Static Website COSC2430 – Web Programming Assignment 1

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I declare that in submitting all work for this assessment I have read, understood, and agree to the content and expectations of the Assessment declaration.

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1. Introduction.

1.1 Introduction.

Today, online shopping is becoming more and more popular. A lot of people choose to buy goods online because of the convenience. Thanks to the development of technology and the Internet, shoppers can visit many stores online from their home and shop while sitting in front of the screen. Because of this, I have made an online bookstore named Book Safari in order to sell books online for book lovers and maybe earn a living with it.

1.2 Purpose.

The main reason I made this website is to combine all the knowledge and IT skills I have learnt. Another reason is that I want to gain more practical experience. In addition, I would like to find all of my errors and weaknesses to improve my skills and knowledge in the future.

1.3 General scope.

The main scope of this project is to develop coding skills by using HTML and CSS. After that, I will improve my debug skill in order to make as few errors as possible. I have to prepare for a detailed and high-level design in the future.

1.4 Objective.

My objective is to design an exciting bookstore where people can visit my website anytime. Additionally, I will often add new books for sale to help consumers have more choices when they visit my online bookstore.

2. Project Description.

2.1 Feature.

I have used various basic features of an online bookstore to make Book Safari such as a menu bar, book categories, book detail pages, recommendations, or responsive design.

For the menu navigation bar, I have a "Home" link to help consumers go to the main page of the bookstore, and three main category links for people to move rapidly to the kind of book they are looking for. All three main categories are "Fiction", "Children's books" and "Business, Finance & Management". Each of the main categories also has two more sub-categories.

At the bottom of every page is the footer navigation bar, which includes "About Us", "Privacy Policy", "Terms", and "Contact Us" page. The footer also includes three softs of social media software, which are "Facebook", "Instagram", and "Twitter", in order to connect users with my bookstore.

About the book detail pages, each book includes essential details like the title, price, cover images and a short description. They also include three small images of the book for people to preview the content of that book. There are some recommendations, which are at the bottom of each detail page, based on the kind of book people prefer in order to introduce them to more books to purchase.

Finally, about the responsive design, this website is responsive and mobile-friendly. People can use many devices to access Book Safari, including smartphones, tablets, or wide PC screens. I changed the format of the page to be suitable for all of the screen sizes. On small screens like smartphones or tablets, I transformed the header navigation bar into a hamburger icon to save space but still keep all the functions of it.

I believe that all of those basic features can create a user-friendly bookstore and improve the shopping experience of users.

2.2 What I have learned.

Doing this project helps me learn a lot of new things. Now I can use "id" and "class" attributes more effectively and correctly. I also know how to add a muted loop autoplay video to the page in order to make it more professional.

However, what I have learned the most is about CSS. Now I can use CSS to make my website much more responsive for large PC screens and for small smartphone screens as well. I also use CSS Flexbox to make more responsive and dynamic layouts. It was quite a struggle at first because Flexbox is really difficult to use for me, so I needed to watch some videos and read documents about Flexbox in order to use it correctly.

To add more interactivity to the bookstore, I have used CSS transitions and animations. I animated the hover state of links on navigation bar to make them transform from black to white color. I also used it to animate the "Add to cart" button.

3. Implement Details.

3.1 Technical details.

First of all, I wanted to have a fancy logo for my bookstore. Therefore, I generated the Book Safari logo by using Tailor Brand. After that, I searched on Google to find suitable color combination for my bookstore. The font I used for the bookstore was sansserif.

I used ChatGPT to generate all the text in "About Us", "Terms", and "Privacy Policy" page to save time.

All the images I used are from the Fahasa bookstore. This is because Fahasa is a big famous bookstore around Vietnam. And I found a lot of descriptions for each book on Google.

3.2. Requirements and visual aids.

My project has 41 pages, including a home page, three main-category pages, six sub-category pages, 27 book detail pages, and four pages for footer section.

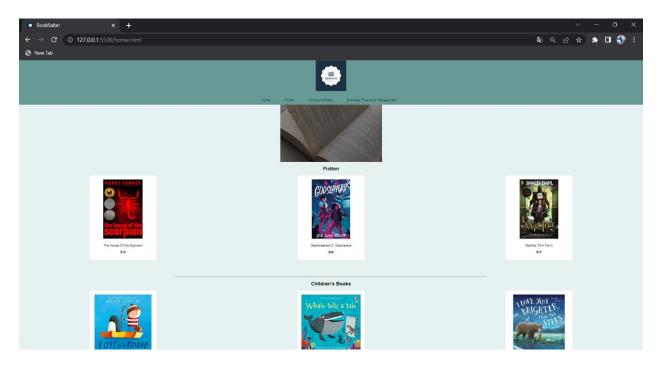
About the Home page with main categories, I have added a logo and a horizontal navigation bar on desktop devices and a vertical navigation bar with a hamburger menu on small screen devices such as smartphones or tablets. I included two main categories as links and each of them contains three books displayed as links to the Book Detail page. The header navigation bar has four links named "Home", "Fiction", "Children's books", and "Business, Finance & Management". I also linked the footer navigation bar include "About Us", "Privacy Policy", "Terms", and "Contact Us". Each of those links to a page with appropriate content. Under the footer navigation bar is Copyright. I was required to add at least one video and I added a muted loop autoplay video.

Next is the Sub-category page for each main category, I reused the code of the home page's header and footer. I added two sub-categories, each of them name as a link and three books displayed as links to the Book Detail page.

