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DESCRIPTION/CHALLENGES:

Bookmi is a social book trading website, made to allow users to exchange books with other users. Plenty of avid readers possess books that they either didn't finish or never intend to read again, and would love the chance to get rid of these books while gaining another addition to their library. In order to help users figure out which books they want to read, our site implements a database of books, providing summaries and recommendations, as well as allowing users to review and rate books. This way, readers do not have to decide which books they want to read on a site external to ours. Furthermore, users can rate the experience they had exchanging books with other users, guaranteeing that if some user is not holding up their end of the deal, they receive a bad review and are not trusted for exchanges again. Readers can follow their friends, their favourite reviewers, and the best swappers to keep up to date about reviews, additions to lists, and available swaps. Bookmi is unlike any other website because it is dedicated to allowing readers to efficiently exchange books while remaining social about the books they have read and the books they want to read next. The very few existing book swapping websites do not have a complex book and user review system like ours, and thus are not very social network oriented.

HOW IT WORKS:

The user, upon logging in, is greeted with a recommendations page which will be updated regularly based on the users existing wish list. Their options are shown in a menu, which contains a search bar. A user can search for books via its title or author and will be presented with a page containing several potential results. After finding the book they were looking for, they can add this book to either their swap list or their wish list, or they can review the book. By adding it to a list, that information is added to the book's page so that other users can find people that either own the book or want the book. They can request from the user a "swap", and in doing so, update that user's inbox and inform them of a message. Once the requested user accepts or rejects, the requester user is made aware of the response. If the response was affirmative, the users are made aware of each others addresses and asked to message one another to exchange swapping details.

USER AUTHENTICATION:

We will authorize registration and log in through a username and password as well as third party authentication through Facebook or Google. The third party authentication is necessary to ensure user protection and privacy, to prevent users from logging into other accounts through the username and password alone. It guarantees that even if the website is hacked and username/password information is taken, another person cannot log in without the individuals Google/Facebook information.

USER PROFILING:

Each user has their own profile, created upon registration, that contains username and password information, alongside their primary emails and their individually created exchange/wish lists. Certain personal attributes are hidden from the public, visible only to the administrator and that individual user. Users can view basic information and exchange/wish lists of other users. If the user wants to search for a user, this can be done through the community tab, where all the users they are currently following as well as all the users that are following them is displayed. When viewing another user's profile, they can see basic, non-private details, including name and follower count, as well as their exchange and wish lists. They can also make the requests for swapping on this profile page.

USER INTERACTIONS/ADMIN VIEW:

We have users or administrators. The users have limited capability as far as being able to view other users information, and cannot edit other users information at all. Administrators can view and edit all users' information. They can also view the total number of exchanges and exchange rating/comments, and all reviews made on the books, and other useful analytics. Administrators can also delete comments (in case of spam, etc).

SOCIAL NETWORK:

Users can follow other users in order to keep track of their exchange and wish lists, as well as their reviews for books and can privately message them in order to arrange swap information or to discuss their mutual love of reading.

REPUTATION SYSTEM:

Users can comment and rate on the exchange experience after it has been completed, in order to recommend users' as being reliable and credible. On the book's page, users who either want the book or are exchanging the book are displayed, and will be sorted from more reputable to least reputable. The rating system is star-based. The score is an average of all ratings made by all users. Reviews for books follow a similar scheme.

ENHANCEMENTS:

A feed can be implemented where upon following a particular user, their updates to their lists and any reviews they make is shown to the user on their main screen. Furthermore, to secure a user's login information, security questions can be implemented which must be answered upon log in. For a user's convenience, a "Remember Me" option can be implemented that allows the server to use cookies (with user permission) in order to allow access without necessarily logging in every time the website is accessed.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Finish by Sat July 16 (plus meet/skype sometime between the 16th-20th):

Nick:

- Database (set up the tables, heroku etc.)
- Search users

Gongcheng:

- Login/ create new account (including google/fb stuff)
- Rate/ comment on books

Anisha:

- View other users' profile
- Request book

Shannon:

- Add/ delete book to a list
- Search books
- Display book details

Finish by Sat July 23 (and meet up to see everyone's progress):

Nick:

- Follow/unfollow users (also update community page)
- Recommendations

Gongcheng:

- My profile (edit personal info etc. and make it look good)
- Admin (delete users/comments, edit user info etc.)

Anisha:

- Update request section of inbox (remember mail icon)
- Rate the exchange

Shannon:

- Message other users plus message section of inbox

Finish as time permits before the due date:

- About Us / What is Bookmi
- Contact us form
- Security
- Feed (under recommendations)
- Flag/report comments

- Other enhancements
- Test cases