

Joy Shi - CS 132 Final Project Reflection

I had so much fun working on my Final Project for CS 132: Web Development. My project was a film poster store, with lots of relatively niche, arthouse films that I love. This began as a film memorabilia store, where each film, beyond just the poster, also sold film-specific souvenirs. I was able to get the memorabilia system to work for just about two films before I realized that many of the films I wanted to include didn't have an efficient or practical way of extracting film-specific items. In short, I bit off way more than I could chew.

Achieving my original goals was not the only hurdle I ran into when working on my final project. I had the most trouble in getting the film-specific information to display on the main page without creating copious nested eventlisteners. I needed the information from each specific film in order to be able to populate the strip as well as load the information, even to load the reviews. I unfortunately ended up just using the nested eventlisteners, and it turned out fine. I felt as if the idea of including the film information below the film strip to allow the user to easily switch between different films was a blessing – a solution to a problem that turned out to be a great feature. However, there were quite a few instances when a feature that I had envisioned simply had no feasible way of execution. I wanted to implement an actual search with the search icon, allowing the user to input whatever they wanted and for the filter to be based around that. Unfortunately, that was disasterously difficult to implement. I pivoted to a dropdown menu instead, containing all of the countries and this allowed me to implement a search filter in a much more approachable way.

Many of my features required a great amount of course assistance to be able to pull off – I relied quite a bit on the course supplemental resources in order to create my website. The

number one most helpful resource was El's Coffee Shop example. Their Coffee Shop was a huge inspiration for the way I approached setting up the backend system, with the GET and POST requests. I also found the lecture notes to be extremely useful. I actually did have plenty of time to work on my project, but I had been going through quite a bit, handling mental illness and anxiety issues. I would've definitely added a function to be able to add movie posters to the website via some sort of admin.

This project was ultimately extremely rewarding! I loved showing my work to my friends and family. I always had this vision for a website that creatively integrates my passion for movies. I really loved seeing everything come together and work the way I wanted it to. I would definitely recommend making sure that you get all the requirements done before moving on to anything more individualized – I spent way too much time trying to figure out a feature that wasn't even part of the required specification and that ended up forcing me to take an extension on the class as a whole, which became very messy.