Hitchkicker's guide to cinema

Project idea

The basic idea is to develop a responsive website, accessible from a range of devices (smartphones, tablet, pc) to perform complex searches regarding cinema (i.e. in which film did two given actors work together? In which years did a given director won the oscar? …) in the easiest and most intuitive possible way.

Features

The main goal is to provide a user-friendly way to make complex searches on a cinema database, accessible from various devices.

Main features

The main and initial features will focus simple searches (i.e. movie by title, by director, cast of a movie, etc.).

On top of that more and more complex searches will be offered (i.e. people working together, awards win and nominations, soundtracks...)

Desired features

Desirable additional advanced features consist in offering not only searches but even user profiling: manage user accounts, keep searches history, give suggestions based on the searches, provide social functionalities to link with friends...

Survey

Currently many websites and related applications exist that provide exaustive data, the most popular, exhaustive and cutting-edge, probably being:
- https://www.imdb.com/
- https://letterboxd.com/

At a first sight it would appear that such services provide anything a cinema enthusiast would desire… in fact they "almost" do.

An important feature lacking, or not too satisfying is the posibility to make complex searches:
- Letterboxd only provides simple searches (title, names).
- Imdb on the contrary offers the possibility to perform complex searches BUT the feature is not present at all in the app and is not easily reachable and not so user-friendly in the website (see: https://www.imdb.com/search/) which in general is not easily usable in mobile devices (hence the related app, with limited features).

Supporting technologies

The main challenge in tackling the described problem is gaining the access to the huge quantity and the complex structure of the needed data. Fortunately a REST API for accessing the IMDB database is available at:

https://rapidapi.com/apidojo/api/imdb8

This is everything needed for the project from the database point of view.

The data are available on a freemium basis. Free access (limited number of queries per month) is sufficient for developing and prototyping, payment version could be used when the project will be published and hopefully used by a big quantity of users.

Apart from the data point of view, possible back end to perform queries and restructure resulting data and front end providing specific forms for the searches should not present big technical problems, while the design of the front-ends forms and filters might present a complex and challenging task.