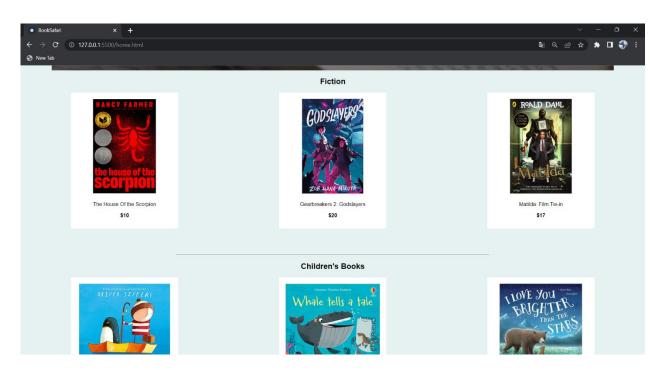
About each Book Detail page, I also used the same header and footer as Home page. I added a breadcrumb, one big and three small images for each book. Next to them is the book price and the "Add to cart" button. At the end of the page is the book name and a brief description.

Last is the Contact page. I used text input, telephone input, checkbox, radio, text area, and select box. I also added two buttons "Submit" and "Reset" at the end of the form.

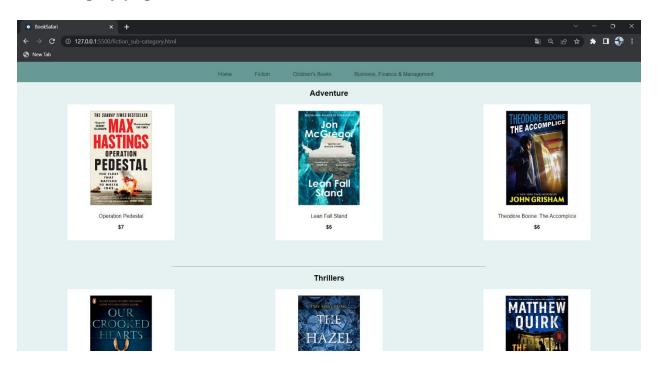
Home page.



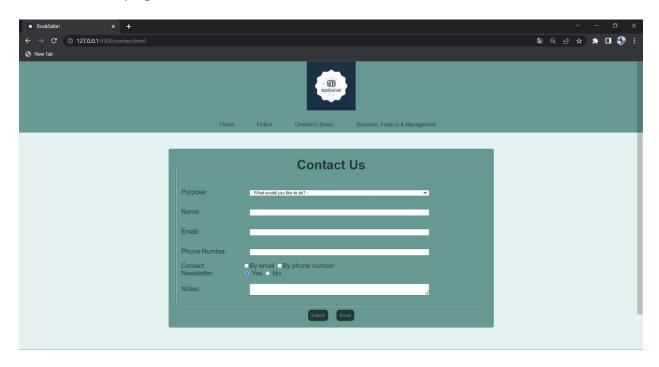
Book category page



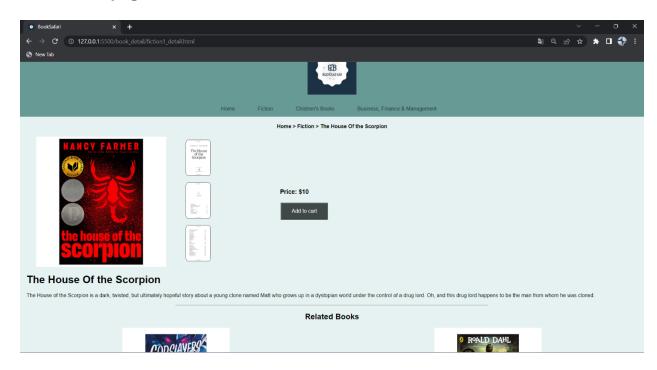
Sub-category page



"Contact Us" page.

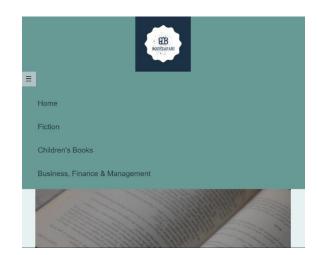


Book detail page.



Vertical navigation bar on mobile devices – hamburger menu.





3.3. Extra bonus feature or work.

In addition to the requirements in the assignment, I have tried my best to implement some extra features, including social media links in the footer, or recommendations in each detail book page.

To begin with, I added some social media links in the footer because I believe that each online bookstore needs to connect with their users. The users can get notification whenever there is something new or some update about the website. This is a good way to connect with the customers because almost everyone uses at least one social media.

In addition, I added "related books" section at the end of each book detail page to recommend people to buy more books. This can increase the profit of the bookstore and I will have more budget to add new features to improve the user's shopping experience.

4. Conclusion.

4.1 Drawbacks.

In my opinion, Book Safari is just a static web, and the user interface is still simple. In addition, some functions have not been used optimally and have not been completed. This website also lacking some essential features, for example search box or shopping cart. I need to archive more knowledge and improve my skills more to make Book Safari become a fully functional online bookstore.

4.2 Future Work.

I hope that this project can be expanded to accommodate a growing user base. Moreover, some additional features can be added, and existing functionalities can be enhanced to improve the user experience.

In the future, I need to add a search box to help people find specific books. I think search box is an essential feature that Book Safari is lacking. This can cause some inconvenience for users.

5. References.

Book Safari logo: Image generated using Tailor Brands.

Images: Fahasa (n.d.) Book images [book], Fahasa website, accessed 10 August 2023. https://fahasa.com

Text in About Us, Terms and Policy Privacy pages: OpenAI (2023) ChatGPT (August 3 version) [Large language model], accessed 10 August 2023. https://chat.openai.com