1 Introduction

Searching in the internet can be a frustrating business. It is more frustrating when you are looking for a research-based articles. ETD Search is a web application designed for searching and querying of research thesis and dissertations. This application is going to provide advanced search options for searching through research database and make the search process quick and easy.

The remaining sections will provide a detailed description of features of ETD Search web application.

2 Architecture

The application is built in PHP with Laravel framework. Html, CSS, and JavaScript is used for the User Interface. It uses MySQL database for storing the user information. Search functionality is implemented with Elasticsearch query. The structure of the website explained in Major Functional Component Diagram (Figure 1) and Site Map (Figure 2).

Figure 1

Major Functional Component Diagram

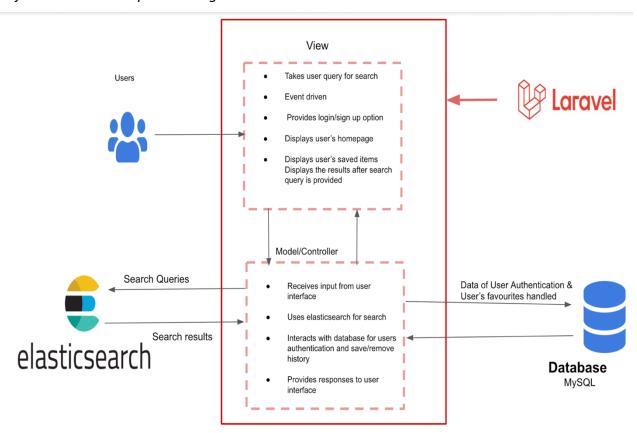
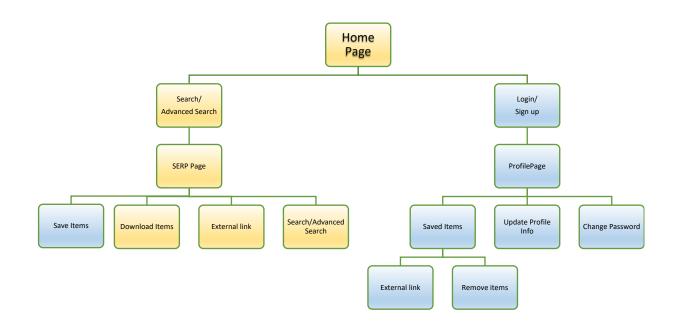


Figure 2 *Site-Map*



3 Milestone Accomplishments

Table with project specifications: Milestone 1, Milestone 2, Milestone 3 and Milestone 4

Fulfilled	#	Specification
Yes	1	The website should provide a search box at the landing page. The searching function may not be working.
Yes	2	There should be a search button next to the search box.
Yes	3	Users must be able to register new accounts using email addresses.

Yes	4	Password must be encrypted before storing in the database.
Yes	5	Users cannot register duplicate accounts using the same email address, or phone number.
Yes	6	Users should be able to log into your website using the accounts they registered.
Yes	7	Users should be able to reset their passwords if they forget it;
Yes	8	The user login process must use the HTTP POST method.
Yes	9	User information shall be stored in a MySQL database.
Yes	10	The website should have a homepage for each user, where they can view their profiles, change passwords, and update information.
Yes	11	Users should be able to get a confirmation email to verify their email addresses for registration or password reset.
Yes	12	The website provides an "Advanced Search" button in which users can specify more information.
Yes	13	The advanced search should return results satisfying multiple specifications.
Yes	14	The website should index at least 5000 "documents" (a document can be metadata of an image or metadata of an ETD).
Yes	15	The search engine should return search results on the search engine result page (SERP), which can be links to documents or images.
Yes	16	The search engine should display the number of returned items on SERP.
Yes	17	The SERP should contain a search box.
Yes	18	The search engine can prevent XSS vulnerability by removing tags existing in the query.
Yes	19	Users should be able to insert a new entry (document) and search engine will index it.
Yes	20	The search engine accepts a text query in the search box.
Yes	21	The search engine can highlight results that contain search terms.
Yes	22	The SERP should display the actual term (after sanitization) shown on top.
Yes	23	The search engine can return paginated results.

