Bookaholic - Online Bookstore Static Website

COSC2430_SEM2_SGS | Web Programming

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1. Introduction

The Internet has inevitably become a place for citizens all over the world to interact and use for all aspects and purposes in life, such as shopping, studying, entertainment, and so on, in the age of the internet. As a result, the skills, and techniques of creating friendly and user centric websites play a crucial role in the IT industry. The online bookstore project is a static website project implemented using HTML and CSS which is purposed for delivering a way to buy and sell books internationally for internet users. The project is inspired in the form of a hackathon experience.

1.1 General Scope

According to the requirements in the assignment, these following ideas are considered parts of the general scope that need to be completed within the timeline of this project:

- Website pages: including Home, Category, Book Detail, and Contact pages.
- Responsive website: making the website usable for both mobile and desktop devices.
- Interactive website: hover effects, dynamic layouts, etc.
- Functional website: navigation bars, book display, contact form, and responsive design.
- Content: At least 2 categories and 2 sub-categories for each category with at least 6 books for a specific category.
- Technical implementation: HTML and CSS for coding, and GitHub for hosting the live website.
- Out of scope: more features to improve the website experience (welcoming section, category options with images for better navigation through the website)

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the Project and Report

The main purpose of this project was to promote the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical application, leading to a more profound understanding of web development principles. This project is intended to significantly enhance my proficiency in developing captivating web-based applications and to demonstrate my current aptitude in building static websites.

This report demonstrates the process of designing and implementing the Bookaholic - an online bookstore website, a project that demonstrates my expertise in web development, responsive design, HTML semantics, CSS styling, and interactive user interfaces. As such, the report serves as a documentation tool, capturing my detailed project description, design choices, and technical executions undertaken throughout the process.

2. Project Description

2.1 Overview of Website Features

- **Homepage**: The homepage serves as the initial point of interaction with users and encompasses fundamental components mandated by the project's requirements. These elements encompass a navigation bar, categories that elegantly showcase an array of books, an embedded video, and a footer incorporating its own navigation bar. To delve into specifics, the homepage has been meticulously crafted to extend a warm welcome to users, boasting an aesthetically pleasing and responsively designed interface.
  In pursuit of achieving this visual harmony, we seamlessly integrated CSS media queries, which function as the backbone of responsive design. These queries adeptly adapt the appearance of the navigation bars to suit different screen sizes—horizontal for larger screens and vertical for more compact ones. Furthermore, the ingenuity of CSS media queries extends to the video frame, dynamically resizing it to ensure optimal viewing proportions on various devices.

- **Category Page:** The Category page shares a resemblance in its header and footer components to that of the homepage. However, here we introduce a distinct organizational structure. Within this page, we present three primary categories, each adorned with a design analogous to that of two sub-category sections. These sub-categories showcase a delightful trio of books, totaling six books per main category.

  CSS takes center stage in enhancing the aesthetics of the category pages, with particular emphasis placed on hover effects. These effects infuse a sense of interactivity and engagement, elevating the overall user experience and adding a touch of dynamism to the browsing journey.
- **Book Detail Page:** Continuing our exploration, the Book Detail Page constitutes an integral facet of the category pages and category sections in the homepage. Within this realm, a harmonious design philosophy envelops all books featured on the website. The layout, meticulously tailored to accommodate one prominent image alongside three smaller counterparts, effortlessly integrates with pricing details and the coveted "Add to Cart" button.

  The magic of CSS media queries and the versatility of flexbox shine through in this endeavor. Employing these techniques, the book detail pages can ensure a consistently stylish presentation across different devices.
- **Contact page:** Concluding our comprehensive exploration, attention shifts to the esteemed Contact page—a pivotal nexus for user interaction. Within this realm, an array of contact options awaits, providing users the ability to select their intended purpose of contact, input personal particulars such as name, email, and phone number, and delineate their preferred mode of communication.

  Distinguished by meticulous attention to detail, these form elements are methodically organized and tastefully embellished through the strategic application of CSS techniques. Elegantly crafted border lines enshrouded

both the form as a cohesive entity and its discrete sections, imparting a refined visual coherence that underscores the dedication to precision and aesthetics.

Furthermore, a nuanced interplay of interactivity graces the submit and reset buttons—an illustration of a polished user experience. The implementation of hover effects upon these buttons results in a seamless color transition delay, imbuing the form's interface with an engaging yet professional demeanor that befits the context.

