



***Project Proposal Report  
for  
Read-Recommend***

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## **Introduction**

Readers and book lovers are always looking for good platforms or websites to find good book recommendations and share their reading experience. Over the past two decades, there have been many such websites to provide the same services that have been needed by such users. However, there have been no new platforms in the past couple of years with nuanced search options and ones that cater to individual user tastes. Our goal is to design and develop a system that meets all the fundamental problem requirements while ensuring an enhanced user experience with an improved recommendation system.

## **Problem Statement**

The website must be a platform for readers to connect with like-minded readers and find new books to read. It should also allow readers to share their experiences and review books. Therefore, the reader must be able to login as a user to avail such services. The user must use his/her email and set a password to use the website. The user provides other information like age and gender to improve the recommendation experience. The user can search for books and view the summary and reviews of every book in the database. Users can create collections and customise them as named collections. Users can add books to these customisable collections and access them whenever. The user can also view other people's recently added/read books. Users must be able to see the total number of readers a certain book has. Users can review and rate books out of five and the average of the ratings are recorded and displayed when the book is searched for. Based on the user's selections, books must be recommended to the user of similar interest and with various recommendation modes. Apart from all of which, the user must be able to set a reading goal and a time period to achieve said goal.

## **Background**

Websites that recommend books have the characteristics of a virtual library and that of a social network. Its primary objective is to provide a one-stop solution for readers who are looking for recommendations and finding people who share similar interests. In traditional reading websites, users can keep track of the books they have read, they are reading, and want to read. Besides, users can search any book based on different features like book title, author and ISBN. Since users want to share reviews, find people with same interests and more importantly discover next books they like, more and more websites like GoodReads, LibraryThing and Riffle provide their platform to help users to find their needs.

In GoodReads, LibraryThing, Riffle and some other websites, users can create their own personalised collections with names and descriptions which are open to other users. By doing this, the opportunity can be increased to find users' interesting books from looking at other users' bookshelves. From these websites, book lovers can find a community of people who have the same taste of books by joining different groups created by other users to share ideas. Instead of joining into groups, users can also read and write reviews to gain and share insights of books. If users want to set a goal of their reading, they can easily do by giving a number of how many books they want to read in the current year and GoodReads will keep track of users' process of reading. When users want to get recommendations, there are different ways offered by these websites. One way is automatic recommendation which is done by system algorithms that will analyse the books users liked. For example, GoodReads will do recommendations based on more than 20 books users have read and the recommendations on Riffle are not only based on users' past reads, but also who are users currently following. Another way is

introducing different genres which contain books related to them and different communities or groups that can do a person to person recommendation. For example, in anobii, a group named book recommendations that can give users ideas once become a member.

The main drawbacks of previous websites are lack of recommendation flexibility and advanced search. Goodreads asks the new user to rate 20 books and recommend other books based on their interests. For new users, if they want to use this functionality, they have to think up 20 books they have read and search these books and rated them, which is time consuming. In many websites, search function is only limited in title, author and ISBN. What if users want to search books published in certain countries or written in certain languages, current websites do not have this functionality to help users get their needs met.

### **Group Members/Roles:**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>zID</b>	<b>Role</b>
Vandhana Visakamurthy	z5222191@ad.unsw.edu.au	z5222191	Developer/ Scrum Master
Rong Zhang	z3456421@ad.unsw.edu.au	z3456421	Developer
Yiligong	z5199285@ad.unsw.edu.au	z5199285	Back end developer
Yu Han	z5219071@ad.unsw.edu.au	z5219071	Developer
Yuehui Chu	z5180907@ad.unsw.edu.au	z5180907	Developer

### **Product backlog**

#### **Project objectives:**

1. Able to keep track of books they have read in any collection on readers' accounts.
2. Able to look through any collections (own or other users).
3. Able to write reviews and give ratings.
4. Able to view full details of any book including all reviews in any book collection.
5. Able to view multiple aggregate statistics, including the book's average rating when viewing full details of books.