Yes	24	Users can click each item on SERP and go to either an external link or a page containing more information of the item.
Yes	25	Users can save items in search result to their profiles.
Yes	26	Users have to login first to save search history to their profiles.
Yes	27	reCAPTCHA should be used for both the logging in and the signing up page.
Yes	28	Users can delete items from their favorite list.
Yes	29	Items in the favorite lists should be descriptive (can't be just a link) and are linked to an external page or a summary page of the item.
Yes	30	The search engine implements at least one of the features spell check, autocomplete, Speech-to-text API, or other APIs permitted by the instructor.
Yes	31	There is a button from which users can download documents (or images) from the summary page or from the SERP (or both).

4 Data

Data of this website comes from ETD data provided by professor. It has 3966 electronic thesis and dissertations. The fields for indexing are:

- contributor_author
- contributor committeechair
- contributor_committeemembers
- contributor_department
- date_accessioned
- date_available
- date_issued
- degree_discipline
- degree_grantor
- degree_level
- degree_name
- description_abstract
- description_degree
- description_provenance
- format medium
- handle
- identifier_other
- identifier uri
- publisher

- rights
- subject
- title
- type

For the **regular search**, the user's query is matched with contributor author, contributor committee chair, contributor committee members, contributor department, date issued, degree discipline, description abstract, description degree, description provenance, publisher, subject and the title.

And for the **advanced search**, user's query is matched with title, contributor author, publisher and date issued fields. For advanced search, user's input in the search box must match the specific field. For eg. if user enters "Programming" on the title search box, "Programming" must be a word in the title field of indexed document.

5 Implementation

Following features are implemented:

1. Account registration

For account registrations user's first name, last name, email and 8 characters long passwords are required. Users need to verify they aren't robot through reCAPTCHA and also need to verify their email for successful account registration.

2. Account login

For login, users need email and password. The password is matched with the encrypted stored password in "Users" table. reCAPTCHA need to be checked for successful login. The authentication process is done by Jet

3. Password reset

Password can be reset using the email. It can be reset from profile page after loggin in and providing correct current password. Another way to password reset is following forgot password link.

4. Users' homepage

User's homepage (aka Profile) provides current user information and option to change password. It has link to search page and Saved Items page.

5. Main search function

Main search function is implemented using Elasticsearch. It is implemented in SERP.blade.php. For the main search, the user's query is matched with contributor author, contributor committee chair, contributor committee members, contributor department, date issued, degree discipline, description abstract, description degree, description

provenance, publisher, subject and the title. Printing the search results is also implemented in SERP.blade.php.

6. Advanced search function

When the user clicks advanced search, a form in advSearch.blade.php handles it. It takes user inputs and routes to advSERP.blade.php which implements the elasticsearch query for advanced search. User's query is matched with title, contributor author, publisher and date issued fields. For advanced search, user's input in the search box must match the specific field. For eg. if user enters "Programming" on the title search box, "Programming" must be a word in the title field of indexed document.

7. SERP

SERP page provides title, description and publisher of the search results. It also provides external link to the ETD. It is implemented in SERP.blade.php

8. XSS vulnerability filtering

It is implemented using existing csrf function provided by Laravel. It is implemented in each form written in HTML throughout the project.

9. Highlighting search terms

Highlighting search terms is implemented using JavaScript in SERP.blade.php.

10. Pagination

Pagination is implemented using table format to print the data. Javascript is used for the table. Pagination is implemented in SERP.blade.php.

11. Save items to user's profiles

Users can save items if they are logged in from SERP page. The saved items can be accessed through clicking save items link from profile page. It is implemented by passing user id, title, url, description and publisher variables from SERP to the save route, which routes to Search/save.php. Save.php has SQL insertation commands to insert the data into the "histories" table of "SearchEngine" database.

It is displayed through Search/mySearch.php, in a table format. The data is accessed from the histories table. The title is clickable which links to the external page which provide more information about the ETD.

12. Remove saved items

Saved items can be removed from the Saved items page. It is done by matching item id with the database, if it matches, it is deleted from the database. This functionality is implemented in Search/remove.php.

