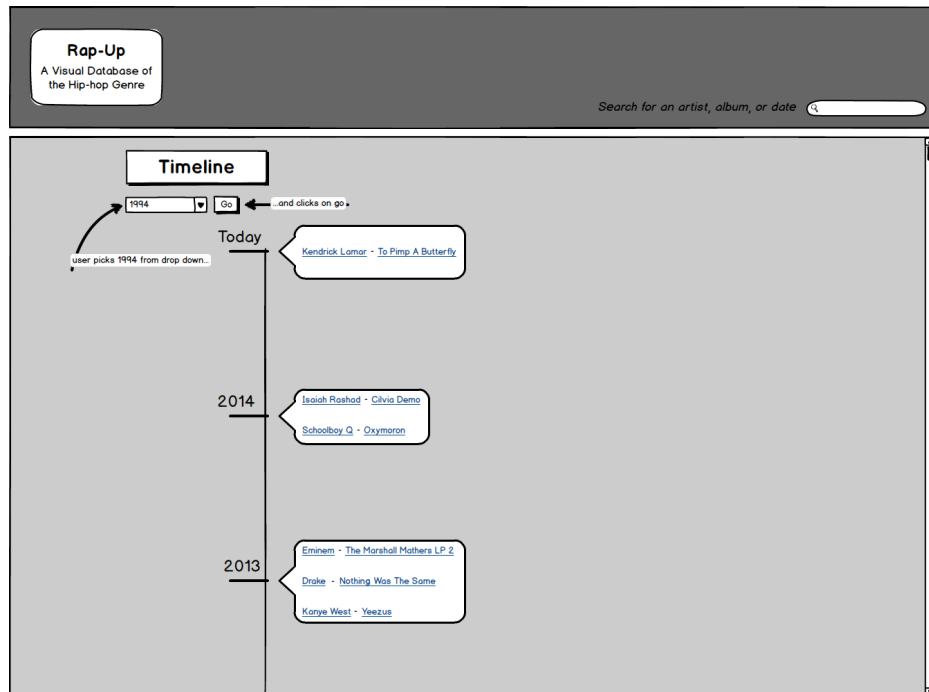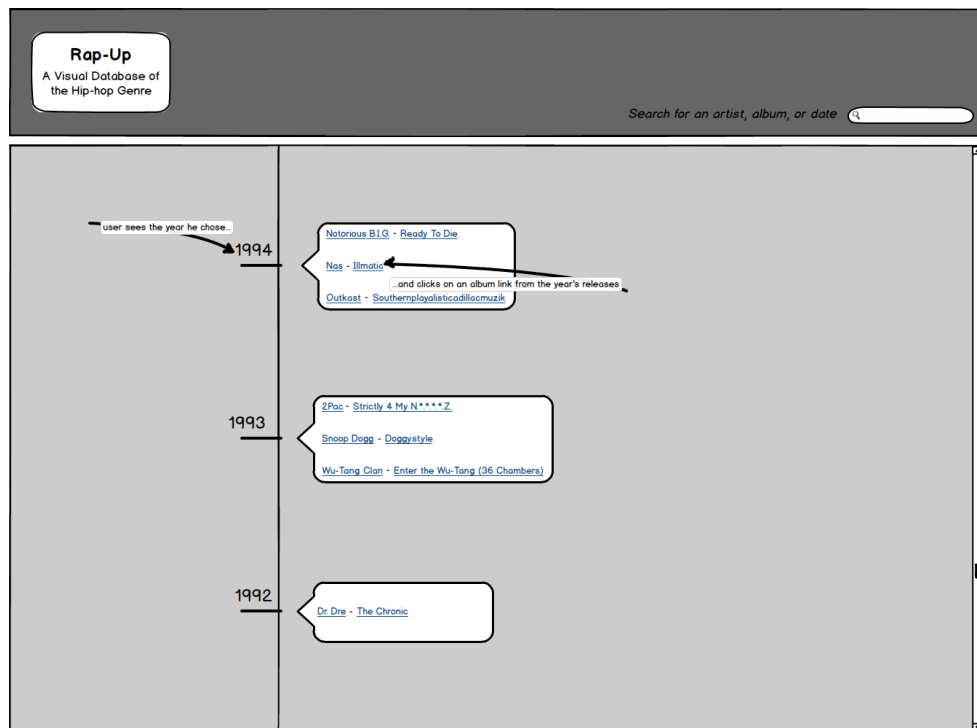User Story #1: User A heard from a friend that some of the best rap albums of all time were released during 1994. User A needs to be exposed to some classic hip-hop, and expects to learn about albums released during the time period, and the artists responsible for them.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date

