

Design Description for a Java-Based Library Search and Sort Application

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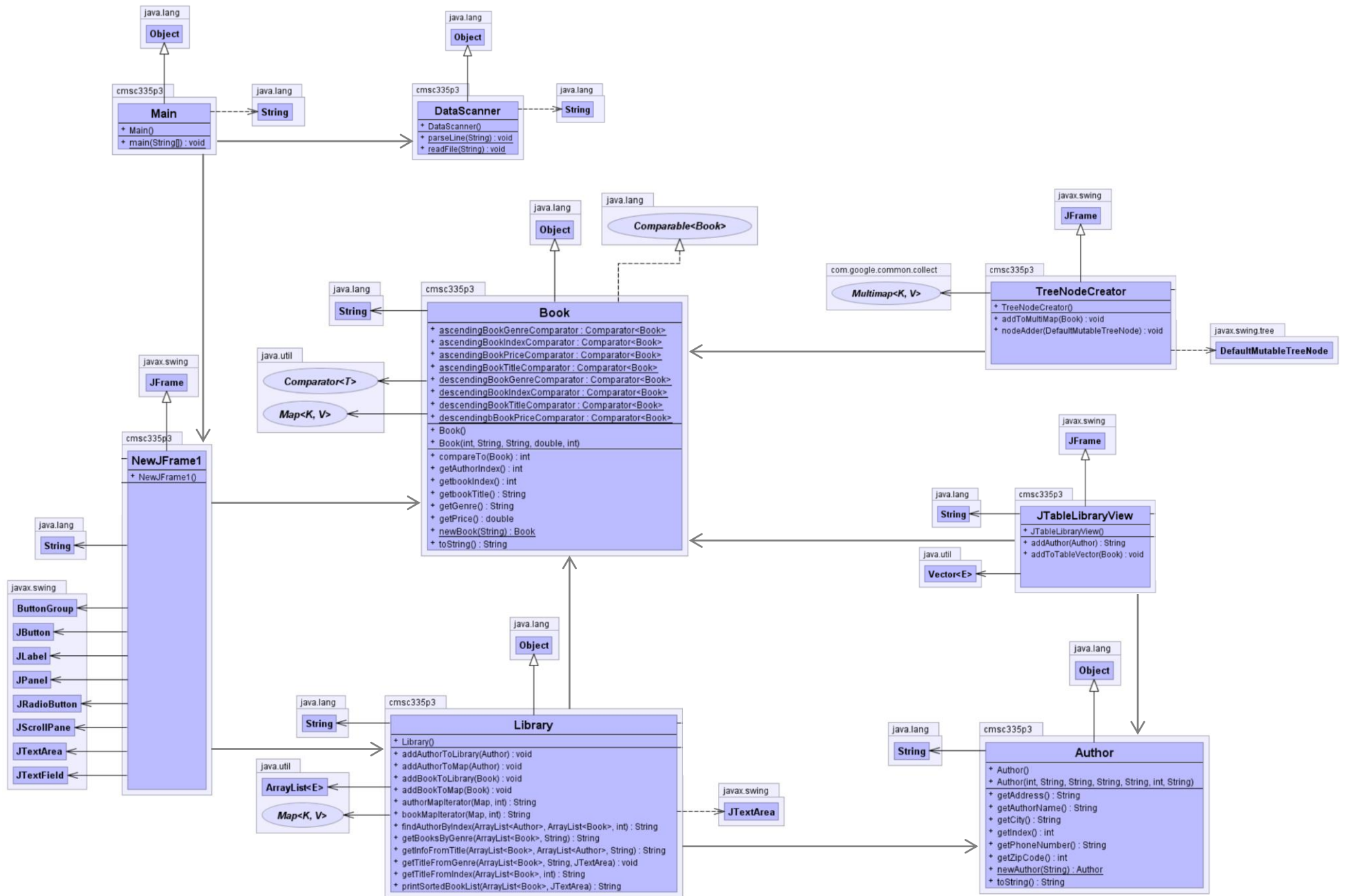


Figure 1: The application UML diagram.