13. Download

Download functionality is implemented in SERP.blade.php. The folder handle is obtained from "handle" field of json of the search item. When the download button is clicked all the files inside the folder are checked to see if they are pdf, if there is more than one pdf they are zipped together. So, the button downloads either one or zipped pdfs if there are more than one.

14. Google Speech-to-text API:

A microphone icon is provided next to the search box which can be clicked for giving voice queries for search. It is implemented in Landing (Search page) and in Advanced search page. It is also used in SERP page if users want to search again.

6 Challenges and Lessons

I faced two major challenges:

- Understanding Laravel framework and MVC concept
 Even though I was not experienced Laravel Framework before, I took this class as an
 opportunity to learn something new. It was quite challenging to understand MVC
 concept at first. I overcame it by taking more time to understand the basis.
- Elasticsearch:
 Because it was completely new to me, I have had hard time implementing it into the search Engine. I overcame it by focusing on understanding Elasticsearch search

mechanism. My lesson from this was, I shouldn't try to integrate something in my application without understanding the basics of how it works.

If I had to do it over again, I would take more time to understand MVC concept in milestone one.

App Screenshots

Image 1
ETD Search Landing Page

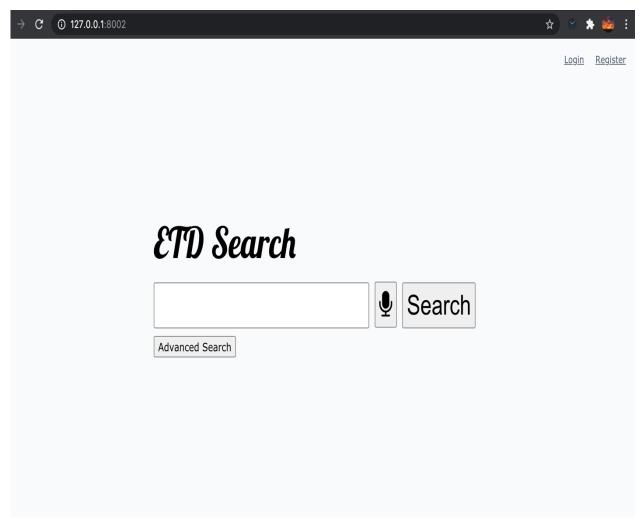


Image 2

ETD Search Login Page

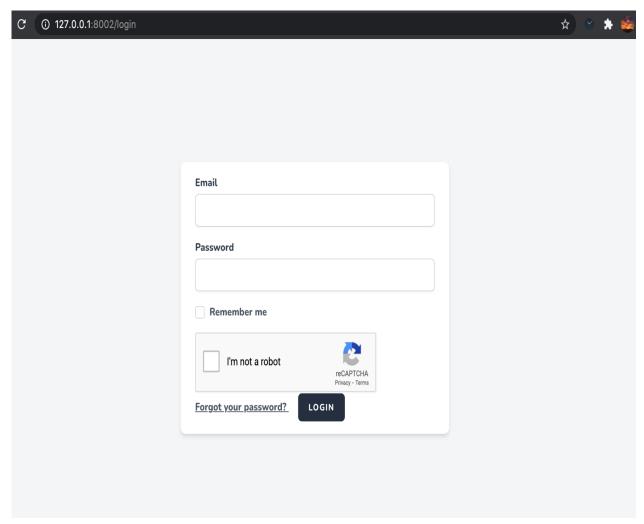


Image 3

User Profile Page

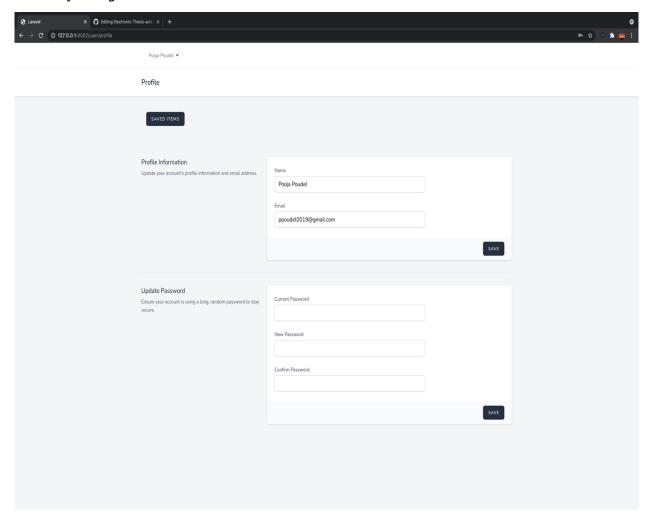


Image 4

Authenticated- Search Engine Result Page-Top

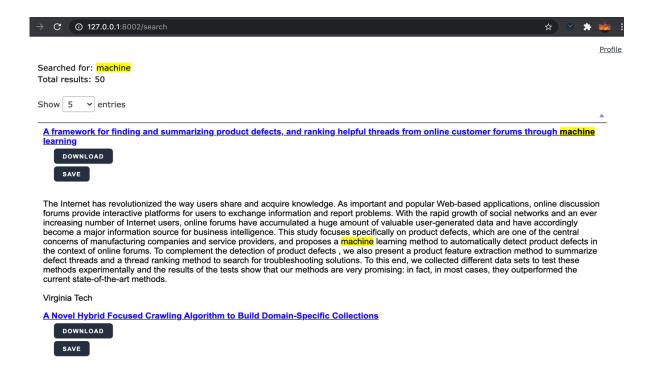
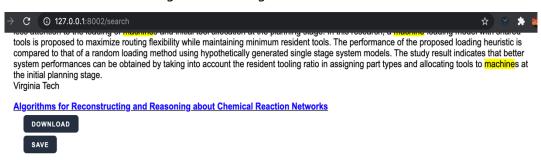


Image 5

Authenticated- Search Engine Result Page- Bottom



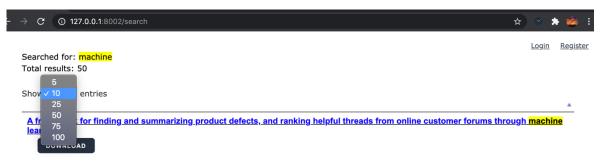
Recent advances in systems biology have uncovered detailed mechanisms of biological processes such as the cell cycle, circadian rhythms, and signaling pathways. These mechanisms are modeled by chemical reaction networks (CRNs) which are typically simulated by converting to ordinary differential equations (ODEs), so that the goal is to closely reproduce the observed quantitative and qualitative behaviors of the modeled process.

