

# Introduction to Database Systems

## *The Central Library*

### Project ER Report

### Team Number: #5

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## Project description

The project we intend to implement is a desktop application for a multi-branch library. This application would be for both readers, and administrative users such as librarians, branch administrators, and finally owners (potentially *owner*). It would include the business side such as: vending, business meetings, and finance management; and regular reader side such as: subscribing to the library or one-time visiting, reading books in-house, borrowing, events attendance...etc.

<i>Entities</i>	
Book	Category
Author	Publishing house
Event	Finance record
Event attendant	Scheduled business meetings
Vendor	Meetings attendants
Request	Person
Employee	Administrator
Librarian	Owner
Reader	Transactions
Branch	Request

Users	Functionality
<b>Reader*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search for books</li> <li>• Request transaction (borrowing, reading, visiting, subscription, and event attendance).</li> <li>• Register for an event.</li> <li>• View branches.</li> <li>• Request a non-existing book</li> <li>• View their history.</li> <li>• Contact librarian.</li> </ul>
<b>Librarian</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept readers' transactions.</li> <li>• Add, remove books, or mark unavailable.</li> <li>• Sign up and remove readers.</li> <li>• Add and remove event attendants.</li> <li>• View each day's activity history.</li> <li>• Contact administrators, and readers who did not return books.</li> </ul>
<b>Administrator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire and fire librarians.</li> <li>• Hire and fire vendors.</li> <li>• Make events.</li> <li>• Request for books from vendors.</li> <li>• Contact owner or librarians.</li> <li>• View registered users.</li> <li>• Prepare financial reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Owner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire and fire any employee.</li> <li>• Make and remove a new branch.</li> <li>• Contact administrators.</li> <li>• View, add, and remove financial reports.</li> <li>• Prepare for business plans meetings with administrators.</li> </ul>

\* We modified reader to include both visitor and subscriber, illustrated better in the entities section.

## **PROBLEM DEFINITION**

The problem is coming up with a good database design that suits a functional multi-branch library that does not only fit the managerial side of things, but also the day-to-day low-level transactions. The design must include various functional users: like the owner, and the reader, and must accommodate the needed functionality. The users are described next.

## **SYSTEM USERS\***

Users	Privileges
<b>Reader<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viewing access on the available books and searching them.</li><li>• Requesting some transactions such as: borrowing, inhouse reading, and subscribing.</li><li>• View access on all the events, and themselves attending them.</li><li>• View access on their activity history (only for long-term subscribers, not visitors).</li><li>• View access on branches.</li><li>• Emailing librarians.</li></ul>
<b>Librarian</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full access to books and readers.</li><li>• View access to category.</li><li>• View access on event entity.</li><li>• Full access on event attendant entity.</li><li>• View, insert and update access on transaction entity, and thus authorizing transaction requests (at least, the ones they're authorized to <i>authorize</i>, which are mainly the reader's request).</li><li>• Emailing both readers and administrators.</li></ul>
<b>Administrator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full access to event and event attendant entity.</li><li>• Full access to librarian entity.</li><li>• View access to business meetings entity.</li><li>• Full view, update and delete access on books, vendors, and finance records of his branch.</li><li>• Full view and update access on <i>his</i> branch.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emailing the owner and the librarians.</li> </ul>
<b>Owner</b>	<p>Root privilege. Of the few additional functionalities they will have are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full update and delete access on branch entity.</li> <li>Full view, update, and delete access on employee entity and all its subclasses.</li> <li>Full access to the business meetings entity.</li> </ul>

\* Please, bear in mind that each user will have the mentioned privileges, *and all the privileges to the preceding users*. That is: this is a hierarchical structure.

<sup>1</sup> We modified reader to include both visitor and subscriber, illustrated better in the entities section

## **ENTITIES**

<b>Person</b>	This is the superclass of all the subclass entities designating any types of persons under them. It's further specialized to one of the following subclasses: Employee and Reader. It's related to each of them through an ISA relationship.
<b>Employee</b>	A subclass of the entity person, and a further superclass for other following entities: Librarian, Administrator and Owner. It, obviously, inherits all the attributes of its superclass, person, and adds to it certain relevant, to the employment, attributes.
<b>Librarian</b>	<p>A subclass of the entity employee. It has no further attributes apart from those present in employee but will certainly have different privileges from its sibling descendants from employee.</p> <p>It's the person dealing with readers, handling the daily tasks.</p>
<b>Administrator</b>	<p>Same description as librarian concerning its descendancy.</p> <p>For each branch is an administrator; deals with bigger issues like hiring/firing librarians.</p>
<b>Owner</b>	Same description as the two above concerning its descendancy.