Timeline

1994 ▾ | Go ← ...and clicks on go

user picks 1994 from drop down...

Today
    Kendrick Lamar - To Pimp A Butterfly

2014
    Isaiah Rashad - Cilvia Demo
    Schoolboy Q - Oxymoron

2013
    Eminem - The Marshall Mathers LP 2
    Drake - Nothing Was The Same
    Kanye West - Yeezus

User A chooses the year from a drop down menu, which scrolls the page to that year.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date

user sees the year he chose...

1994
    Notorious B.I.G - Ready To Die
    Nas - Illmatic ← ...and clicks on an album link from the year's releases
    Outkast - Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik

1993
    2Pac - Strictly 4 My N****Z.
    Snoop Dogg - Doggystyle
    Wu-Tang Clan - Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)

1992
    Dr. Dre - The Chronic

User A looks at some of the albums listed for 1994, and recognizes the name Illmatic. User A then clicks on the album title.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date

Illmatic (1994)
Artist: Nas

SUMMARY

From Wikipedia:

"Illmatic is the debut studio album by American rapper Nas, released on April 19, 1994, by Columbia Records. After signing with the label with the help of MC Serch, Nas recorded the album in 1992–1993 at Chung King Studios, D&D Recording, Battery Studios, and Unique Recording Studios in New York City. Its production was handled by Nas, Large Professor, Pete Rock, Q-Tip, L.E.S., and DJ Premier. Styled as a hardcore hip hop album, Illmatic features multi-syllabic internal rhymes and inner-city narratives based on Nas's experiences in Queensbridge, New York.

The album debuted at #12 on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart, selling 59,000 copies in its first week. However, its initial sales fell below expectations and its five singles failed to achieve significant chart success. Despite the album's low initial sales, Illmatic received rave reviews from most music critics, who praised its lyrical content, production, and Nas's lyricism. On January 17, 1996, the album was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, and in 2001 it earned platinum certification after shipping one million copies in the United States.

Since its initial reception, Illmatic has been recognized by writers and music critics as a landmark album in East Coast hip hop. Its influence on subsequent hip hop artists has been attributed to the album's production and Nas's lyricism. It also contributed to the revival of the New York City rap scene, introducing a number of stylistic trends to the region. The album remains one of the most widely celebrated albums in hip hop history, appearing on numerous best album lists by critics and publications."

user reads something in summary which is interesting...

Ah, User A now remembers why he/she knew the name, Illmatic was apparently a very influential album. User A is now interested in learning about the artist who made Illmatic, so he/she clicks on the artist name.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date

Nas

About The Artist

From Wikipedia:

"Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones[1] (/nɑːˈsɪər/; born September 14, 1973), better known as Nas /ˈnɑːz/, is an American rapper, songwriter, record producer and actor. He is the son of jazz musician Olu Dara. Since 1994, Nas has released eight consecutive platinum and multi-platinum albums and sold over 25 million records worldwide. Aside from rapping and acting, Nas is an entrepreneur through his own record label, retail sneaker store, and magazine publishing. He serves as Associate Publisher of Mass Appeal magazine, as well as an owner of a Fila sneaker store. He is currently signed to Def Jam Recordings and Mass Appeal Records.