This thesis proposes two algorithmic problems related to the construction and comprehension of CRN models. The first problem focuses on reconstructing CRNs from given time series. Given multivariate time course data obtained by perturbing a given CRN, how can we systematically deduce the interconnections between the species of the network? We demonstrate how this problem can be modeled as, first, one of uncovering conditional independence relationships using buffering experiments and, second, of determining the properties of the individual chemical reactions. Experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach on both synthetic and real CRNs.

The second problem this work focuses on is to aid in network comprehension, i.e., to understand the motifs underlying complex dynamical behaviors of CRNs. Specifically, we focus on bistability—an important dynamical property of a CRN—and propose algorithms to identify the core structures responsible for conferring bistability. The approach we take is to systematically infer the instability causing structures (ICSs) of a CRN and use machine learning techniques to relate properties of the CRN to the presence of such ICSs. This work has the potential to aid in not just network comprehension but also model simplification, by helping reduce the complexity of known bistable systems. Virginia Tech

Image 6

Search Engine Result Page- No Authentication



The Internet has revolutionized the way users share and acquire knowledge. As important and popular Web-based applications, online discussion forums provide interactive platforms for users to exchange information and report problems. With the rapid growth of social networks and an ever increasing number of Internet users, online forums have accumulated a huge amount of valuable user-generated data and have accordingly become a major information source for business intelligence. This study focuses specifically on product defects, which are one of the central concerns of manufacturing companies and service providers, and proposes a machine learning method to automatically detect product defects in the context of online forums. To complement the detection of product defects, we also present a product feature extraction method to summarize defect threads and a thread ranking method to search for troubleshooting solutions. To this end, we collected different data sets to test these methods experimentally and the results of the tests show that our methods are very promising: in fact, in most cases, they outperformed the current state-of-the-art methods.

