Library Database Application
Getting Started

This document describes how to start using the Library Database Application. Most functions of the application can be accessed through the File drop down menu and the main screen. Make sure you Execute the "create_dy.py" Python script to initialize the database and load the starting set of borrowers and books.

Searching

The search function on the main landing screen can accommodate searches for authors, titles, and book ISBNs. The searches are all case insensitive and will return like matches for whatever is in the search field. You can initiate the search by pressing the "Search" button or by pressing enter when your cursor is in the search field.

New Users

To create new users, select "New User" from the "File" drop down menu. Insert the new user's name, social security number, home address, and phone number. The system requires that all users have a unique social security number. If the creation is successful, you will see a pop-up window that shows the user's card number. If there is an error the pop up will give a short description of the error. Most errors will be caused by trying to create a new user with a social security number that is currently being used. The phone number and social security number fields will automatically filter out non-numeric numbers. The address and name fields will do no filtering of the inputs. All fields are required to create a new user.

Checking Out

To check out a book to a user, select "Check Out" from the "File" drop down menu. Enter the UserID of the patron trying to check out the book, and the ISBN of the book that he/she wants to check out. The application will not let the user check out more than three books at one time.

Checking In

To check in a book, select "Check In" from the "File" drop down menu. This will open a new window which will ask the librarian to insert the CardID and ISBN of the book being checked in. The system will attempt to update the database and give a useful error response if the check in fails.

Paying Fines

To pay a fine for a book loan, select "Pay Fine" from the "File" drop down menu. This will open a new window which will allows the librarian to check the balance for the user, update the fines in the database to the current date, and pay fines for books. It is important to update the fines

before making balance checks. The application will not automatically update the fines to the current date. To check a user's balance, enter the CardID and click balance. The total for all of their fines will appear in the fines field. It will show "0.0" if they have no current fines. If the user has fines they will show up in the text field. Books that have already been checked in before the due date will not be shown. To pay a fine, enter the user's CardID and LoanID for the fine they are paying. Then press the pay button to finish the process.