6. Able to search for books by name, author, or mostly recently added books to readers collections.
7. Able to filter out books from search results that are under a given average rating.
8. Able to provide readers with multiple recommendation modes.

#### **User Stories for Users :**

Objectives	Users Stories
1. Able to keep track of books they have read in any collection on readers' accounts.	As a user, I want to register an account so that I can use the services on this website.
	As a user, I want to login into my account so that I can use the services on this website.
	As a user, I want to create a book collection so that I can classify books.
	As a user, I want to add a book to my collection so that I can keep track of books I have read.
	As a user, I want to remove a book from my collections so that I don't need to track that book I don't like any more.
	As a user, I want to look through all possible books I like so that I can find my favorite as soon as possible.
	As a user, I want to be able to set a goal to read a certain number of books every month, based on my collections so I can read everything in my collection.

	As a user, I want to browse some random books so that I can explore unknown books.
2. Able to look through any collections (own or other users).	As a user, I want to look through any collections so that I can know more books.
	As a user, I want to view books from other users' collections so that I know what other people are reading.
	As a user, I want to access mine or other users' collections including seeing the recently read top 10 books, so that I can find new books to try.
	As a user, I want to browse some random collections so that I can explore unknown books.
3. Able to write reviews and give ratings.	As a user, I want to write reviews for a given book, including leaving a rating out of 5 so that other users can know my thoughts about this book.
4. Able to view full details of any book including all reviews in any book collection.	As a user, I want to view reviews from other people so that I can know what others think about this book.
	As a user, I want to view the full details of any book (including all reviews and total count of the number of readers), in any book collection so that I can decide whether I would read the book.
	As an admin, I want to modify any details of any books if the original details are not

	correct so that users cannot get the wrong information.
5. Able to view multiple aggregate statistics, including the book's average rating when viewing full details of books.	As a user, I want to be able to view aggregate statistics, including the average rating of the book so I know if the book is actually good.
6. Able to search for books by name, author, or mostly recently added books to readers collections.	As a user, I want to search books by book name, author, countries and languages and filter out books that are under a given average rating so that I can find the book details.
	As a user, I want to see the most searched hashtags so that I can read the popular books.
7. Able to filter out books from search results that are under a given average rating.	As a user, I want to search books by book name, author, countries and languages and filter out books that are under a given average rating so that I can find the book details.
8. Able to provide readers with multiple recommendation modes.	As a user, I want to view the recommendations by selecting a book and a recommendation mode so that I can easily find the books that I am interested in.

Recommendation modes will be books by the same author, books with the same genre, books popular among each gender and books popular among each age range.

### User stories for Admin

As an admin, I want to be able to see the activity and access the backend server for maintenance.

As an admin, I want to remove any books that might not have been accessed for a long time so that I can add more books that users are interested in and save storage.

As an admin, I want to know the list of books that the user cannot find on our website so that we can update these to our website.

As an admin, I want to give users a notification when we upload the new books which the users might like.