His musical career began in 1991 when he was featured on Main Source's track "Live at the Barbeque". His debut album Illmatic, released in 1994, received universal acclaim from both critics and the hip hop community. It is frequently ranked as one of the greatest hip hop albums of all time. He did Illmatic's "N.Y. State of Mind" in one take.

His follow-up album It Was Written debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Charts, stayed on top for four consecutive weeks, went platinum twice in only two months, and made Nas internationally known.

user receives information about the artist, Nas was involved in a highly publicized feud with rapper Jay-Z. In 2006, Nas signed to Def Jam. In 2010, he released a collaboration album with reggae artist Damian Marley, donating all royalties to charities active in Africa. His eleventh studio album, Life Is Good was released in 2012.

Nas is often named as one of the top hip hop artists. MTV ranked him at number 5 on their list of The Greatest MCs of All Time. In 2012, The Source ranked him No. 2 on their list of the Top 50 Lyricists of All Time. In 2013, Nas was ranked fourth on MTV's "Hottest MCs in the Game" list. In 2014, About.com ranked him No. 1 on their list of the 50 Greatest MCs of All Time. He has six number 1 albums on the Billboard 200, tying him with Eminem and Kanye West for 2nd all time among rappers. "

Notable albums by this artist

Illmatic (1994)
It was Written (1996)
Stillmatic (2001)
Life is Good (2012)

Word Cloud

rap statistics teaching crime gun hard shook
corner gangsta cash musk death rhyme New York
mic beat Queens beef cokehead peeps God
Queensbridge word work murder

Number of Unique Words Used by Artist 4329*

*number of unique words used by the artist

User A then reads some autobiographical text, and some related information. User A decides to give Nas a listen the next chance he/she gets.

