

CS 485 Project Proposal

Christ Church Cathedral is located in downtown Eau Claire not far from campus. They are in need of a solution to manage their collection of books in the library. This library contains many rare books that can't be found in many other places, and so these special cases would need to be noted. The system will need to manage checkins and checkouts just like any library software worth its label. Many good library solutions already exist, but they are too expensive for the church, which runs on a pretty tight budget.

The client has a website, but it is barebones and not in the scope of the request. A server is not provided, and so a database solution of some sort would need to be worked out with the client. The client would prefer that the solution be web based, but would prefer to avoid paying for a domain. "Free" cloud solutions like Heroku are a good option if a web solution is decided upon, as subdomain names are totally acceptable (i.e. churchbooks.herokuapp.com). Multiple computers will need to access the software, so having a communal database is probably a good bet.

Other helpful features would include the ability to collect contact information from the person or persons that check out books, so that they may be contacted in the event of over-extended checkouts. More features can be hashed out with the client upon acceptance of the proposal.

Only church staff will be allowed to add or edit the books to or from the library software. Members of the church and public at large will be allowed to check out the books, perhaps after making an account for tracking purposes. The rare books would require administrative authorization in order to check out successfully.

The main risk is that the project expands in scope too much for one semester's project. In that case, discussion with the client as to what to do is highly advised. Another major risk is that the application is not secure and allows people to check out books when they are not supposed to. With careful design, this could be minimized.

The primary contact for this project is:

Father Michael Green
Christ Church Cathedral
715.491.7635

Please keep in consideration that the client has many other obligations and may not return calls immediately.