Tattoo Places API

The purpose behind my API was to allow users to find tattoo studios and their work at a glance. Sometimes the studio’s picture galleries online aren’t as functional (for example, opening every picture in a new tab), or their website’s gallery isn’t up to date. Tattoo studios are very popular on Instagram, and it seems to be more of the go-to for photo sharing. Google Places allows for locations to be listed and marked on the map. The merging of Google Places and Instafeed(a Javascript plugin that uses the Instagram API) enables users to find tattoo studios geographically and see their work without having to open another webpage.

One main technical issue that arose was trying to modify the existing Google Places function for opening an info window with raw Javascript. Initially, I wanted to be able to click a marker on the map, and see its respective Instafeed within the infowindow itself. The Instafeed populates its own div, and trying to add that div to the infowindow was a challenge. I opted to keep the Instafeed below the map, but wanted to be able to filter out the photos from studios that weren’t selected.

A major limitation I found with using the Instagram API was trying to attain location ids. The latitude and longitude coordinates of a place, along with your access token had to be put into a URL, and places nearby the given coordinates were displayed in JSON format. It was straight to the point with no extraneous content, but tedious to continuously copy and paste the coordinates (and sometimes the place you were looking for wouldn’t show).

Stackoverflow has been a great resource so far – I like that problems can be looked up and chances are someone’s had the same one. I also like that there is a voting system that shows the best answer. Github is also a great resource with its Issues feature that allows for other users to bring up questions with the author.