User Story #2:User B is in dire need of some older music by one of his/her favorite artists, Eminem. He/she is scrolling through Rap-Up, and decides to click on the name Eminem, after spotting the album *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* in the year 2013.
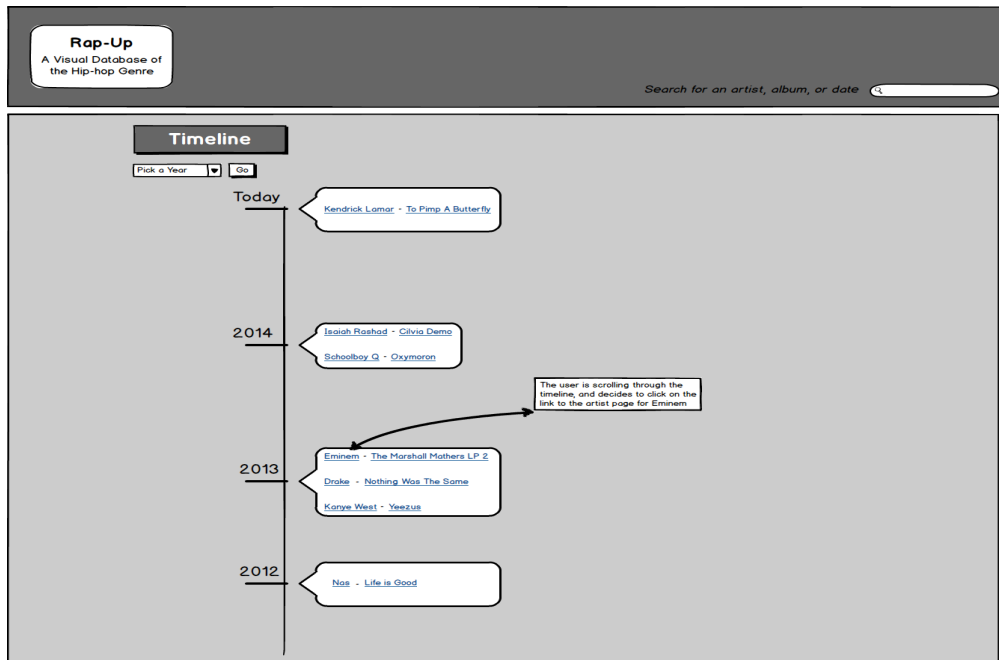
After clicking on the artist link, the user arrives at the artist page, hoping to see if the artist has anymore notable albums that the user should listen to.
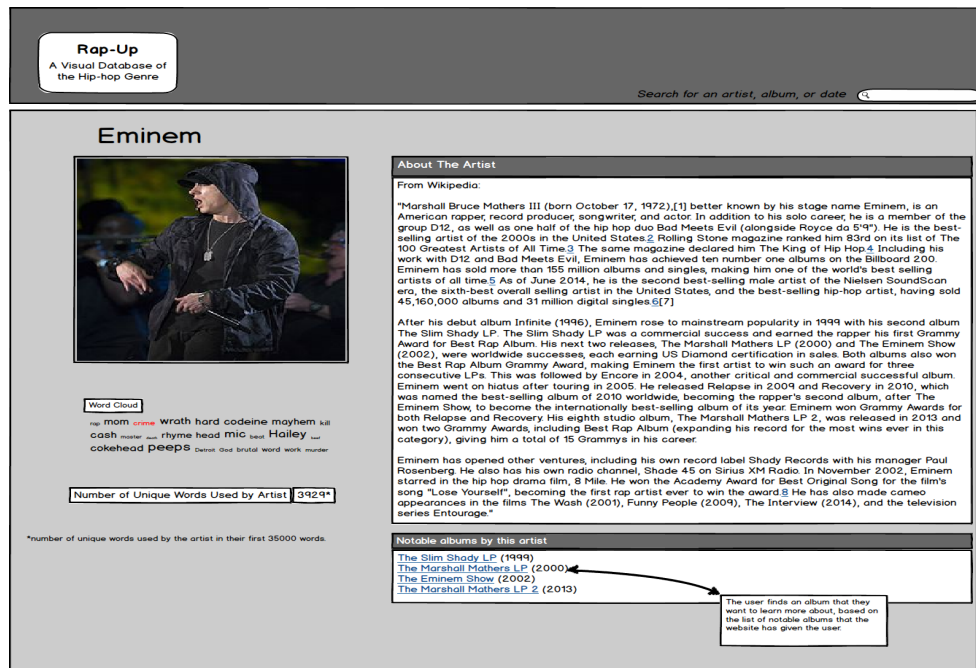
At this point, User B decides to navigate to see what the original Marshall Mathers LP was like, especially after seeing that the original album was on the notable album list.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date

The Marshall Mathers LP (2000)

Artist: Eminem
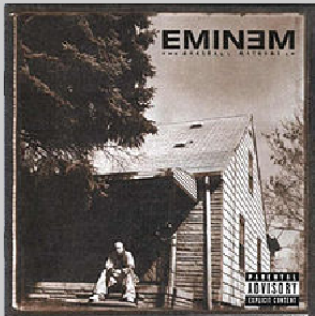
SUMMARY

From Wikipedia:

"The Marshall Mathers LP is the third studio album by American rapper Eminem. It was released on May 23, 2000, by Interscope Records, Aftermath Entertainment and his newly founded label, Shady Records in the United States,[2] and on September 11, 2000, by Polydor Records in the United Kingdom.3 The album was produced mostly by Dr. Dre and Eminem, along with The 45 King, Bass Brothers, and Mel-Man. Released a year after Eminem's breakout album The Slim Shady LP, the record features more introspective lyricism including the rapper's response to his sudden rise to fame and controversy surrounding his lyrics.

