**Overview**

As part of an early project, I produced an XML database that collected my library collection of books, DVDs, and CDs into one place and one file. The process of creating this XML database is marking up each item individually before displaying the database through an XSLT conversion to an HTML page. While this is a good start, the process is cumbersome and overly complicated. My next project will create a form using Ruby on Rails or MySQL to transform input into XML and update my XML database.

**Purpose & Significance**

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to gain familiarity with either Ruby on Rails or the MySQL programming language and be able to show a working knowledge of the programming code necessary to complete this task. This knowledge will enhance my skillset for potential employers, and help me generate user-friendly websites for future clients.

Having demonstrable skills provides an opportunity to show potential employers my skillset and allows me to have a working knowledge to discuss aspects of programming that may be needed in my career as a technical communicator.

Significance

The significance of this project is establishing my familiarity, confidence, knowledge, and comfort with programming language that underpins most of our software experiences. With a well-grounded and demonstrable knowledge of either of these programming families, I enhance my marketability to future clients and help myself in the process by allowing multiple individuals to modify my library database.

Being able to use a programming language to interrogate, parse, and output data into a database which then transforms that data into another format is incredibly useful and good ability to have. Using a project to demonstrate this skill is invaluable as a jobseeker and invaluable to recruiters and future employers.

**Deliverables**

1. **XML database – wellformed and wellwritten** A well-formed, fully validated, XML database file with a minimum of 20 full entries
2. **XSLT stylesheet file** A well-formed, XSLT stylesheet that renders the XML file in a browser as an HTML table
3. **Full HTML transformation** Using a programming language (such as Ruby on Rails or MySQL/Javascript) to create an actual .html page from your XML database
4. **Fully functioning HTML form that translates input into an XML database** A functioning HTML form that can take input and output into an XML database
5. **Reflection paper** 3-500 word paper discussing the challenges, revelations, and surprising aspects I learned completing this project and how I overcame any challenges through the process.