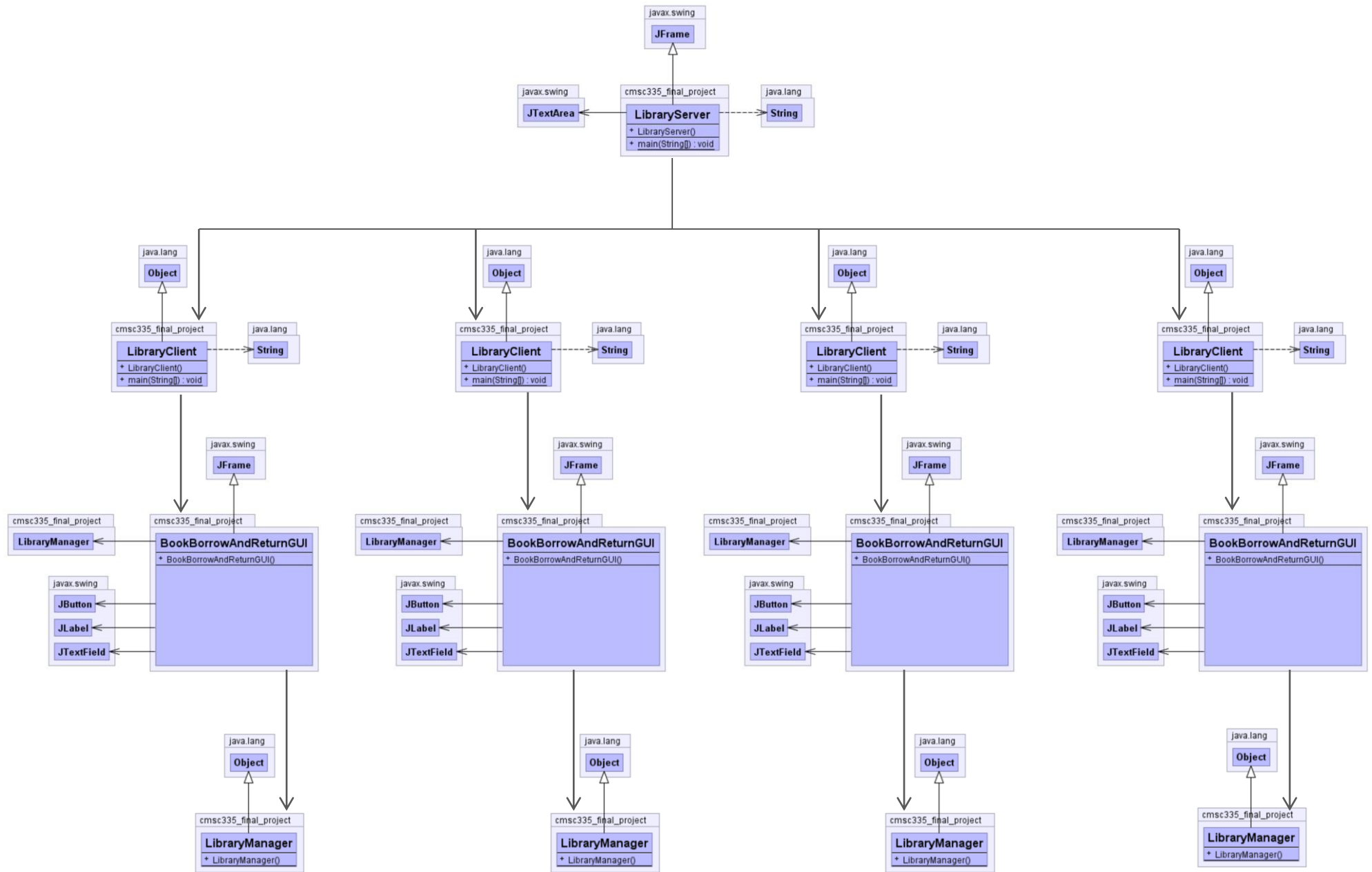


Figure 2: The application UML diagram running multiple threads.

