Coursework Assignment Specification

(70 % of the module assessment)

Submission Dateline: 1:00 PM, 17th December 2020

**Library Management System**

# Problem Description

1.1 Overview

Your task is to write a simple library management system for **a** **librarian**. The librarian should be able to search for books by title to check their availability, check out available books, and return any books the members currently have. Details of all books in the library should be stored in an external text file. For each book the following information should be stored: ISBN, title, author, current loan status (is it available, and if not, who has it?), purchase date, and a unique ID number which can be used to identify different copies of the same book.

1.2 Member

Members should be identified using their unique ID-numbers. For simplicity it is suggested that you use 4-digit integers (e.g.: 1000-9999) for these IDs, and you may assume that all 4-digit numbers are valid members. (Note however that your program should be able to distinguish between valid and invalid IDs, so that e.g. hh9# would not be accepted. You do not store any further member information.

1.3 The Text File

Your text file storing the information on each book should contain all the data mentioned in the overview section. You must organise the file as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ID | ISBN | Title | Author | Purchase Date | Member Id |
| 1 | 9783161484100 | Book\_1 | Author\_1 | 1/8/2010 | 1023 |
| 2 | 9783161484105 | Book\_2 | Author\_2 | 1/8/2014 | 0 |
| 3 | 9783161484100 | Book\_1 | Author\_1 | 1/8/2010 | 0 |
| **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** |
| **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** |
| **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** | **…** |
| n | 9783161484199 | Book\_n | Author\_n | 1/8/2014 | 0 |

where each line provides all the information for a particular book, with the book ID on the left, and the status on the right given either by a 4-digit member ID (meaning that member currently has the book), or a value indicating that the book is currently available (in this case 0).

1.4 Searching For Books

Your program should include functionality to search for a book based on its title. Given a search term (e.g. Book\_1), your program should return a complete list of books with that title and all their associated information.

1.5 Checking Out Books

In order to withdraw (or check-out) a book from the library, the librarian should provide a member-ID and the book's ID number (note it must be ID, not book title, since there could be more than one copy of the same book). Your program should then

* Check that the input is valid (and return an error message if it is not),
* return an error message if the book is not available due to being on loan to

someone else,

* if the book is available, allow the librarian to withdraw the book by updating the book's status in text file accordingly.

1.6 Returning Books

The librarian should be able to return books simply by providing the book's ID number. If the ID is invalid, or the book is already available, the program should return an error message. Otherwise, the text file should be updated accordingly.

1.7 Weeding

Weeding is the systematic removal of books from a library based on selected criteria. The program should help users to find out which books need to be removed. It will use the circulation criteria for the deselecting process (e.g. How long since it was last checked out?). You will need to have a log file (text file), which keeps the loan history of the books, to implement this functionality. The program **must not** have a functionality to remove book titles in the library system.

# How to Structure Your Program

The following structure is needed as a final submission for your project:

**database.txt** Stores all the data (see previous section).

**logfile.txt** Stores loan history of library books (i.e. book\_id, Checkout Date, Return Date). You need to populate the files with the realistic data (minimum 10 records).

**booksearch.py**: A Python module which contains functions used to allows librarian to input search terms as strings, and returns the output as described in the previous section. You can either: load the contents of database.txt into a list, and store this as a global variable for repeated use, or load the contents of database.txt each time a search is performed.

**bookcheckout.py**: A Python module which contains functions used to ask librarian for borrower’s member-ID and the ID of the book(s) they wish to withdraw. Then, after performing the validity checks and functionality described in the previous section, should return a message letting the librarian know whether they have withdrawn the book successfully.

**bookreturn.py**: A Python module which contains functions used to ask the librarian for the ID of the book(s) they wish to return and provide either an appropriate error message, or a message letting them know they have returned the book(s) successfully.

**bookweed.py:** A Python module should suggest which **book titles** (not book copies) need to be removed from the library database. You might use the Matplotlib Python module to visualize unpopular book tittles to aid the weeding process. You should come up with the details of your own weeding criteria.

**database.py**: A Python module which contains common functions that the book search, checkout, return and weeding modules use to interact with the database and log files.

**menu.py:** A python main program which provides the required menu options to the librarian for the program functionalities. The menu could be based on Python Graphical User Interface-GUI (namely the tkinter python module). In that case, the GUI must use only one window.

# What to Submit

In addition to the files mentioned in Section 2 you may write a short text file called README (max 500 words). This is to provide any special instructions or warnings to the user (or assessor!), or to draw attention to any aspects of the program that you are particularly proud of (please don’t waste time by writing an excessive amount).

All the files (including sample data files) should be compressed into a zip file and submitted electronically as directed.

# Notes on Expectations:

You will be marked according to your overall achievement, marked according to the Assessment Matrix that will be provided to you separately from this document. However below follows a qualitative description of some general expectation that may help you understand the general level of expectation associated with this piece of coursework.

**Technical mastery of Python** Your programs should show mastery of what you have been taught.

**Design** Your programs should be well structured for the task in hand so that it is as easy as possible for:

* a user to use the program for any likely purpose,
* a programmer to understand the code structure and be able to develop it further,
* a programmer to be able to re-use as much as possible of the code in a related application.

**Clarity and Self-Documentation** Given the structure of your programs, they should be as easy to read and understand as possible. *Lay your code out* so that it can be listed sensibly on a variety of devices: avoid having any lines longer than 80 characters as these may wrap (to reduce the number of “problem lines” you should use 4 spaces for indentation rather than tabs). *Sensible names* should be chosen for all variables, methods etc. *Documentation strings* should be included for each:

**Program** Fully explain what the program does and how it should be used. Also state who wrote it and when.

**Function** State what each function does and explain the roles of its parameters.

In addition, you should include occasional comments in your code; these may be (a) to introduce a new section in the code, or (b) to explain something that is not obvious. Bear in mind that pointless comments make your code harder to read, not easier.

**Restriction**

1. Your code must **NOT** include any Class type.
2. Your code must **NOT** have any SQL statements.
3. Your code must **NOT** have any nested functions
4. You must use Python v3.7 or above.
5. Your code must use only standard python libraries and Matplotlib.