BOOK RANKS: ONLINE BOOK REVIEWS WITH STAR RATINGS FOR DIGITAL READERS

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BORANG PENGESAHAN STATUS LAPORAN

JUDUL: Book Ranks: Online Book Reviews with Star-Ratings for Digital Readers

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This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Computer Science (Software Development) with Honours.

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2021

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project report entitled

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to my parents who have been my source of inspiration and gave me strength and courage to keep going when I though to give up.

To my brothers, sisters, and friends who shared their words of advice and encouragement to finish this study.

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ABSTRACT

Books can be written at any time on any topics. To see whether a book is worth reading, book review can be very helpful for potential readers to know about the book. Thus, under this project, the Book Ranks is developed – a web-based application for readers to share their opinions about a book they read by providing insights and ratings. This application also provides a faster way of retrieving book reviews through barcode scanner and searching for book reviews while on the go. Through an admin, the book reviews will be up to date and well managed. The app is developed in open-source PHP and MySQL with Laravel framework through a waterfall model until the application is delivered. It is expected that this Book Ranks may be able to help book readers to get better reviews for books and even make it easier to search for reviews.

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ABSTRAK

Buku boleh ditulis pada bila-bila masa tentang apa-apa topik. Untuk mengetahui bahawa jika sesebuah buku berbaloi untuk dibaca, ulasan tentang buku adalah sangat berguna. Oleh itu, Book Ranks dibangunkan. Book Ranks adalah aplikasi berasaskan web untuk pembaca berkongsi pendapat mereka tentang sesebuah buku dengan memberikan pandangan dan penilaian. Aplikasi ini juga menyediakan cara yang lebih pantas untuk mendapatkan ulasan buku melalui pengimbas kod bar, dan mencari ulasan buku pada bila-bila masa. Melalui pentadbir, ulasan buku akan dikendalikan dengan baik. Aplikasi ini dibangunkan menggunakan PHP dan MySQL dengan rangka kerja Laravel melalui model pembanguan air terjun untuk membangunkan aplikasi. Diharapkan Book Ranks dapat membantu pembaca buku untuk mendapatkan ulasan yang lebih baik untuk buku dan mempermudah mereka mencari ulasan.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This project's purpose is to develop a website that will allow book readers to review and easily retrieve reviews of a certain book. Most book review sites these days are left unmoderated that will leave irrelevant comments and reviews that do not provide any relevant information on the book itself. Other than that, it is also hard for readers to search quickly to look up review for a book while shopping for books in a sale for example. So, the objectives of this project are to allow our admin to moderate the reviews left by readers, so only relevant reviews are allowed. Then, we would also like to allow users to quickly can book's ISBN barcode to look up a book. In this website, an admin will manage books and functions as a moderator. Admin can remove a review if deemed necessary. A reader can read reviews and add a review for a book. A reader would also be suggested what books should they review next based on their interest. Another user of this system is author. An author can request for their books to be added and view reports on how their books are perceived. An author can also response to the reviews. The expected output of this project is a website that stores book reviews by readers and give easy access to readers to read the reviews.

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1.2 Problem Statements

- Difficult to avoid irrelevant reviews
    - Users of existing system today may find it hard to avoid irrelevant reviews that contribute nothing to the discussion of the book. This is

because the existing systems are not heavily moderated which allows reviewers to say anything they want.

- Time consuming to search for book reviews while book shopping.
    - Readers may not have a pre-selected books that they want to buy when shopping for books. So, they may want to read online reviews while shopping for books. Existing system doesn't allow a quick way to go to a certain book's reviews, they usually require user to manually type the books title.

- Difficult for authors to interact with readers.
    - On other systems, they do not allow for authors to directly reply to a user's review for their books. An author might want to give a feedback on user's review for their criticism or appreciation.

1.3 Objectives

- To review and design a suitable web-based system for allowing readers to review and rate published books.

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- To develop and implement the web-based system according to requirements.

- To test and evaluate the system for potential bugs and functionality at all levels.