Design Description

As shown in the application unified modeling language (UML) diagram in Figures 1 and 2, there are four major class additions to this version of the Library Search and Sort (LSS) program, dubbed version 1.4.1.

Application Setup

The Google Collection Library (GCL) `Multimap` requires downloading and adding the GCL Java archive (JAR) file to the project resources library. The following instructions use NetBeans 7.0.1 to illustrate this process. Download the GCL from the website as shown in Figure 3.

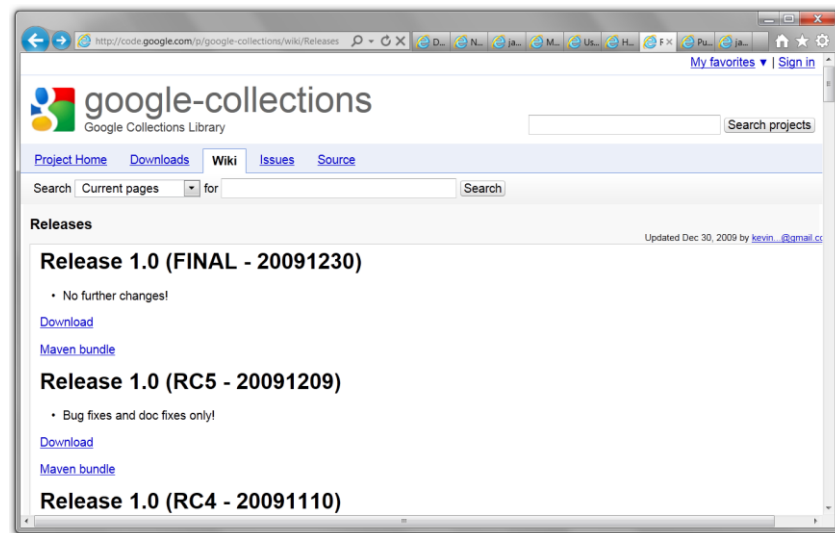


Figure 3: Location of the Google Collections Library.

The download and extract the .zip file to a location of your choosing. In the NetBeans project viewer window, right-click on the project name folder where the source files have been saved to. Selecting “Properties” from the menu will open the “Project Properties” window. Select the “Library” node as shown in Figure 4.

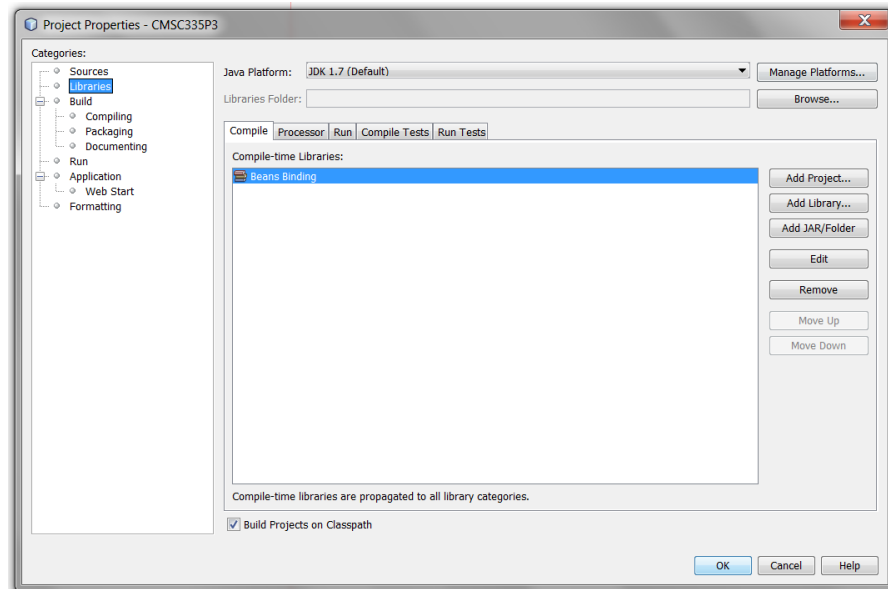


Figure 4: The NetBeans Project Properties window.

