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ATLS 4120

Project 2 - Milestone 4

I spent the majority of my app building process figuring out how to store and retrieve information from Firebase. I found it fairly easy to write information to Firebase, however I had some issues parsing the correct data to use in my app, and I was unable to implement all of the functionality that I had originally planned. I wanted to implement a search function into my app where the user could look for a specific textbook by title and author, but I was never able to figure out a way to do this using Firebase. Instead I simply implemented a table that displays all of the textbooks that are currently available in the database, as well as the price of the textbook.

Despite not being able to include all of the features that I wanted in my second project I am glad that I learned the basics of Firebase, as it seems like a valuable tool that I can apply to mobile and web applications in the future. If I were to build my app again I would focus on understanding how the tree-style data structure works on Firebase, and I would try to implement it into my app from the beginning. I had originally planned to store all of the data for the textbooks in my app into arrays, and then parse through the arrays when the user performed the search function. After I had already implemented some of the functionality with arrays I realized that this method would not work with Firebase, which led to many new issues when I had to go back and change my implementation.

In both of my projects this semester I used table views, and it was interesting to compare the implementation across both platforms. Although I preferred iOS development as a whole, I found that creating custom table view cells in Android was much easier, as there was much more freedom to adjust the margins and padding for each element in the table view cell.