2.2 Demonstration of Learning Outcomes

The project is a good testing ground to showcase the ability to translate conceptual knowledge into practical implementation regarding the skills in HTML and CSS. Not just that, the project has also given an opportunity to get used to responsive design principles, enhancing user experience. Furthermore, it is certain that this project has provided a valuable learning experience of how the integration of interactive elements underscore the ability to engage users through subtle animations and user-friendly forms.

3. Implementation Detail

The website consistently employs a tailored font style, Montserrat, chosen for its versatility and suitability across diverse domains, including websites (Cho, 2021). The main theme colors of cyan and orange were thoughtfully selected based on their harmonious pairing, enhancing the visual appeal and cohesiveness of the website's design (Olesen, 2023). This deliberate choice of font and color scheme contributes to the website's professional aesthetics and user-friendly interface, aligning with contemporary design practices and enhancing the overall user experience.

a. Homepage

Requirement/Feature: Navigation bar, Categories Display, Video, Footer

Design Decisions: Because it serves as an entrance to the website and needs to make a strong first impression. The homepage had to be visually appealing and responsive to showcase fundamental components: a navigation bar, main categories, an embedded video, and a footer with navigation links.

Implementation:

- Navigation Bar: Constructed through the integration of HTML <nav> elements and stylized utilizing CSS, the navigation bar was meticulously tailored for responsive design and interactive hover effects. Employing media queries, the layout adeptly adapts to varying screen sizes—horizontal for desktop devices and vertical for mobile devices.
- Categories Display: Employing semantic HTML elements, each category was structured using <a href=""></a> to seamlessly incorporate links for each category title. The inclusion of Font Awesome icons was realized through the use of tags. CSS techniques were applied to enhance visual aesthetics and introduce engaging hover effects. Employing transformation and cursor properties, book illustrations and category titles within the category sections were endowed with an interactive flair.
- Video: Embedding the video was facilitated through the utilization of <iframe> tags, ensuring a seamless integration within the page's structure. The dynamic resizing of the video frame across different screen sizes was achieved through CSS media queries, maintaining optimal viewing proportions.
- Footer: A consistent navigation experience was assured by crafting the footer with HTML and CSS elements. Similar to the navigation bar, media queries were employed to harmoniously adjust the footer's layout across various screen dimensions, further enhancing navigational consistency. **Extra Bonus Feature:**

  Which is a welcoming section with an interactive “Get Started” button to direct users to category sections after reading the greeting line.

Visual Aids/Screenshots:

See appendix for homepage.

b. Category Pages:

Requirement/Feature: Sub-Categories Display, Hover Effects

Design Decisions:

In these pages, the website prioritizes content organization and user engagement. Moreover, the category pages need to utilize their usability with an easy-to-use interface. As such, not only did the use of hover effects provide interactive cues, enhancing the user experience and encouraging exploration, but there were also illustrative links with images to easily direct among categories.

Implementation:

- Sub-Categories Display: Employing akin semantic HTML and CSS methodologies as applied to the category sections on the homepage, analogous techniques were utilized for the category sections within this context. The utilization of the "col-4" class enabled the implementation of CSS flexbox, ensuring uniform alignment and a cohesive visual structure across the layout.
- Hover Effects: Utilized CSS transitions, specifically the "translateY()" transformation, to meticulously fashion subtle hover effects for sub-category images. This strategic implementation adds an element of interactivity, enhancing user engagement by creating seamless and graceful image transitions upon hovering over the sub-categories.

Extra Bonus Feature:

Category cards were ingeniously designed to offer an interactive and visually engaging experience for users. Each card is adorned with a captivating background image that not only adds visual appeal but also serves as a visual cue, guiding users towards other category pages. This strategic approach not only enhances the aesthetic allure of the website but also significantly improves its usability. Through a seamless integration of design elements and

functionality, these category cards establish an intuitive pathway for users to explore different sections of the website, fostering a more immersive and satisfying browsing experience.

Visual Aids/Screenshots:

See appendix for category pages.

c. **Book Detail Pages:**

Requirement/Feature: Adaptable Layout, Images, Pricing, "Add to Cart" Button, Book description.

Design Decisions:

These pages are where users can see the book information. Therefore, it should have a coherent design for consistent presentation. An adaptable layout ensures optimal viewing across devices.