The album sold more than 1.76 million copies in the US in the first week alone, becoming the fastest-selling studio album by any solo artist in American music history.4 In 2001, the album won the Grammy Award for Best Rap Album and was nominated for Album of the Year. The album was certified diamond by the Recording Industry Association of America in 2011 for shipping 10 million copies in the United States.5[6] By 2012, the album had sold 11,000,000 copies in the United States and more than 32 million copies worldwide.7

A sequel to the album titled The Marshall Mathers LP 2 was announced during the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards and was released on November 5, 2013.8"

After reading the description for the Marshall Mathers LP, User B decides that the album may be worth a listen, and decides to buy the album to add to their music library.

User Story #3: User C has been listening to his/her favorite contemporary rap artist Kanye West, and how Kanye's lyrical complexity compares to a classic rapper like Nas. User C needs to compare the abilities of the two rappers somehow, and expects to view some sort of metric for quantifying each artist's talent with wordplay.
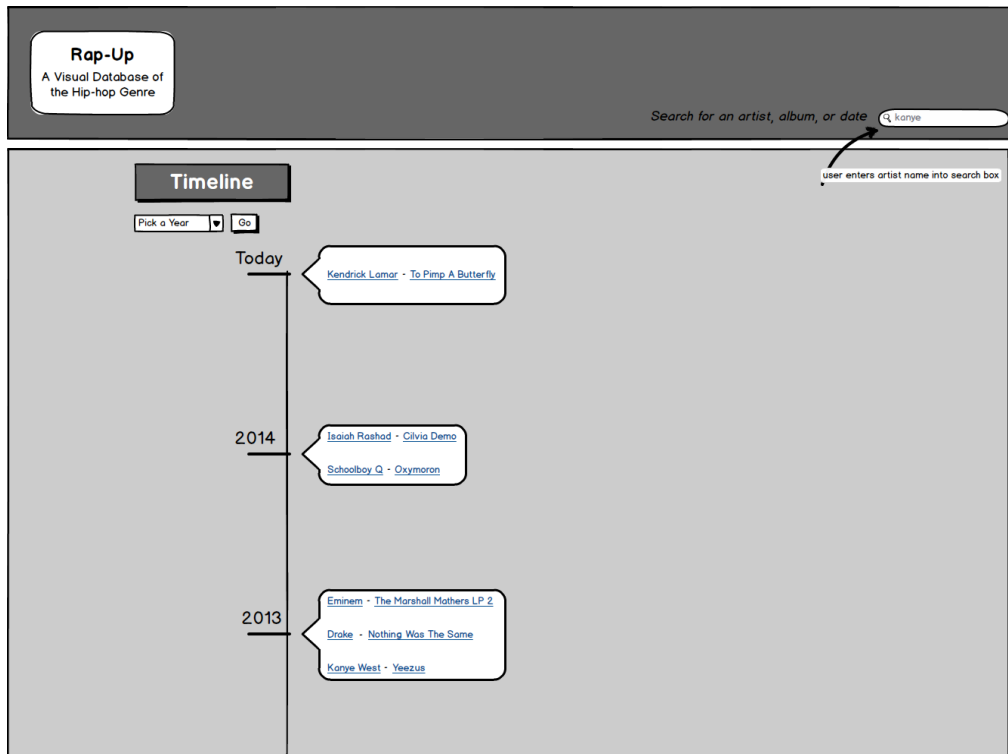
User C uses the search tool at the top of the page to make a quick search.
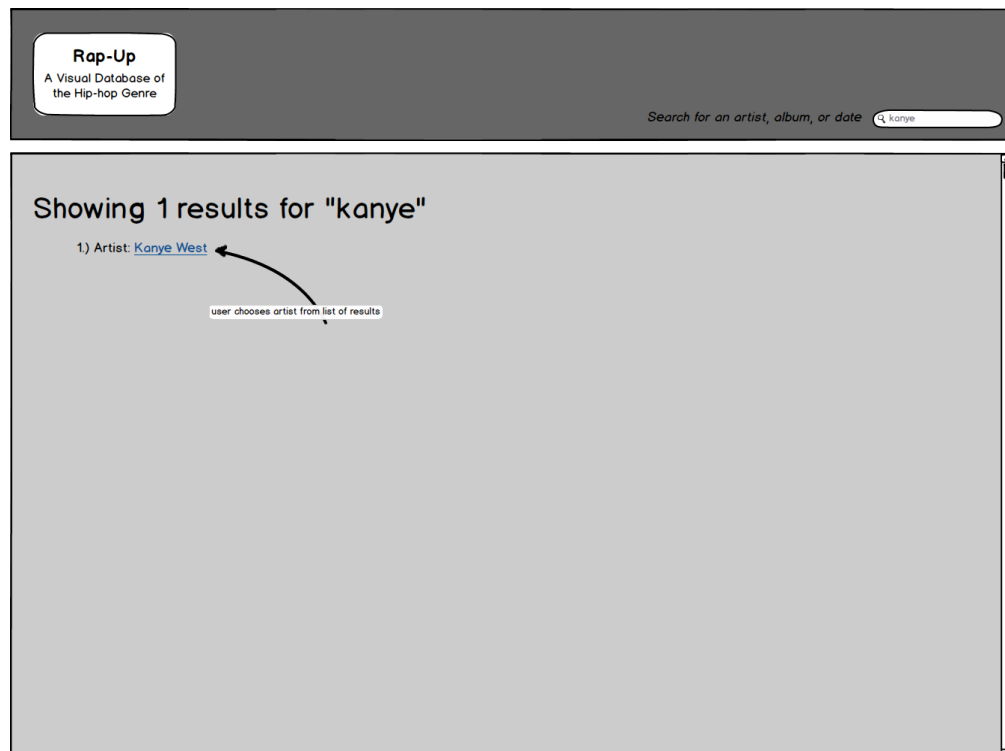
User C then chooses the artist from a list of search results.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date   🔍 nas

