

Jacqueline Joson

November, 2018

### BookStack: The App to Save the Readers

Whether you are a child, adult, student, teacher, or life-long learner, books are quite relevant in our lives. It could be for school, for entertainment, or as a chosen learning device, but nevertheless, books of all genres and sizes are very visible in our world. As each year progresses, more and more books are dispersed within our society, totaling to more than 130 million and counting. While book-lovers everywhere rejoice in the abundance to read, borrow, and learn from, it raises an issue of how to keep track of all the books. How often have you pondered whether or not you already purchased a book and simply wasn't aware of it? Did you already get this book from someone else? What if you simply haven't started reading it yet? How often have readers everywhere purchased the second novel of a series without realizing they haven't even seen the first? Whatever money and time has been spent in hesitance in the past, can now be preserved in the future with an app that will keep track of books in a quick and easy ISBN scan, allow users to log progress, and help continue your book fever: BookStack.

BookStack will allow the person who has downloaded the app, and consequently the owner of the phone, to create a profile for themselves, using an authorized email address. The purpose of this profile is to keep track of a personal "book stack" associated with the email address provided. If multiple people are sharing the phone, this aspect will help keep book stacks separate. This profile ability will also allow users to migrate from phone to phone, if necessary, and keep track of their BookStack activity accurately.

The premise of BookStack relies on the creation of a "bookshelf" or book stack for the user. The books within this bookstack will be "created" by scanning the ISBN number of the book via a phone's camera. After confirming the book information via the ISBN database, the book will be placed in the user's bookshelf and be ready for future use, either as reading material or as just a book on the shelf. If the book does not have an ISBN or simply is not contained within the database, there will also be a section for the user to populate fields such as title, author, publisher, year, amount of pages, and picture - to upload a picture of the novel's front cover. The purpose of the optional user population fields is to minimize frustration on the user side if the book is pre-ISBN. The portrayal of the books will be available as a typical bookshelf option or as a stack of books with the spines facing outward.

Another job of BookStack is to keep track of the reader's progress for each selected book. This field will rely on user input, primarily because I am focusing on printed books. This field will be specific to each novel, allowing ambitious readers to be confident about what page they are on with any book they have been reading. No more will the reader have to wonder if they have even started the book; now, through BookStack's page progress, they will know. The progress tracker will also have a "clear" ability in case a reader wants to experience the book from the beginning yet again, or if they are simply lending it to someone else. The main goal of the progress tracker is to help readers remember where they have left off within a book, saving time to read even more.

The final aspect of the BookStack app is the BookStack map. This map utilizes a map API, most likely Google, and calculates the available book stores within the allotted mile radius from the user. The map will offer both small businesses and larger book stores in the area to provide a variety of opportunities to the users to experience different types of stores. This will also help book-lovers connect at stores and expand their network of people, perhaps leading to a community.

BookStack will be an app that solves any and every problem a book fanatic could have. It will lend a willing hand in the debacle that is the life of words. With BookStack taking care of the organization and progression aspects, you, the user, are now free to continue traversing through the adventures within your novel, or learn about Java through your Head First Java text, starting on page 37, or do both - with BookStack keeping track of exactly what page you left off in both. BookStack works to allow the reader to have the most immersive experience with the least amount of effort. Let BookStack take you to the real book experience.