Implementation:

- Adaptable Layout: Leveraging CSS Flexbox in conjunction with strategically applied media queries, a responsive layout was meticulously crafted to accommodate book images, pricing information, and the essential "Add to Cart" button. This design approach ensures optimal presentation across varying screen sizes, maintaining a consistent and visually appealing user experience.
- Images: Implemented through the utilization of HTML <img> tags, the book images were thoughtfully integrated, accompanied by meticulous attention to detail to ensure the inclusion of appropriate alt attributes, thereby bolstering accessibility standards. Employing a responsive design approach, we ensured that the presentation of three smaller images seamlessly adapts to either a vertical column arrangement adjacent to the main image on larger screens or a horizontal row configuration below the main image on smaller screens. This flexible layout transformation, facilitated by CSS media queries,

demonstrates our commitment to both responsive design principles and a user-centric experience that caters to an array of screen dimensions.

Extra Bonus Feature:

The selection of different book editions is facilitated through the implementation of <select> tags containing corresponding <option> elements. This feature allows users to conveniently choose between hardcover and paperback editions. Additionally, a stylistic enhancement is achieved by utilizing an <input> tag with the class "button" to fashion the "Add to Cart" button. The inclusion of a hover effect introduces a subtle yet visually appealing color transition when the cursor is placed over the button, enriching the user interaction, and contributing to the overall aesthetic refinement of the interface

Visual Aids/Screenshots:

See appendix for category pages.

4. Conclusion

To summarize, given that this project is a static website, Bookaholic has met the assignment's requirements quite well. There is a decent homepage, three category pages, book detail pages, and a contact page on the online bookshop. On desktop devices, the failure to locate each input and its related label on same lines (save for labels for individual checkboxes and radios) would be a disadvantage. In the future, I anticipate that the website will be dynamic, with JavaScript support for better interaction with specific parts of the pages, such as an add to cart button that will direct to the cart with the selected product, or a more interactive contact form with a pop-up announcement when the form is submitted. These characteristics may be considered in future initiatives.

5. Reference

Cho, J. (2021, December 7). Montserrat: A UI Case Study For A Typographical Specimen. *Medium*. https://medium.com/@jocelync12005/montserrat-a-ui-case-study-for-a-typographical-specimen-8eb169b1aa65#:~:text=Montserrat%20is%20very%20versatile%20and,%2C%20print%2C%20posters%2C%20etc.

Olesen, J. (2023). 43 colors that go with orange (Color palettes). *Color Meanings*. https://www.color-meanings.com/colors-that-go-with-orange/#:~:text=Cyan%20and%20Orange&text=And%20though%20vintage%20design%20schemes,walls%2C%20and%20cyan%20kitchen%20cabinets!

These YouTube channels below are where the works in this assignment were referred:

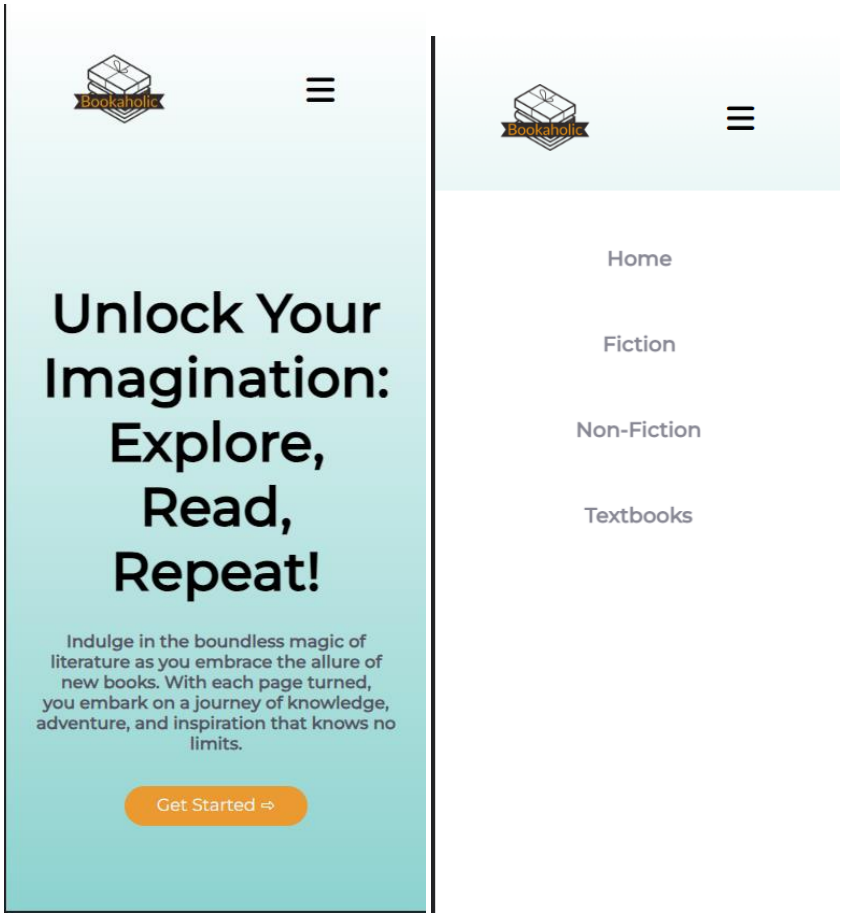
- GreatStack
- Cem Eygi Media
- CodingNepal
- Dcode

