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Web Development

Project Two Write Up

I chose this collection because I have been collecting vinyls since high school, and it has been fairly consistent throughout my life thus far. For the curation side of the project, I wanted to select albums that I would consider some of my favorites in my collection – both in terms of the vinyls themselves with their cover art, their sleeves, and the vinyl records, and of course, the music. At the same time, I want to highlight the diversity of my collection, so I selected records from different periods and genres. With twelve records selected and five decades (80s, 90s, 00s, 10s, and 20s), I selected two albums from every decade, except for the 1990s and 2010s, from which I selected three. The 2010s having more representation in the collection is a better reflection of my music taste, as this decade began when I was ten years old and ended when I was twenty – an age range when many people's music tastes take shape. As I have gotten older, I have appreciated more and more music from the 1990s, I believe because it is such an artistically eclectic decade.

Additionally, through the selection process, I confirmed some of my musical biases regarding genre, as Art Pop was the most represented genre in the collection with four entries. However, I would argue that this is due at least in part to the atomized musical genres on the site Rate Your Music, whose crowd-driven genre attributes I used to determine the primary genre of each album. Since I utilized this site for genre data, it is undoubtedly influenced by the site's culture, where people frequently argue about genre, labels, and musical attributes in the comment section of albums. Nonetheless, I largely agree with the communal voting system in determining genre, as I frequently find more music I like based on existing genre tags.

I wanted the layout to be simple and respect the album's square form. In the future, I would like to play around more with the grid format, leave more space for the albums, and add more information, such as summaries or reviews of the albums.

Regarding the filtering aspects of the site, I wanted to highlight both the artistic qualities of the music, in the form of genre, and the physical aspects of the vinyls themselves, with the disc color filter. I would like to include more genre elements with more time, as albums can often encompass multiple genres and subgenres. Still, there is also something to be said about the

granularity of metadata and the tendency to make it too specific, which clogs up search nd discovery. I also want to include more filters, incorporating the vinyl sleeve formats and adding the release decade. The album information that appears when you hover over an album provides the artist and album name, along with its release year, so providing a name or date filter was less important to me.

The JavaScript certainly adds a layer of complication to the whole process but it also creates interesting moments of overlap between the albums. For example, both Have a Nice Life's *Deathconsciousness* and Talking Heads' *Remain in Light* being labeled as Post-Punk is odd to me, as they are so different musically from each other. Additionally, seeing very different albums like Kelela's *Take Me Apart* and Unwound's *New Plastic Ideas* both use clear vinyls in a way that still complements their music, speaks to how much overlap there is in vinyl production aesthetics.