On the right-side menu, select “Add JAR/Folder”. The window in Figure 5 will appear.

Navigate to the location of the extracted folder named “google-collect-1.0”.

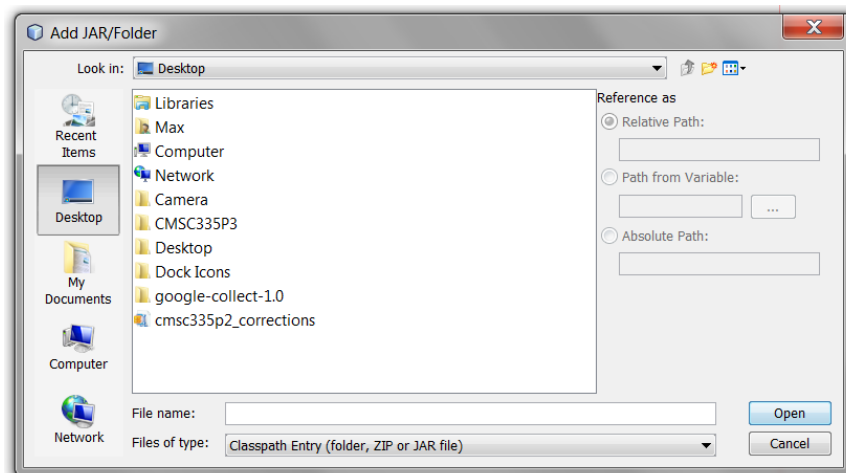


Figure 5: Window to select and add JAR files.

Open the folder and select the “google-collect-1.0.jar” file as shown in Figure 6.

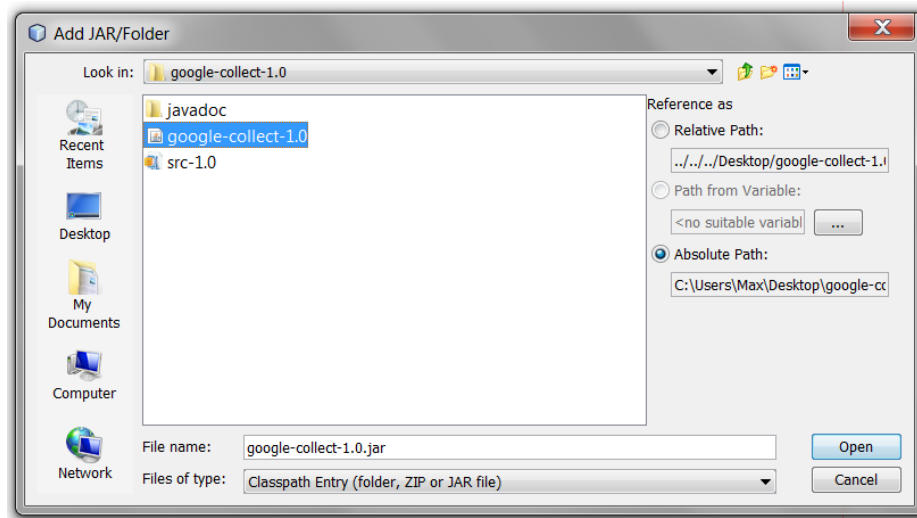


Figure 6: Selecting the GCL .jar file.

Click the “Open” button, and verify that the file has been added to the project library (Figure 7).

