MANGARECOMMENDATIONS

I. Introduction

Problem: Both total number of mangas and their readers have increased at a tremendous pace due to the Internet being more accessible than ever. Popular site can have over 10 million unique visitors per month, hosting up to 20000 series. Readers may feel overwhelmed when choosing which content to read.

Solution: an App to bridge the gap between content and consumers, assisting novice and or veteran alike in exploring new materials.

II. Website

mangarecommender.000webhostapp.com

Front-end interface was built using predominantly HTML, CSS and JavaScript, with several JS libraries and some W3.css templates.

Back-end data and most functions were handled using PHP and MySQL.

Data was collected via MyAnimeList API and direct scrapping from BakaUpdates-Manga.

III. Features

Quiz: custom-made to identify your reading habits and preferences.

Algorithm: find and recommend to you mangas best fit your reading profile.

Read list: manage the series you want to read, reading or have completed.

Manga search function: find mangas that were recommended to you (or any available on the web) with a few clicks. Integrated with MyAnimeList & BakaUpdates database.

Review system: users can give public comments on individual manga as reference for other users.

IV. Quiz algorithm

A quiz which users can participate in to get the reading habits profiled and to be given appropriate recommendations.

The recommendation algorithm is built into the quiz page, using entirely JavaScript. The major genres as well as content categories are used as scoring indexes. Each question pertains to a set of indexes, and the user's answer will determine which index(es) to add/minus points to. The final score will determine which genres and categories to be used to search for recommendation.

V. Limitations

Content filter: we have measures to filter out NSFW content using a blacklist method. However, the list is not exhaustive and user have to exercise self-censorship in certain cases.

Name difference: some mangas have different titles between the 2 database that are used (MyAnimeList & BakaUpdates). Thus the search function may unable to find nor give correct result if the series title in the databases differ from the string input.

Mobile-unfriendly: We were mostly writing our own CSS instead of using Bootstrap or the likes, so our website is not presentable on mobile devices.

VI. Documentation

w3.css framework:
https://www.w3schools.com/w3css/4/w3.css

HTML DOM parser:
http://sourceforge.net/projects/simplehtmldom

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