

Training Day 21 Report

10 July 2025

The twenty-first day of Web Development training focused on implementing sorting functionality in the alumni listing page. We learned how to modify SQL queries to sort records in ascending or descending order based on selected fields like name, graduation year, or email.

1. Adding Sorting Options

Created dropdown menus and clickable table headers to allow sorting of alumni records.

Example Dropdown:

```
<form method="GET">
  <select name="sort_by">
    <option value="name">Name</option>
    <option value="graduation_year">Graduation Year</option>
    <option value="email">Email</option>
  </select>
  <input type="submit" value="Sort">
</form>
```

2. Sorting with SQL ORDER BY

Used ORDER BY in SQL queries to fetch sorted data dynamically based on user selection.

Example Query:

```
$sort = $_GET['sort_by'];
$sql = "SELECT * FROM alumni ORDER BY $sort ASC";
```

Note: We also learned basic validation to avoid SQL injection risks.

3. Hands-on Practice

Added sorting options to the alumni list view

Modified backend logic to dynamically generate sorted results

Displayed sorted results in an HTML table

Tested combinations of sorting with and without search

4. Relevance to Project

Sorting enhances usability for both admins and alumni users. It allows easy organization and viewing of alumni based on relevant fields, especially in large datasets.

5. Learning Outcomes

Learned how to implement sorting with ORDER BY

Practiced combining sorting with user-selected input

Improved the functionality and interactivity of alumni listings

Understood how to write safer, user-driven SQL queries

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