6. Appendix

For HomePage:

1. Navigation bar with transparent logo

(Hover effects can be seen when selected an option)


Bookaholic
Unlock Your Imagination: Explore, Read, Repeat!
Indulge in the boundless magic of literature as you embrace the allure of new books. With each page turned, you embark on a journey of knowledge, adventure, and inspiration that knows no limits.
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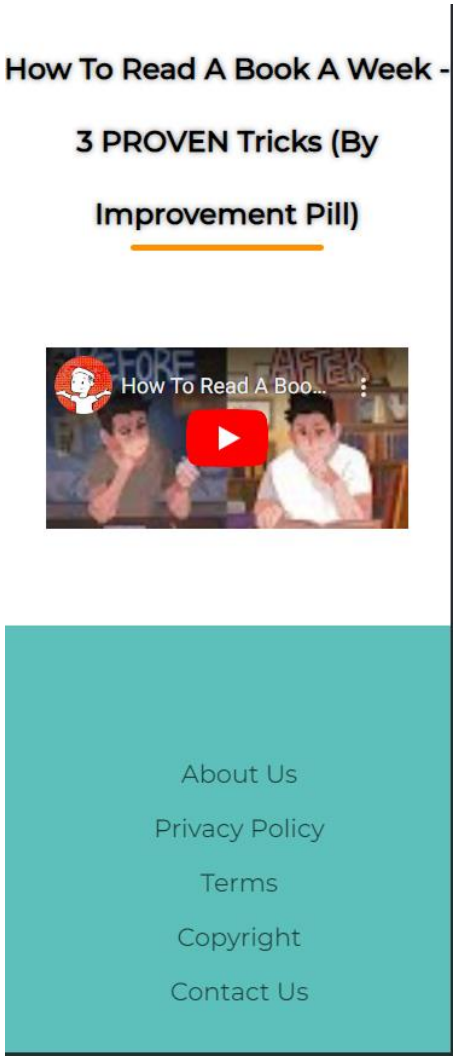
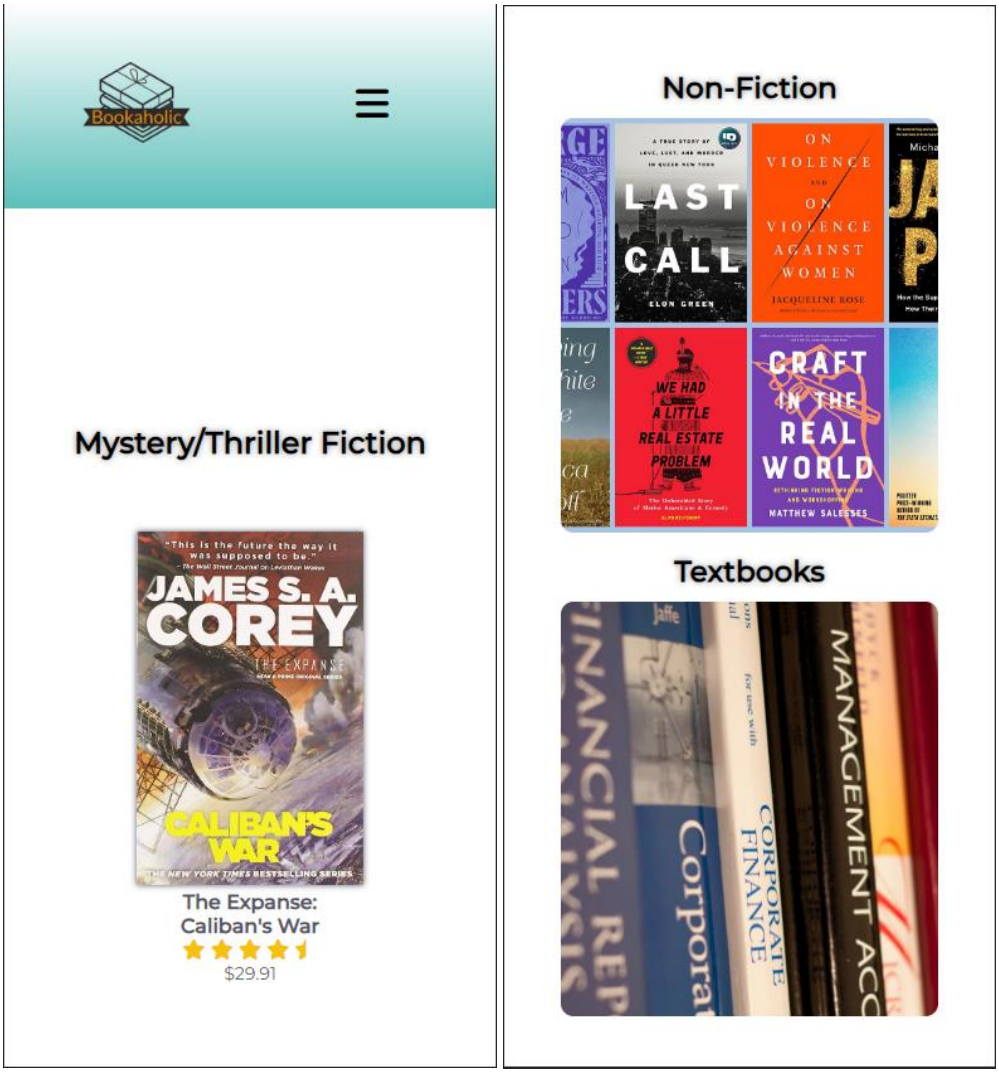
Home
Fiction
Non-Fiction
Textbooks