## Screenshots :

<b>READ Sprint 1</b> 5 issues			Plan sprint ▾	⋮
Complete tasks and integrate systems. Test and confirm working before progressive demo A. 15/Jun/20 11:15 AM • 30/Jun/20 11:15 AM				
As a user, I want to register an account so that I can use the services on this website.	READ-1	↑	-	
As a user, I want to login into my account so that I can use the services on this website.	READ-2	↑	-	
As a user, I want to create a book collection so that I can classify books.	READ-4	↑	-	
As a user, I want to remove a book from my collections so that I don't need to track that book I don't like any more.	READ-5	↑	-	
As a user, I want to add a book if it is not on the website so that I can record books I have read.	READ-36	↑	-	
<b>Backlog</b> 23 issues		Create sprint ⋮		
As a user, I want to look through all possible books I like so that I can find my favorite as soon as possible.	READ-7	↑	-	
As a user, I want to view books from other users' collections so that I know what other people are reading.	READ-8	↑	-	
As a user, I want to look through any collections so that I can know more books.	READ-6	↑	-	
As a user, I want to write reviews for a given book, including leaving a rating out of 5 so that other users can know my thoughts about this book.	READ-9	↑	-	
As a user, I want to view reviews from other people so that I can know what others think about this book.	READ-10	↑	-	
As a user, I want to view the full details of any book (including all reviews and total count of the number of readers), in any book collection so that I can decide whether I would read it.	READ-12	↑	-	
As a user, I want to search books by book name, author, countries and languages and filter out books that are under a given average rating so that I can find the book details.	READ-13	↑	-	
As a user, I want to see the most searched hashtags so that I can read the popular books.	READ-14	↑	-	
As a user, I want to get a summary of books I read so that I can determine which kind of book can be read next.	READ-15	↑	-	
As a user, I want to access mine or other users' collections including seeing the recently read top 10 books, so that I can find new books to try.	READ-16	↑	-	
As a user, I want to be able to view aggregate statistics, including the average rating of the book so I know if the book is actually good.	READ-17	↑	-	
As a user, I want to be able to set a goal to read a certain number of books every month, based on my collections so I can read everything in my collection.	READ-18	↑	-	
As a user, I want to view the recommendations by selecting a book and a recommendation mode so that I can easily find the books that I am interested in.	READ-21	↑	-	
As a user, I want to browse some random books so that I can explore unknown books.	READ-34	↑	-	
As a user, I want to browse some random collections so that I can explore unknown books.	READ-35	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to be able to see the activity and access the backend server for maintenance.	READ-22	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to add new books so that users can have a wider range of books to choose from.	READ-23	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to modify any details of any books if the original details are not correct so that users cannot get the wrong information.	READ-24	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to remove any books that might not have been accessed for a long time so that I can add more books that users are interested in and save storage.	READ-25	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to know the list of books that the user cannot find on our website so that we can update these to our website.	READ-26	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to be able to create and update webpages, so that the website is easy to use for my users.	READ-28	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to monitor and track the network traffic so that I can accordingly handle large traffic when needed.	READ-29	↑	-	
As an admin, I want to manage website appearance so that more users can be attracted.	READ-33	↑	-	

## Sprint 1 :

Start Date: Week 3 15/06/2020

End Date: Week 5 1/07/2020



**READ Sprint 1** 5 issues

Complete tasks and integrate systems. Test and confirm working before progressive demo A.  
15/Jun/20 11:15 AM • 30/Jun/20 11:15 AM

Plan sprint ▾ ⋮

As a user, I want to register an account so that I can use the services on this website.	READ-1	↑	-
As a user, I want to login into my account so that I can use the services on this website.	READ-2	↑	-
As a user, I want to create a book collection so that I can classify books.	READ-4	↑	-
As a user, I want to remove a book from my collections so that I don't need to track that book I don't like any more.	READ-5	↑	-
As a user, I want to add a book if it is not on the website so that I can record books I have read.	READ-36	↑	-

## Sprint 2:

Start Date: Week 5 2/07/2020

End Date: Week 8 22/07/2020

After reflecting on Sprint 1, the group aims to complete another one third of the user stories through a series of designing, developing and testing. This will be integrated with the tasks of Sprint 1.

## Sprint 3:

Start Date: Week 8 23/07/2020

End Date: Week 9 31/07/2020

This final sprint will focus on completing the remaining user stories and improving tasks from pervious sprints to produce a clean and complete working system before the final demo.

The complete product quality check will also be done in this sprint.

