

# **Users' Guide - Hermès (Team Name: Dynamic News Delivery)**

## **Overview**

We have created a web-app, Hermes, that makes it simple for students - or anyone with a busy, restrictive schedule - to be more engaged in the news through a personalized newspaper. What makes us different from other existing news apps is that the appearance of the application's dashboard is user-driven - they determine what interests they want to see news about, and the dashboard adjusts accordingly. We also use machine learning to suggest topics that users may be interested in based on the articles they choose to read.

## **How to Get Started**

Hermes is a web application so it can be accessed on a desktop browser such as Chrome or Firefox at <https://vast-eyrie-91398.herokuapp.com>

### **1. How to Make a Hermes Account**

First, since you are a first time user, click on the register button to be led to the user registration page. From there, you will be prompted to fill out the required fields. Enter 'Alice' as your first name, and 'Jones' as your last name'. Next, enter 01/15/1998 as your date of birth. Now, enter 'ajones' as your username, 'ajones@gmail.com' as your email, and 'jones1234' as your password (you will need to confirm your password once more). When you are finished filling out the required fields, click on the register button on the bottom of the page to make your account!

### **2. Update your Interests for the First Time**

Once you have successfully created an account, you will be asked to input 3 interests (you can add more interests later if you want). You can choose to manually type in your interests, or you can click on "See topics" button and choose from a menu of topics. For the sake of this user guide, it would be convenient for you to follow along with the following interest-specific instructions: For the first interest, enter "dogs". For the second interest, click on the "See Topics" button. When the menu appears, click on the category "school & college". Then click on the category "kindergarten". At the top of the menu, click on the "choose this topic" button. For the third interest, enter "potatoes". Once you are ready, you can submit your interests by clicking the "Submit Your Interest" button and you will be taken to your personalized dashboard!

### **3. Visit Articles on Dashboard**

Recently published articles based on your interests will appear on your dashboard. Click on the first article that appears - this article will open up in a new tab. When you are done reading, close the article and go back to your dashboard. When you go back to your dashboard and refresh the page, the article that you just clicked on (and all future articles that you may have previously read) will appear in a dimmer color than the other articles. This will help you keep track of the

articles you've already visited. Close the tab with the article (this is required for better accuracy in learning your interests and preferences).

#### **4. Quickly Access your Dashboard from anywhere**

No matter what page you are viewing on our app, click on the button “Hermes” in the navigation bar to get back to your dashboard!

#### **4. Bookmark Article on Dashboard**

At the bottom of each article displayed on the dashboard, there is a blue “+ Bookmark” button. Click on this button for the second article on the dashboard.

#### **5. View the Article you Bookmarked**

There are two ways to see the article you bookmarked. The first way is right on the dashboard itself; On the left sidebar of the dashboard, you can see your bookmarked articles. Refresh the page to see the article you just bookmarked in the sidebar (note: remember to refresh to get the most updated list if you recently bookmarked an article on your dashboard).

The second way to see the articles you bookmarked is to click on the “Bookmarks” section in the navigation bar on the top of the page. Once you click on “Bookmarks”, you will see a list of all the titles of the articles you bookmarked. You can click on these article titles to open the articles as new tabs in your browser.

#### **6. Quickly Access your Dashboard from Bookmarks**

No matter what page you are viewing on our app, Click on the button “Hermes” in the navigation bar to get back to your dashboard (note: no matter what page you are viewing on our app, you can always press this button to return to your dashboard, provided you are logged in).

#### **7. Un-bookmark your Article**

On your dashboard, at the end of the article you just bookmarked, there will be a blue “- Bookmark” button (this indicates an article you bookmarked previously). Click on this button to remove it from your list of bookmarked articles. Refresh the page to see that this article is now gone from the list of your bookmarked articles in the sidebar (note: currently there is no un-bookmark function in the sidebar or the “Bookmarks” page).

#### **8. Make the Most of the Features on the Sidebar of the Dashboard**

##### **Sidebar Feature #1: Shortcuts to your Interests**

It is a hassle if you have to scroll through the page to find the interests you marked. On the dashboard page, there is a sidebar with your interests. Click on any one of these interests, and

you will be automatically directed to the part of the dashboard that displays the articles pertaining to that interest.

### **Sidebar Feature #2: Modify Your Interests**

For your convenience, you can click on the button “Modify Your Interests” to edit your interests. First, click on that button. You will now have reached the ‘Settings’ page (which can also be accessed from the navigation bar). Then, at the section of the page that is labeled “Edit Interest”, you can edit your interests. Click the “add an interest” button and type in the new interest “phones” in the text box. Then, click the “delete” button next to the old interest “potatoes” to delete it. Then, press the “Save” button - this will take you back to the dashboard, now updated with your modified interests.

### **Sidebar Feature #3: See Your Statistics and Suggested Interests**

On the dashboard, click on “See Your Statistics and Suggested Interests” link on the sidebar, and you will be lead to the “Stats & Suggestions” page (which can also be accessed from the navigation bar). Here, you can see how your interest stack up against your other interests, the time you spend on each interest, and how your interests link to other Hermes users. Since you have only read one article thus far, these statistics will be largely meaningless at the moment - if you choose to continue reading more articles from all of your interests, these statistics will reveal trends in your reading habits.

Below these statistics, you will also see suggestions for what topics you may be interested in. The topic will be in capitalized letters. Hover over the suggested topic (Climate & Environment) and click on it, you will be led back to the settings page. Using the instructions outlined above, add Climate & Environment to your interests, and click the “Save” button.

### **Sidebar Feature #4: Bookmarks**

As outlined previously, you will see a list of all the articles you have bookmarked on the sidebar of the dashboard. Using the previously outlined instructions, bookmark the first three articles pertaining to your new “Climate & Environment” interest. Refresh the page, you will see your these articles displayed in the bookmarks section of the sidebar.

## **9. How to Change Your Password**

Click on “Settings” in the navigation bar. Then, scroll to the area that is labeled “Change your password”. Type in your old password - ‘jones1234’. Then, type in your new password - ‘jones5678’ - and then confirm it. Then click the update button!

## **10. How to Do a Single Search**

You don't need to only look at your dashboard for articles you might want to read. In the case that you are just curious about a topic for any reason and don't want to add it to your interests, you can use Hermes to find articles based on any query. Click on "Search" in the navigation bar, and you will be taken to the search page. Type in "trees", and then click the "Search" button to load articles about trees.

## **11. How to Logout**

Click on Logout in the navigation bar to sign out of your account.

## **12. How to sign back into your account**

From the landing page, press the 'Login' button on the top-right hand corner of your screen (or the 'Login' button on the first section of the landing page. From there, you will be prompted to enter the username and password you chose earlier - enter 'ajones' as your username and 'jones5678' as your password. Once you have entered in these fields, click the 'Sign In' button, and you will be directed back to your dashboard, with all of your interests and bookmarks from your previous session saved and available to you!