...and searches for another artist

Kanye West

Word Cloud

rap ye best crime gun hard yeezy corner gangsta cash ... death rhyme chicago hottest killing bed real beef cokehead peeps work emcee word work money

Number of Unique Words Used by Artist   3028*

*number of unique words used by the artist

looks at artist vocabulary...

Notable albums by this artist

Late Registration (2005)
Graduation (2007)
My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy (2010)
Yeezus (2013)

User C scans the page to find the vocabulary size of the artist, and searches for the second using the search tool.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Search for an artist, album, or date   🔍 nas

Showing 1 results for "nas"

1.) Artist: Nas

user chooses artist from list of results

User C then chooses the artist from a list of search results.

Rap-Up
A Visual Database of
the Hip-hop Genre

Nas

About The Artist

From Wikipedia:

"Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones[1] (/nɑːˈsɪər/; born September 14, 1973), better known as Nas /ˈnɑːz/, is an American rapper, songwriter, record producer and actor. He is the son of jazz musician Olu Dara. Since 1994, Nas has released eight consecutive platinum and multi-platinum albums and sold over 25 million records worldwide. Aside from rapping and acting, Nas is an entrepreneur through his own record label, retail sneaker store, and magazine publishing. He serves as Associate Publisher of Mass Appeal magazine, as well as an owner of a Fila sneaker store. He is currently signed to Def Jam Recordings and Mass Appeal Records.

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Word Cloud

rap statistics teaching crime gun hard shook corner gangsta cash cash death rhyme New York mic bars Queens beef cokehead peeps God Queensbridge word work murder

Number of Unique Words Used by Artist | 4329*

*number of unique words used by the artist

user looks at vocabulary for other artist

Notable albums by this artist

Illmatic (1994)
Written (1996)
Stillmatic (2001)
Life is Good (2012)

And User C sees that the classic rapper Nas has a larger vocabulary than Kanye West, so he/she decides to make a new playlist of Nas' best songs.