2. Mobile views of homepage (burger menu icon with hidden nav bar, vertical footer nav bar, and a media)

Youtube video for homepage demo:
https://youtu.be/aaudYxIo4rc
https://youtu.be/N88ETfuS3sc

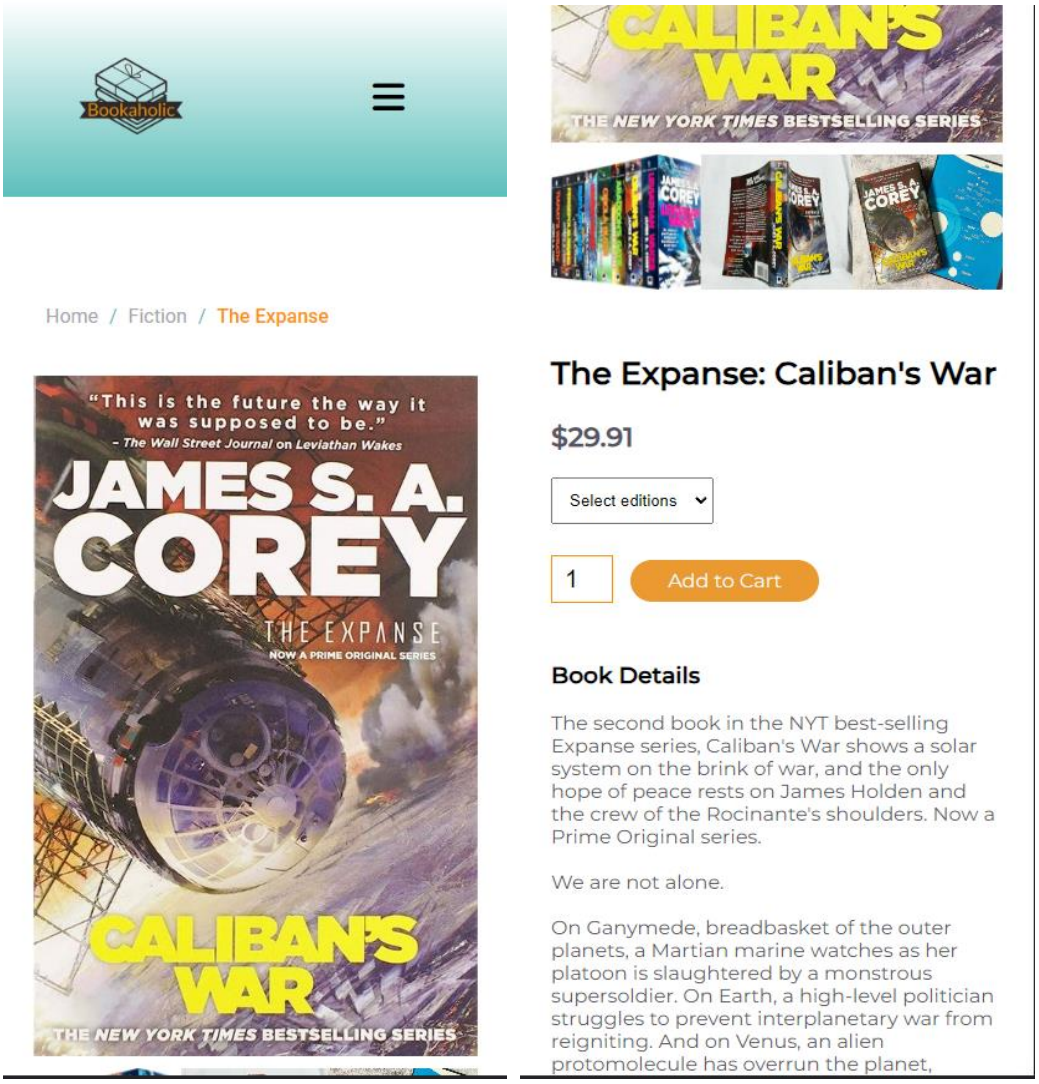
For Category Pages:



