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Professor Bell

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DIG540 Final Essay

There have been several topics covered in the DIG 540 class. One example of a topic is the brief examination of HTML and PHP coding languages and how to make a table for a website using the two types of code. A second example is learning how to utilize PHPMyAdmin for creating a database from scratch. The class also looked at how to invent CSV and SQL files from the data inputted into the databases of PHPMyAdmin. I chose to put into action everything I learned and a bit more into my final project.

The first step that I took to create my final project was to think about what I wanted to present on my personal website. I enjoyed looking at all five hundred albums, artists, and genres shown by Professor Bell, and I wanted to replicate his style. So, I decided to take my top five favorite albums that I have listened to over the years and placed them in tables similar to those created by Professor Bell. To complete this act, I first composed a Google Sheets spreadsheet and placed the specific data types of rank, artist, genre, album, total number of songs, year, and composers in the first row. Then, I determined the order of my top five albums and proceeded to input the data.

After inputting the required data into the Google Sheets spreadsheet, I saved the spreadsheet as a CSV file. Since the final project required a SQL file, I headed over to PHPMyAdmin and created a new database with a new name. While working on the database, I realized I had to add novice bits of data types such as Artist\_ID, band members, and Album\_ID to my data collection. Once all the information was placed into the PHPMyAdmin database, I exported the program as a SQL file. Next, I made a new folder on my website and uploaded the CSV file and images of album covers that I took using my phone’s camera to the folder. I proceeded to get to work on the PHP code.

Due to my project taking inspiration from Professor Bell’s example, I decided to utilize the code that he provided for an earlier assignment. Instead of keeping the exact same titles needed for the code to work, however, I replaced the text with the appropriate words that dealt with my final project. I then saved my first trial run as “Final Test 1” and uploaded the file to my website. This act resulted in multiple errors that seemed extremely unusual. So, I went back into the code and tweaked the lines of code that the error messages suggested to examine. Also, I added a few extra commands for the pictures I wished to place in the webpage.

I saved the PHP document as “Final Test 2” and uploaded the program to my personal website. The results were both astonishing and somewhat disappointing. Before glancing at the text, the pictures of all the album covers were present in the order that I wanted. However, these images were too large, as I believed they would be small and lined up at the top of the page. Throughout the webpage, the first group of text was blue, and the second group of text was red. This result was expected, as I instructed the code to force the beginning text to be blue and the rest of the text to be red. However, the first line of text talked about the “rank” of the albums, and the red text possessed multiple instances of repeated information. While I could see a small section of the code that could allow for repeated information to transpire, I did not place the word “rank” in the code. I also am not sure what part of the code to take out, as I tried that action before and received no successful results.

In the end, this final project was mostly an accomplishment and achievement for someone who has no knowledge or understanding of coding and programming. Although I did not obtain a truly lucrative and auspicious result, I felt satisfied that I changed the color of the text and that I could place pictures within the webpage. I was also glad that by changing the color of the text, I did not accidentally cause an unnecessary error in the rendering or cause certain aspects of the tables to go missing. With more practice and more studying of PHP and HTML after this project and class, I can most assuredly become a better coder and programmer.