Rationale

For Project 1, the Basic Web Application, I chose to track movies. I thought of this after speaking with Ben and deciding that it would fit the brief and provide suitable categories. The initial categories which were chosen included, movie title, year released, director, genre, length, and rating. Although, when I showed this to a friend in the class, I realised I should reduce the number of groups. It went from six to four after I removed two categories, directors and length, as these were irrelevant to the basic parts of a movie.

I have not been exposed to very much coding during my degree. My only other coding experiences were in the unit Web Design and Production in 2017 where I learnt HTML and CSS. As both of these are user-side programming languages, when I got to the server-side I knew I would have some trouble comprehending the information. The programming language PHP took some practice, and once I went through a tutorial, it became easier to find where errors were and how to fix them. MySQL was another system I was unfamiliar with. The database management system was also much less frightening once I moved away from the in-class tutorial and started making my project.

Project 1 was easier than expected in the beginning. I replicated the tutorials in Modules 1 and 2 found in Canvas. I then made sure the main pages worked, for example, Add a Movie (create.php), View all (read.php), Edit an entry (update.php, update-movie.php), and Delete an entry (delete.php). The problems began after I finished these pages.

I had difficulty with creating the Register (regiser.php) and Log In (login.php) pages. First, I tried to find tutorials on how to create these pages. These came from a website called Tutorials Point, Simply Easy Learning and PHP Manual from php.net. I copied the examples from Tutorials Point and pasted it into brackets using a new page called 'login.php'. I had to change 'usernme' to 'uname' and 'password' to 'pwd' so that there was a differentiation between the two and the code would not confuse them. I then tried to see if it would appear on the 'Movie Tracker' page, although, I had forgotten to place a link on another page so it would appear. In the beginning, I placed the Log In page link in my header (header.php). I quickly realised his did not flow as it was on the same page at Add a Movie, Edit an entry, etc. I had to place it on an earlier page.

I showed this code to Ben and he tried to add extra code from TutorialRepublic but it could not match my code. After the amount of effort to get the login page to work, I just coped a new example from the same website. This ended up working fine.

I then placed the Log In link on the index page (index.php). This means it appears before everything else. I then made a new page called menu.php which includes the main movie pages as mentioned earlier. You are taken to this page after you register a user.

I had the most difficulty with making the Log In work. Registering worked well and the users which were entered appeared on phpMyAdmin. I found these by entering 'SELECT * FROM 'users' WHERE 1'and when I pressed go, they were displayed in the rows below.

There was some confusion about which hosting site I should have used. I was unsure which one would display my code and if I needed to pay anything. I ended up using Infinity Free, and this hosting site worked well. There were minimal problems and by following the step-by-step process Ben provided I was able to make my web app available online. I am happy with my Basic Web Application. Although I had trouble in the beginning, I believe I persevered and produced the best project I could.