	It's the top in the hierarchy, owner of all branches.
<b>Author</b>	Author of a book. It's not included in the inheriting hierarchy of the entity person since there are not many attributes in common. For example: no need to have his contact info, or age (for they may be dead).
<b>Publishing house</b>	Publishers of any available books.
<b>Reader</b>	A subclass of the entity person. They are the daily subscribers and visitors combined. We distinguished between the two through the attribute <i>valid_until</i> that describes the temporal validity of their stay. Visitors' data are ephemeral, unlike subscribers.
<b>Vendor</b>	A third-party book supplier.
<b>Event</b>	Any arranged event in the library. Each instance is constricted to a single branch.
<b>Event attendant</b>	Attendants of any event. A worthy attribute of it to mention is the <i>special_guest</i> attribute; it indicates, from its name, whether the attendant is a guest of honor or not.
<b>Scheduled business meetings</b>	An entity for any business meetings between the concerned administrators, and the owner. Not a low-level meeting.
<b>Business meetings attendants</b>	An entity for all business meetings attendants. It references both the employee attending, and the meeting itself.
<b>Book</b>	Any of the available (or once available, but no longer) books.
<b>Category</b>	An entity for holding the various categories of books.
<b>Branch</b>	An entity for existing branches of the library.
<b>Transaction</b>	Any transaction made in the library. This includes the day-to-day ones, which are: borrowing, subscription, visiting, event-attendance, etc.; and the large business-side ones including the vending transactions.
<b>Finance Records</b>	A daily branch-specific sum up of the transactions made in the branch.

<b>Email</b>	The main communication channel for all the internal employees and vendors alike. This can be made also available for users.
<b>Request</b>	The sole communication channel specific to daily reader requests which will need approval from the appropriate employee.

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

<b>request_receiver</b>	A 1:1 relationship between the request and its receiver.
<b>request_sender</b>	A 1:1 relationship between the request and its sender.
<b>email_receiver</b>	A 1:1 relationship between the email and its receiver.
<b>email_sender</b>	A 1:1 relationship between the email and its sender.
<b>person_reader</b>	An ISA relationship between the superclass person and its subclass reader entity.
<b>person_employee</b>	An ISA relationship between the superclass person and its subclass employee entity.
<b>employee_librarian</b>	An ISA relationship between the superclass employee and its subclass librarian entity.
<b>employee_administrator</b>	An ISA relationship between the superclass employee and its subclass administrator entity.
<b>employee_owner</b>	An ISA relationship between the superclass employee and its subclass owner entity.
<b>employee_branch</b>	A one-to-many relationship, from the branch to the employee, tying each employee to their sole branch.
<b>finance_branch</b>	A one-to-many relationship, from the branch to the finance record, tying each finance record to its branch.
<b>book_category</b>	A one-to-many relationship, from the category to the book, tying each book with a certain category.

<b>vendor_category</b>	A many-to-many relationship between the vendor and category entities, tying vendors to the categories they supply.
<b>requested_books_id</b>	A one-to-one relationship
<b>event_branch_id</b>	A one-to-many relationship from the branch to the event, tying each event to where it's held.
<b>attendant_event_id</b>	A one-to-many relationship from the event attendant entity to the event entity, tying each person attending an event to the event itself.
<b>person_event_attendant</b>	A one-to-one relationship between the event attendant entity and the person entity.
<b>administ_biz_attendant</b>	A one-to-one relationship between the business meeting attendant entity and the administrator entity.
<b>attendant_meeting_id</b>	A one-to-many relationship from the business meeting attendant entity to the business meeting entity, tying each employee attending a meeting to the meeting itself.
<b>authorized_by</b>	A one-to-one relationship between the employee and transaction entities, tying each transaction made to whoever authorized it.
<b>initiated_by</b>	A one-to-one relationship between the person and transaction entities, tying each transaction made to whoever initiated it.
<b>transaction_branch</b>	A one-to-many relationship, from the branch to the transaction entity, tying each transaction to the branch it occurred in.
<b>authored_by</b>	A one-to-many relationship from the author to the book entity, tying each book to its author. (For sake of simplicity, we prevented the case where more authors share writing a book).
<b>reader_borrowed_book</b>	A one-to-many relationship from the reader to the book entity, tying each reader to the borrowed books.
<b>vendor_branch_id</b>	A many-to-many relationship between the vendor and branch entities, tying each vendor to the branches they vend for.



