Info 247 Final Project Proposal
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Summary:

We intend on taking user data from the fiber arts website, Ravelry.com, and using it to provide the viewer with a dashboard, showing them information about their account. Our audience would be avid users of Ravelry, who might be interested in seeing information from the site.

The goals of this visualization: 1. to tell a story of the current state of their account and existing projects. 2. to motivate users to finish existing projects by allowing them to explore various details of their accounts. And 3. to inspire users to be creative, by showing them popular patterns or images of finished patterns that are related to their own projects.

One of our team members is a frequent user of Ravelry, and the site itself has more than 3 million members worldwide. We hope to support the creative community by providing a source of motivation, to inspire makers in their crafts.

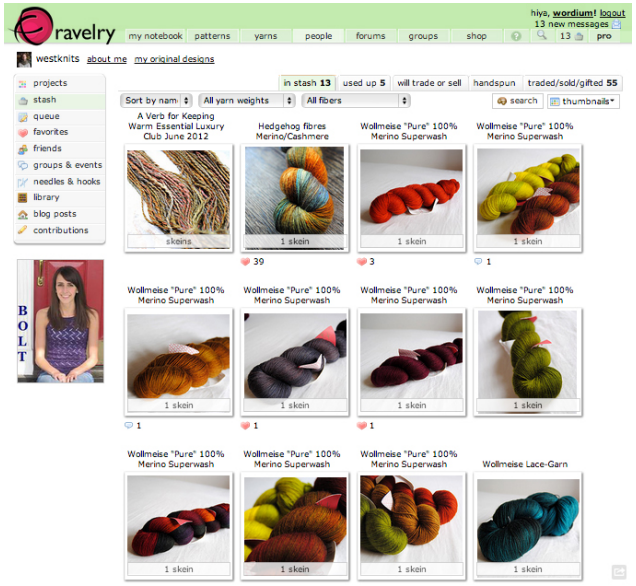
Using the Ravelry API and OAuth, we can authenticate the user and collect their user specific data. We are particularly interested in user-oriented details, including projects, patterns owned, patterns queued, yarns stashed. We are also interested in posts from friends and groups (of which the user is a member), however the API does not allow access to this information. We can, however, grab profile images for friends at least.

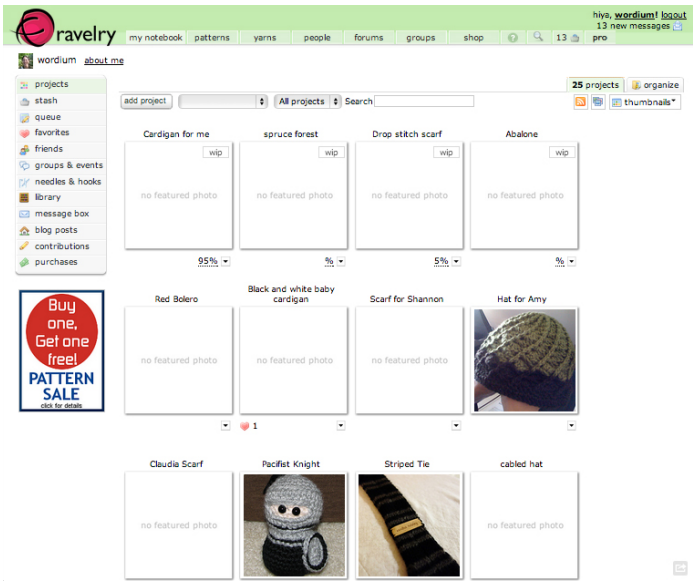
For specific yarns, we can access images, manufacturer, weight (size), fiber composition, and occasionally, average cost. For specific patterns, we can access designer information, publisher information, cost, rating, number of projects, recommended yarn (which including yarn details above), and yardage. For both yarns and patterns, other information is also accessible, however these are the ones that are most likely to be important to our audience.

Competitive Examples:

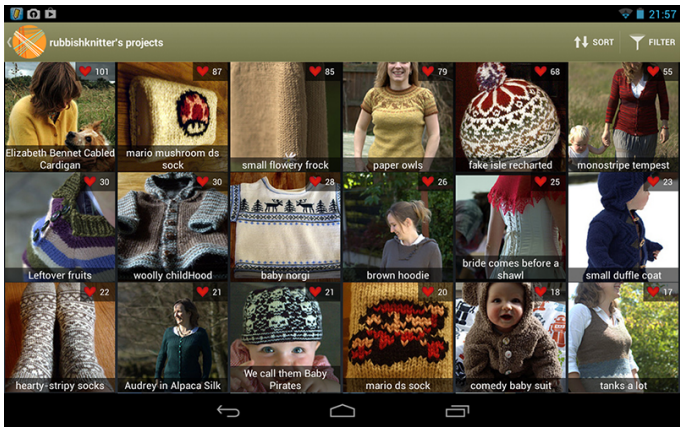
1. The first two screenshots are two of the pages of the Ravelry website. The website shows detailed views of different aspects of the user's accounts. We hope to show a summary view of different parts of the users' account in one dashboard view.

