

Top Artist API Research

Research: <https://developer.themoviedb.org/reference/search-person>
<https://developer.themoviedb.org/reference/person-movie-credits>

One of the movies we want to recommend to a user is a movie that has the user's top artist as an actor. If a music artist is also an actor we want to be able to find the movie credits for the artist. The Movie DB or TMDB has many search APIs, there is one API where you can search for people by typing in a string and get provided a TMDB 'person_id'. Then taking that 'person_id' you can use another TMDB API to search a person's movie credits and receive all of the movies they have been in.

Spotify returns a user's top artist, and then we would be able to use the top artist's name as the input to the search-person TMDB API. TMDB has an 'also known as' category for people, so popular celebrity nicknames are in the database. Searching 'The Rock' in the TMDB will also pull up results for 'Dwayne Johnson'. Upon testing the return of the search-person TMDB API, you can type in a band name and the API will return the individual band members and their corresponding TMDB 'person_id'.

We have a few different ways we could implement this feature into our web application. One of the ways is that for each person that uses the application we would take their top artist and go through the two API calls and sort through the movie results to pick a random movie that includes the artist. Although this might be impractical because while there are a lot of artists with the possibility to be a user's top artist, there are popular top artists and we would be using the APIs to get the same data multiple times.

Another proposed implementation is to have another table in the database where we store top artists from Spotify and then get their user ID once and add it to the table. Each time we want to pull a movie that includes a top artist we can look in our database and pull the Artist's 'person_id' and then use the id to search for movies using the API.

Another possibility is that we have an artist table in our database and include an artists 'person_id' as well as a few of the top movies for the artist that we can pick from to recommend to a user. The artist table could be set up to have an artist ID as well as the IDs for the movies that the artist is in. Then we could take the movie IDs and search our movie table for the corresponding movie ID and present it to the user.