## Project Schedule:

Week	Project Tasks	Start	End
1	a. Make a group in Lab 1. b. Register group in Webcms3, Jira, and GitHub. c. Decide on a project topic. d. Start writing a work diary. e. Initial planning meeting.	01.06.2020	06.06.2020

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Research on existing systems.</li> <li>b. Decide user stories and initial sprint backlog.</li> <li>c. Design system architecture and decide on various technologies.</li> <li>d. Understand SCRUM usage.</li> </ul>	07.06.2020	14.06.2020
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete project proposal and submit by 21.06.2020.</li> <li>b. Start initial sprint</li> <li>c. Update report and documentation for the system.</li> </ul>	15.06.2020	21.06.2020
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Work on tasks specified in the initial sprint.</li> <li>b. Monitor progress and track schedule.</li> <li>c. Update report and documentation for the system.</li> </ul>	22.06.2020	28.06.2020
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Integrate and test the system from the initial sprint.</li> <li>b. Progressive Demo A on 02.07.2020.</li> </ul>	29.06.2020	05.07.2020
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Start the second sprint.</li> <li>b. Monitor progress and track schedule.</li> <li>c. Update report and documentation for the system.</li> </ul>	06.07.2020	12.07.2020
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Monitor progress and track schedule.</li> <li>b. Retrospective A outcomes on 16.07.2020.</li> </ul>	13.07.2020	19.07.2020
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Integrate and test the system from the second sprint.</li> <li>b. Progressive Demo B on 23.07.2020.</li> </ul>	20.07.2020	26.07.2020
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Monitor progress and track schedule.</li> <li>b. Retrospective B outcomes on 30.07.2020.</li> <li>c. Software Quality Report on 31.07.2020.</li> </ul>	27.07.2020	02.08.2020
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Project Report Submission.</li> <li>b. Final Project Demo.</li> <li>c. Peer Assessment</li> </ul>	03.08.2020	09.08.2020

## **Novel Features :**

**<subject to change>**

The following user stories will provide novel functionalities compared to existing systems like Goodreads. It will overcome the drawbacks mentioned in the background section.

As a user, I want to search books by book name, author, countries and languages and filter out books that are under a given average rating so that I can find more preferred books.

As a user, I want to get a graph-based summary of books I read so that I can visually understand my reading experience in order to determine which kind of book can be read next.

As a user, I want to see the most searched hashtags so that I can read the popular books.

As a user, I want to read the books which are similar like the books that I have read.

As a user, I want to read the books are popular for my age/gender/occupation.

As an admin, I want to know the list of books that the user cannot find on our website so that we can update these to our website.

As an admin, I want to give users a notification when we upload the new books which the users might like.

Advantages of the above mentioned features include:

1. Improved recommendation based on specific user details like age and gender.
2. Streamlining search results based on filters.
3. Improved summary of readers and their preferred taste that users can view on their dashboard.
4. View recommendation modes and most searched books/most read.

## **User Storyboards:**

User storyboards help developers keep track of the process flow and the overall system design. This comes handy especially when there are multiple web pages or user interface modules.

The storyboards for the Read-Recommend system includes login page, sign up page, main page, collections page, books page, admin page, user page.