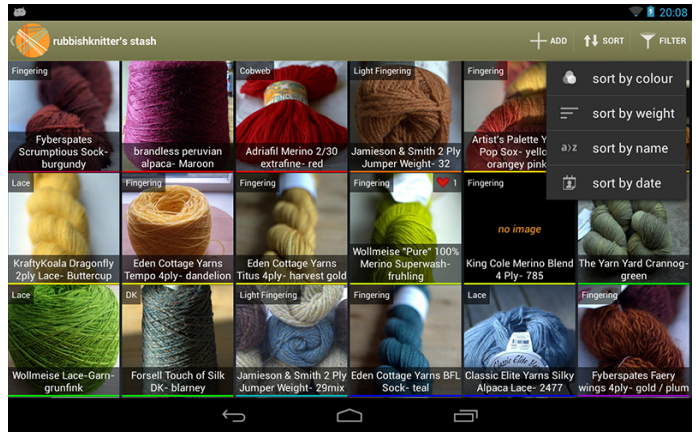
One user's yarn "stash" page, and another user's woefully incomplete projects page:



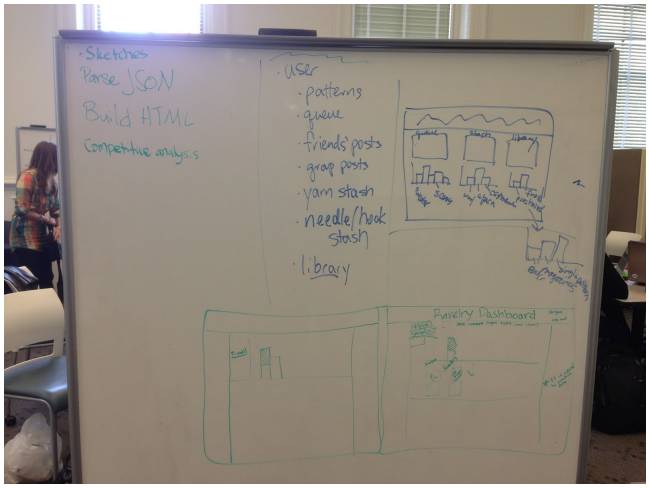


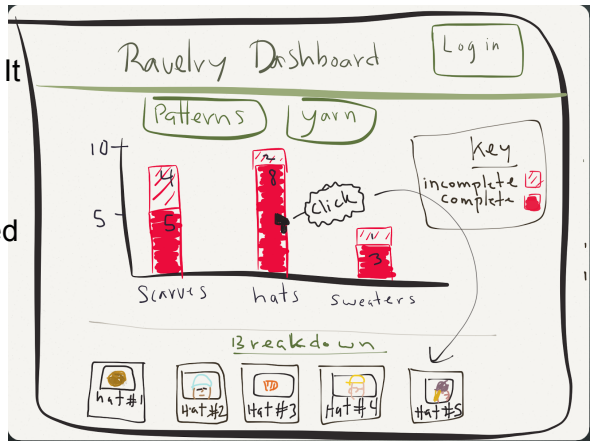
2. Ravulous is an Android application that provides access to a user's account through the API. It has a beautiful, photo-centric design, which has less functionality than Ravelry's site, with no summary visualizations. The App can sort and filter but provides no dashboard functionality. Example screenshots of the Ravulous projects display, and the yarn stash display:





Initial Sketches:



These first sketches on the whiteboard show our uncertainty on which data to display. We considered a number of different aspects of the site that we can use, limited mostly by API availability, and realized that the most compelling story that we can tell is that of the user. Specifically, how much and what type of knitting the user has been doing. At this point, we decided on providing a visualization to motivate the viewer to finish projects and continue being creative!

The second iteration uses a simple bar chart showing the history of the user's knitting by type. It shows the "Patterns" tab which describes projects. Each type has 2 sections - one for incomplete projects and one for completed projects. Projects that have been "frogged" (ripped apart so something else can be done with the yarn) are also an option. Clicking on the type will populate the "Breakdown" section that shows each item and the respective details.