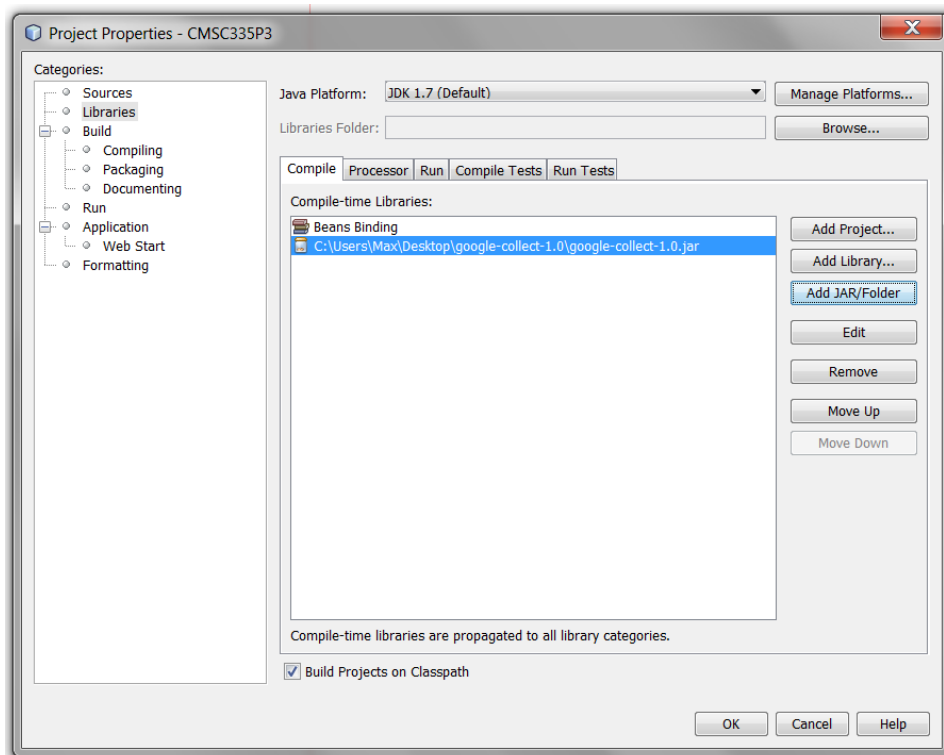


Figure 7: The .jar file added to the project library.

Test Plan

The LSS v.1.4.1 graphical user interface (GUI) is shown in Figure 8. The “Show Inventory” and “Tree View” buttons provide the user with access to the new program features.

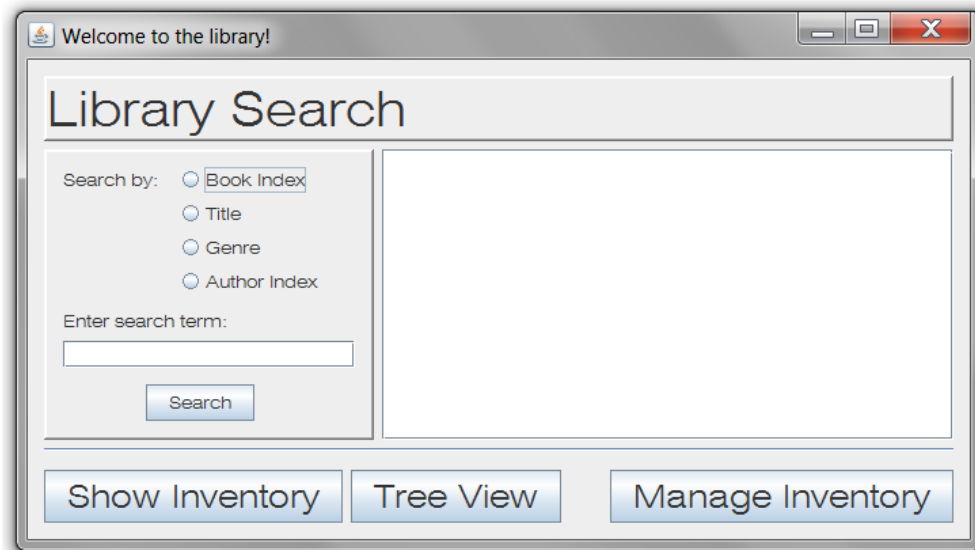


Figure 8: LSS v.1.4.1 GUI.