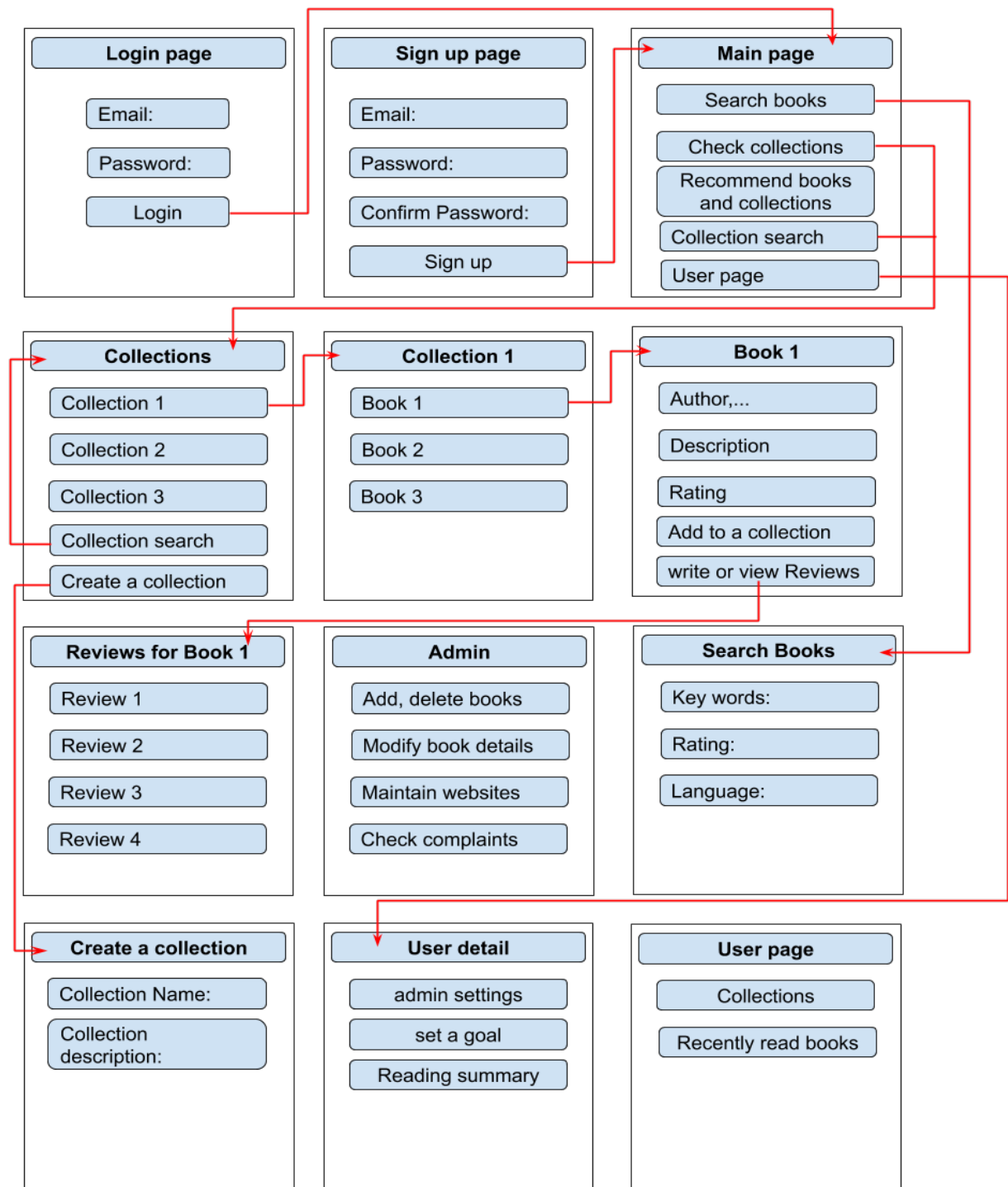


Figure 1. User story boards

<include some log in pages examples>

## System Architecture:

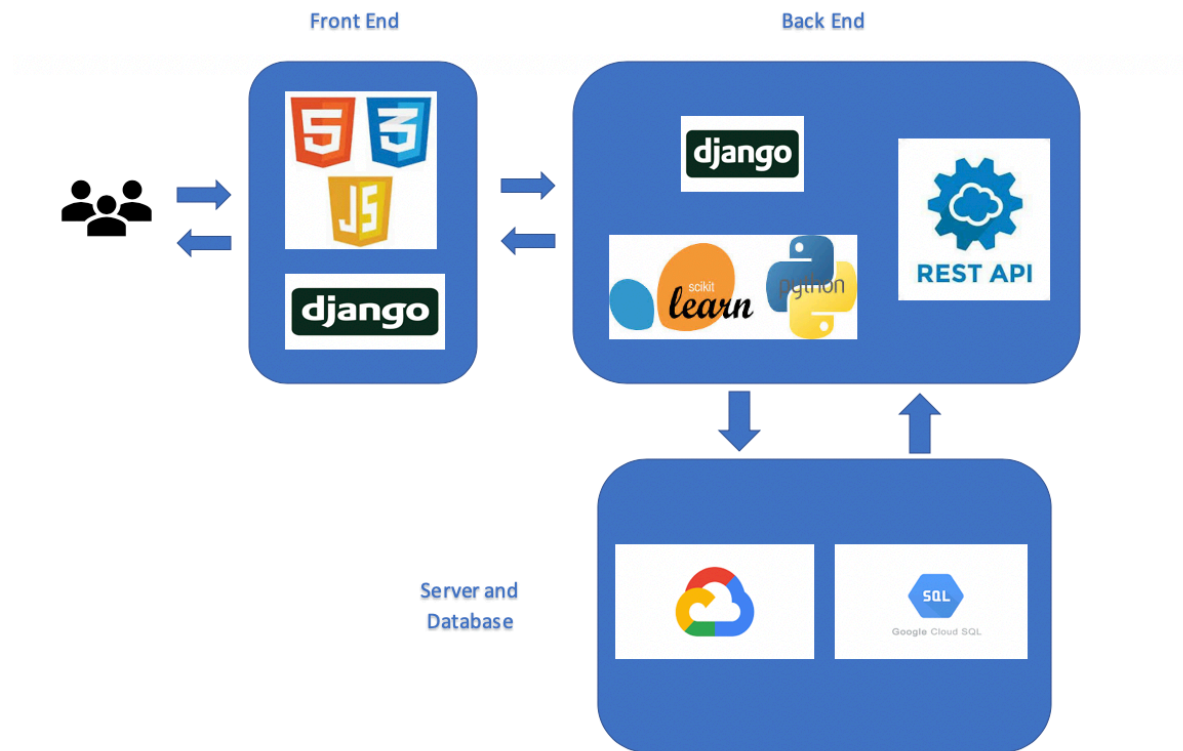


Figure 2. System Architecture

### Frontend:

HTML + CSS + JS + Django

### Backend:

Database: Google Cloud Database

Server: Google Cloud Server

API: RESTful

Analytics: Google Cloud Analytics tools

Recommendation System: Machine Learning/Collaborative Filtering

## Architecture Layers

### Presentation layer

Users would use a web browser to access the service. Users can see the result on the web pages and interact by entering values in input fields and clicking buttons in order to use functions.