3. Mobile views of category pages (applies to all pages)

Youtube video for category pages demo:
https://youtu.be/CsBQTDHL9S8

For Book Detail Page:

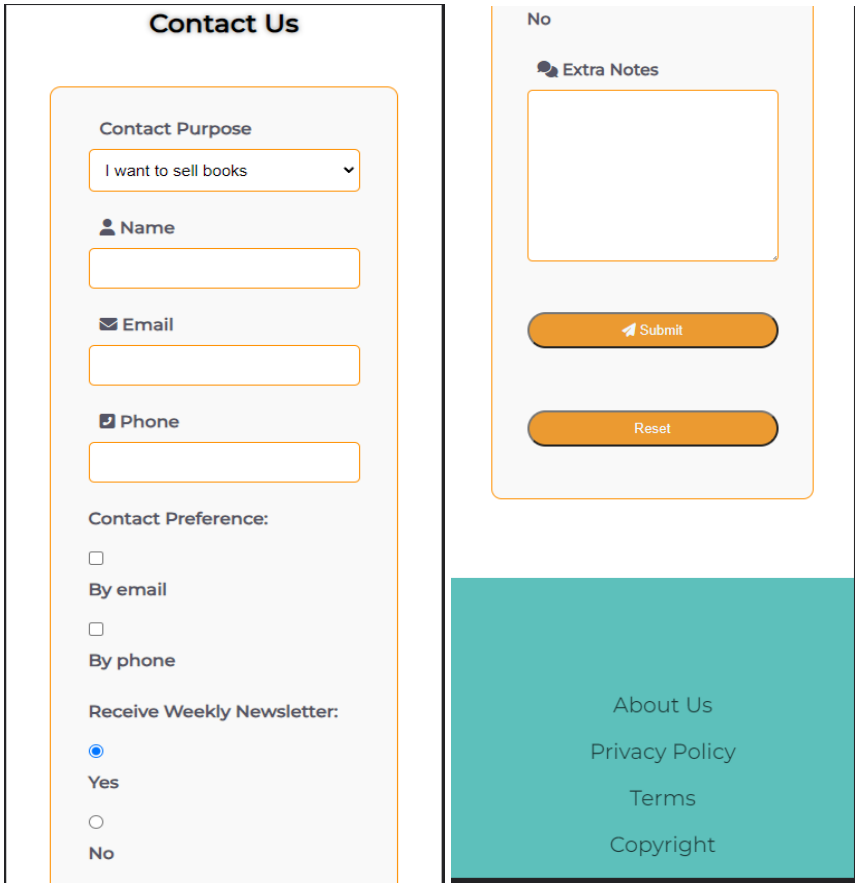


4. Mobile view for book detail page

Youtube video for book detail pages demo:

https://youtu.be/m9voY0YfT8Y

For Contact Page and other footer options:



5. Mobile view for contact form

YouTube video for Contact Page and other footer options demo:
https://youtu.be/bQ2HIjdVUcM