Library Application

1. Introduction

A library application was created using a modern design approach. The database system uses PostgreSQL, which claims to be the world's most advanced open source database. MySQL could have been used instead, however Postgres has some more features to offer such as special types and schema namespaces. The application interface is Apache Web Server. Using a micro framework called Flask, I implemented the application in Python and deployed it to a linux server through Digital Ocean.

The application has two sets of users. The first group are the administrators and the second are readers. Since both share some common attributes I decided to extend them from another common group in the database called actors. Admins login with an email address and a password. Readers may do the same but also have the option to use their card number instead of their email. Once inside the admin may view information regarding books, branches, readers, inventory, and various statistics. They have the authority to add a reader, and add more book copies to a branch.

Readers can search for books, but in this application they don't see if a book is available at a particular branch. After they search for book matching a particular title or author, they can either checkout that book or they can reserve it. The system makes sure that the reader does not go over a limit of 10 books but the reader will not see that process. The reader should be able to return their books also, however I was not able to implement that on time. Finally they can see the status of their account as a list of checkouts and reservations.

2. Database Design

Legend:

Primary Key	Foreign Key	Composite Key	Both Primary / Foreign
Strong Entity [S]	Weak Entity [W]	Relation [R]	

Actor[S]		Admin[W]		Author[S]		Publisher[S]	
ID	integer	ActorID	integer	ID	integer	ID	integer
name	string			name	string	name	string
email	string	Reader[W]				adress	string
phone	integer	AstoriD	integra				
address	string	ActorID	integer				

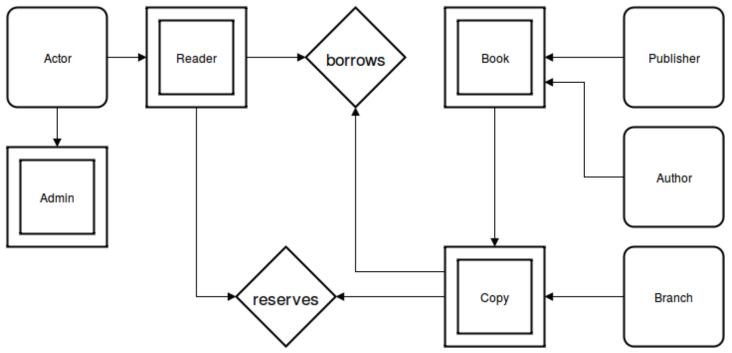
Book[W]		Branch[S]		Col	Copy[R]	
			<u> </u>			
ISBN	integer	ID	integer	ID	integer	
pubdate	date	name	string	ISBN	integer	
title	string	address	string	BranchID	integer	
AuthorID	integer			code	integer	
PublishID	integer			lock	bool	

Borrow[R]	
	1
CopyID	integer
ReaderID	integer
pickup	date
return	date
payment	money

Relations:

Admin	(1, 1)	is	(1, 1)	Actor
Admin	(1, 1)	is	(1, 1)	Actor
Author	(0, N)	writes	(0, 1)	Book
Publisher	(0, N)	publishes	(0, 1)	Book
Branch	(0, N)	shelves	(0, M)	Book
Reader	(0, 1)	borrows	(0, 10)	Book Copy
Reader	(0, 1)	reserves	(0, 10)	Book Copy

Initial Entity Relation Diagram:



3. SQL Statements

The code for database creation is provided as two files. *Rebuild.sql* destroys any schemas within the database called csci760 and then recreates them and their corresponding tables, views, and functions. *Inflate.sql* should be executed after rebuilding is complete. This script creates some test users and fills the library systems with some branches and books. Each branch gets 10 copies of every book by default. The functional statements that query the database are all generated on the fly in a python file called *base.py*.

4. Installation

Requirements:

- 1. Debian Linux Operating System
- 2. PostgreSQL
- 3. Python3
- 4. Flask
- 5. Apache
- 6. WSGI

Instructions:

- 1. As the postgres user create your database owned by an appropriate user.
- 2. Execute the rebuild and inflate scripts.
- 3. Extract zip project to an appropriate location under /srv.
- 4. Create an apache virtual host file to serve the web-application.

5. Appendix

