

ADAPTATION OF OUR DATABASE

The adaptation of the database was a difficult task, because firstly we found out that in Postgres the temporary tables do not work as it was explained in class, so we had to create them manually, and once we had the data in the definitive format, drop them. All the fields in the "temporary" tables that we created were of the datatype varchar. Thanks to that, we could use the command copy, and store all the information given. We had some trouble doing this, because the encoding of the files was in an old format, and we had to change it.

Once we had the data stored in the temporary tables, we had to do castings to convert every field to its suitable datatype. To do this, we used the command cast a lot, which turns strings into integers, numeric, date... etc. We had some trouble converting certain strings into numeric, because the decimal comma in psql is a dot and in the files given they used coma and dot arbitrarily. To do this, we modified the string and replaced every coma with a dot, and then we could do the cast.

Also, there was trouble because the files given were so badly designed and filled, that there were fields without any information or even with the information of another column, so we discarded all the entries that did not have all the fields filled up with the right information.

Another trouble we found was that in the table ISBN-prices, there were lots of ISBNs, but most of them did not have any prize, so we filled the field prize with 0.0 when not specified. After doing all these changes, with the code in SQL provided in the file 'populate.txt', we got the final tables with significantly fewer data, because most of the data provided on the original files were totally corrupted and we had to make a great clean up.