Future of Booksterdam**

**Potential Revenue Model**

**Technology Stack**

**Client-side:**

**Languages:** *HTML5, CSS, JavaScript*

**Template Engine:** *Jade*

**Framework/Libraries:** *Bootstrap, jQuery*

**Plugins:** *Mobirise, Jarallax, Socicon*

**Server-side:**

**Frameworks:** *Node.js, Express*

**Key Modules:**

*mssql:*Processing requests to the remote MSSQL database

*bcryptjs:* For password encryption.

*client-sessions:*Handling user sessions / storing browser cookies

**Database:** *MSSQL*

**External Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)**

*ISBNdb:* To gather information about books.

*Google Books:* To gather information about books.

*Openlibrary.org:* To retrieve cover images of books.

**Hosted on:**

*Microsoft Azure*: For both the Server and Database.