

Training Day 22 Report

11 July 2025

The twenty-second day of Web Development training focused on combining search and sort functionalities in the alumni listing module. We learned how to allow users to search records and simultaneously apply sorting based on different fields, improving the overall interactivity of the portal.

1. Integrating Search and Sort

Modified the alumni listing page to support both filtering by keywords and sorting the results using a combined form submission.

Example Form:

```
<form method="GET">
  <input type="text" name="query" placeholder="Search alumni">
  <select name="sort_by">
    <option value="name">Name</option>
    <option value="graduation_year">Graduation Year</option>
  </select>
  <input type="submit" value="Apply">
</form>
```

2. Combined SQL Query

Used both LIKE for searching and ORDER BY for sorting in a single SQL statement.

Example Query:

```
$search = $_GET['query'];
$sort = $_GET['sort_by'];

$sql = "SELECT * FROM alumni WHERE name LIKE '%$search%' OR email LIKE
'%$search%' ORDER BY $sort ASC";
```

Applied basic sanitization to avoid query manipulation.

3. Hands-on Practice

Combined the functionalities into one form

Fetches data based on search keyword and selected sort field

Displays dynamic and responsive results

Handled cases where no records matched the criteria

4. Relevance to Project

This feature greatly enhances user experience by making it easy to locate specific alumni records and sort them in a preferred order—important for usability, especially as the alumni database grows.

5. Learning Outcomes

Learned how to combine multiple user inputs into a dynamic query

Practiced enhancing frontend usability with combined filtering

Improved logic for processing GET parameters in PHP

Strengthened backend and frontend integration for dynamic listings

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