Figure 9 shows the data file that was used for initial testing.

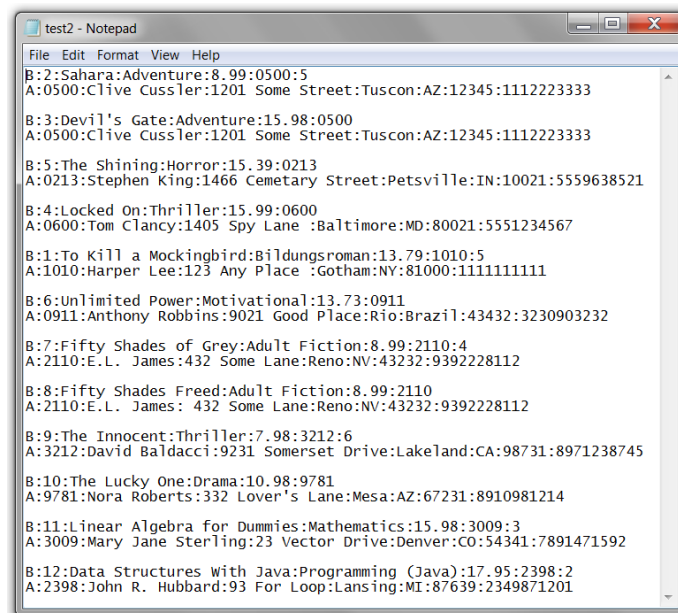


Figure 9: The file, test2.txt, used for initial testing.

When the `LibraryServer` class is run, the window in Figure 10 opens and indicates the date and time the server was started. Figure 11 shows multiple clients accessing the server.

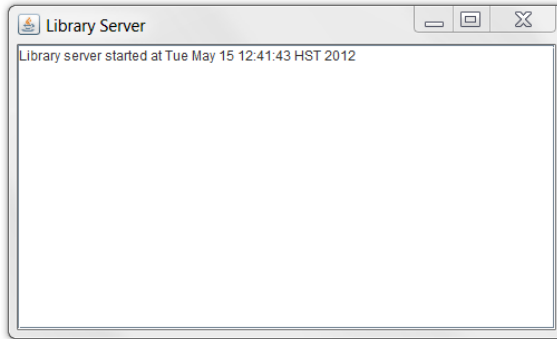


Figure 10: Running the `LibraryServer` class file.

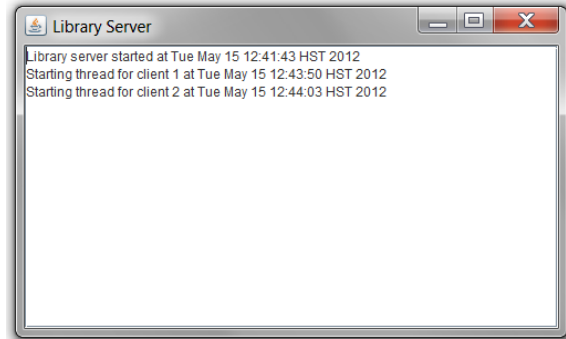


Figure 11: Multiple clients running on the server.

After the `LibraryServer` is started, multiple instances of the `LibraryClient` class can be run as shown in Figure 12. As shown, the Library GUI opens allowing users access to the `LibraryManager` class which contains methods to borrow and return books.