### Business layer

Django + Python Script: Django is a powerful frontend web tool with python. It can provide highly interactive web experience and comprehensive python libraries. By using python script, it can separate the front end and backend. It can handle the model and achieve data extraction, data storage, and recommendation systems. It connects presentation layer and data layer.

### Data layer

In this project, we choose google cloud SQL in order to store, analyse and extract books, collections, reviews, and users data. It is connected by the business layer.

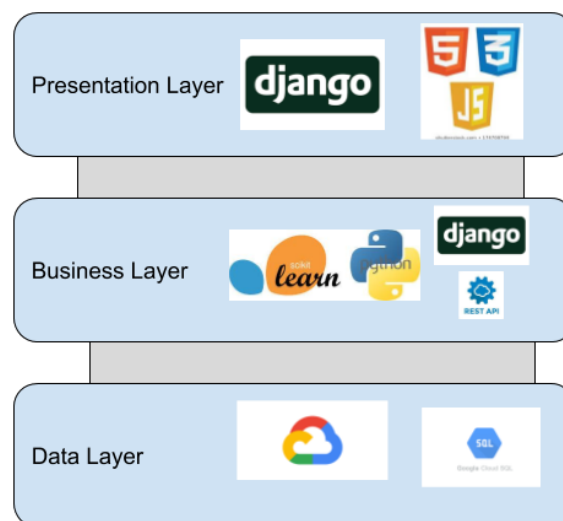


Figure 3: Layered Representation of the Architecture

## References