Virginia Tech

A Novel Hybrid Focused Crawling Algorithm to Build Domain-Specific Collections

DOWNLOAD

The Web, containing a large amount of useful information and resources, is expanding rapidly. Collecting domain-specific documents/information from the Web is one of the most important methods to build digital libraries for the scientific community. Focused Crawlers can selectively retrieve Web documents relevant to a specific domain to build collections for domain-specific search engines or digital libraries. Traditional focused crawlers normally adopting the simple Vector Space Model and local Web search algorithms typically only find relevant Web pages with low precision. Recall also often is low, since they explore a limited sub-graph of the Web that surrounds the starting URL set, and will ignore relevant

Image 7

User's Saved Items Page



A Computational Approach For Investigating Unsteady Turbine Heat Transfer Due To Shock Wave Impact Virginia Tech

The effects of shock wave impact on unsteady turbine heat transfer are investigated. A numerical approach is developed to simulate the flow physics present in a previously performed unsteady wind tunnel experiment. The windtunnel experiment included unheated and heated flows over a cascade of highly loaded turbine blades. After the flow over the blades was established, a single shock with a pressure ratio of 1.1 was introduced into the wind tunnel test section. A single blade was equipped with ... Remove

A Novel Hybrid Focused Crawling Algorithm to Build Domain-Specific Collections
Virginia Tech
The Web, containing a large amount of useful information and resources, is expanding rapidly. Collecting domain-specific documents/information from the Web is one of the most important methods to build digital libraries for the scientific community. Focused Crawlers can selectively retrieve Web documents relevant to a specific domain to build collections for domain-specific search engines or digital libraries. Traditional focused crawlers normally adopting the simple Vector Space Model and local...

Remove

Adaptive Scheduling and Tool Flow Control in Automated Manufacturing Systems Virginia Tech

The recent manufacturing environment is characterized as having diverse products due to mass customization, short production lead-time, and unstable customer demand. Today, the need for flexibility, quick responsiveness, and robustness to system uncertainties in production scheduling decisions has increased significantly. In traditional job shops, tooling is usually assumed as a fixed resource. However, when tooling resource is shared among different machines, a greater product variety, routing ...

Remove

Image 8

MySQL – Users Table

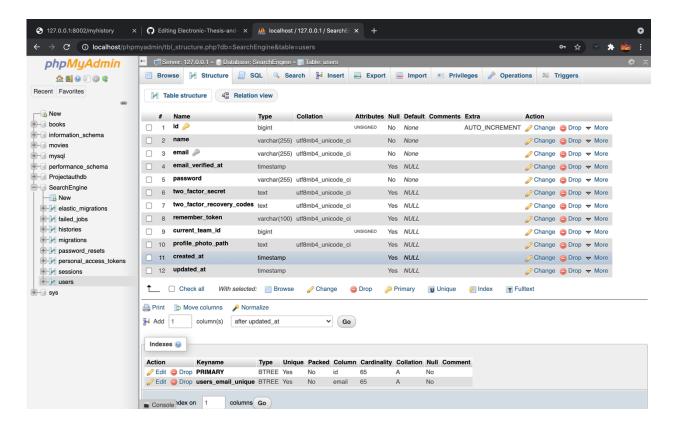


Image 8

MySQL – Users Saved Items Table

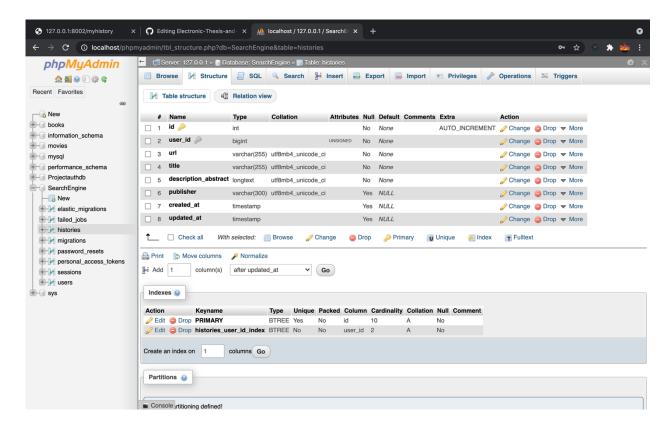


Image 9

Kibana – 3966 documents indexed