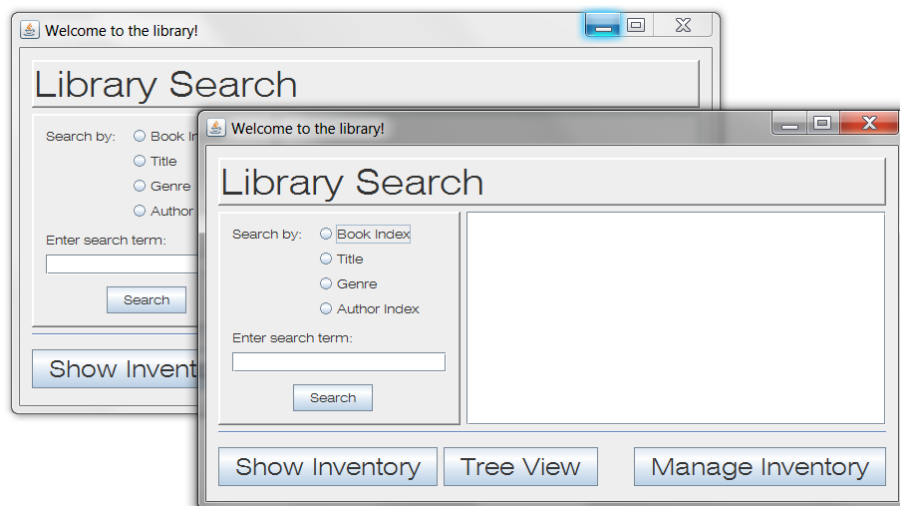


Figure 12: Multiple client GUIs running simultaneously.

Figure 13 shows the result of selecting the “Manage Inventory” button.

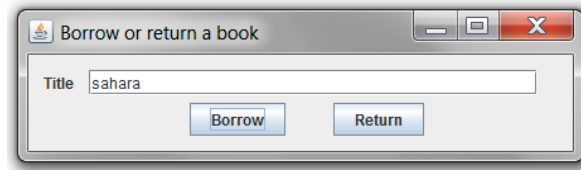


Figure 13: The book borrow and return GUI.

When a book title is entered and either the “Borrow” or “Return” button is selected, the informational windows as shown in Figures 14 and 15 appear.

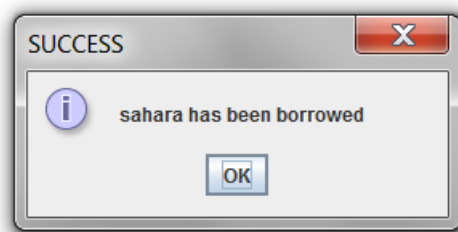


Figure 14: After a book has been borrowed.

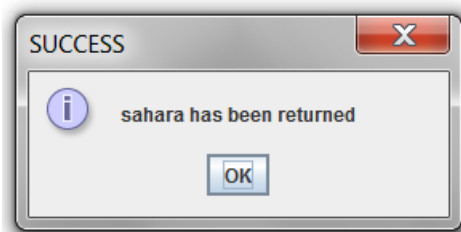


Figure 15: After a book has been returned.

Known Issues

The `Book` objects created by the test text file (`test2.txt`) are loaded into a `LinkedList` which is accessed by borrow and return methods when the appropriate button is selected from the book borrow and return GUI. Difficulty in determining the proper methods and data structures to maintain the current number of items in the `LinkedList` before and after books have been borrowed or returned causes the program to periodically ignore the default number of a particular title that the library can hold. Appropriate `thread stop()` methods were created but were not implemented or tested.

Lessons Learned

The use of threads and object synchronization should have been researched more thoroughly. Although some aspects of the project specification were not fulfilled, a tremendous amount about multithreading, servers, and clients was learned.

Future Improvements

I would like to create a fully functional and correct application that exploits greater thread manipulation while ensuring program safety.

References

Bourrillion, K., Levy, J., Bostock, M., & Wilson, J. (2010). Google Collections Library –

Release 1.0 (FINAL – 20091230) [Software]. Available from <http://code.google.com/p/google-collections/wiki/Releases>

Oracle Corporation. (2011). NetBeans IDE 7.0.1 [Software]. Available from <http://netbeans.org/community/releases/70/>