1.4 Scope

Users: 1. Admin

2. Readers

3. Authors

System modules:

1. Authentication Module (All users)

- User registration

- Login/logout

- Password recovery

- Profile update with interest category

2. Book Records Module

- Manage (CRUD) book records with all details (User: admin)

- Add books (User: authors) and verify books (User: admin)

3. Search and Review Module

- Search books by title, author, publisher, isbn, and scanning barcode (User: Readers)

- Review books (CRUD) comments and ratings (User: Readers)

- Moderate reviews and verify reviews (User: Admin)

4. Special Module

- Recommend books to review based on interest and other readers (User: readers)

- Readers' choice/best reviews award

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- poll (All users)

- Feedback on reviews (User: Authors)

5. Dashboard Reporting Module

- Graphs about visitors (User: Admin)

- No. of reviews monthly/yearly as a whole (User: Admin)

1.5 Project Significance

This project will help users to get better and more reliable book reviews by allowing the admins of the website to moderate the reviews. It will also allow book readers to quickly retrieve the reviews for books that they desire by searching for their books using book title or ISBN. Other than authors can also get better feedbacks by having two-way communications with the readers.

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1.6 Expected Output

The expected output of this project is a website that stores book reviews by readers and give easy access to readers to read the reviews. The output of this project is to create a website that will be able to allow users to easily search and read reviews for a book that they intend to. This site will also be a safe space for everybody since our admins will moderate the reviews.

1.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, Book Ranks is a web-based book reviews hub that will have three users, admin, users, and authors. Book Ranks will allow readers to review the

books that they have read and also find reviews for their upcoming books. Authors can request for admins to add their desired books and reply to readers' reviews. Meanwhile admin can moderate the reviews. This website will also hopefully will be able to make relevant recommendations to readers based on their interests.

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CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROJECT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

This chapter will discuss about the domains involved in this project. This chapter will also define the software development methodologies used to develop the project. Other than that, the milestones and schedule of the project timeline is going to be set.

2.2 Facts and findings

2.2.1 Domain

The domain of this project is the book reviews domain. A book review is a guide for potential readers. In a concise manner, a review summarizes the author's qualifications and main points, often providing examples from the text. A review also provides an opinion on whether the author succeeds or not in convincing readers of their points. The reason this domain is chosen is to help casual readers find reviews on books that they want to read. Certain existing system nowadays are too bloated and works more like social media such as GoodReads where users are given too much information unrelated to the books. Then, other website may only allow reviews from verified journalist and users may feel detached from their reviews and want reviews from everyday people.

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2.2.2 Existing System

Book Ranks target to be a website where users can search for book reviews and leave their own revies.

2.2.2.1 Goodreads

Most book review sites these days such as Goodreads are left unmoderated that will leave irrelevant comments and reviews that do not provide any relevant information on the book itself. Other than that, it is also hard for readers to search quickly to look up review for a book while shopping for books in a sale for example. Another common problem for existing system such as Goodreads is that because of its many sections and clunky web design, it is confusing, at times to the point of being almost unusable. Both authors and readers on Goodreads have noted an increase in political banter, trolling, cancel culture and cyberbullying afflicting the website. This is caused by the social media aspect of the website. Goodreads has grown too much from its original state as a book catalog where users can add books to their reading list.

2.2.2.2 BookMark.Reviews

Book Marks is book reviews aggregating website. Unlike other existing system on the market, the system does not allow any type of users to leave reviews for books. The reviews that are submitted on the website come only from verified reviewers or journalist who write for magazines or other websites. So it may hard for casual readers to relate to the reviews on the site since professional critics are more critical of the books.

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2.2.2.3 Google Play Books

Google Play Books is a digital reading service provided by Google. The service does allow users to leave reviews, but only for people who buy the books on the service. Someone who gets their book from other digital books provider are not able to leave their reviews. People who prefer physical books also are not able to since there is no system in place to proof that they own the books.

2.2.2.4 Comparison

In comparison of these three existing systems, GoodReads allow everyone to leave reviews on their site, BookMarks only allow verified writers or journalist and Google only allow their digital customer. GoodReads also work more like a social

media compared to BookMarks and Google Play Books where it is more like an advertisement hub for the books and may be biased.

2.3 Project Methodology

The system development approach taken to build this project is the waterfall model of system development life cycle. This method is chosen because it is suitable when a project is short and for a project that is not too big.

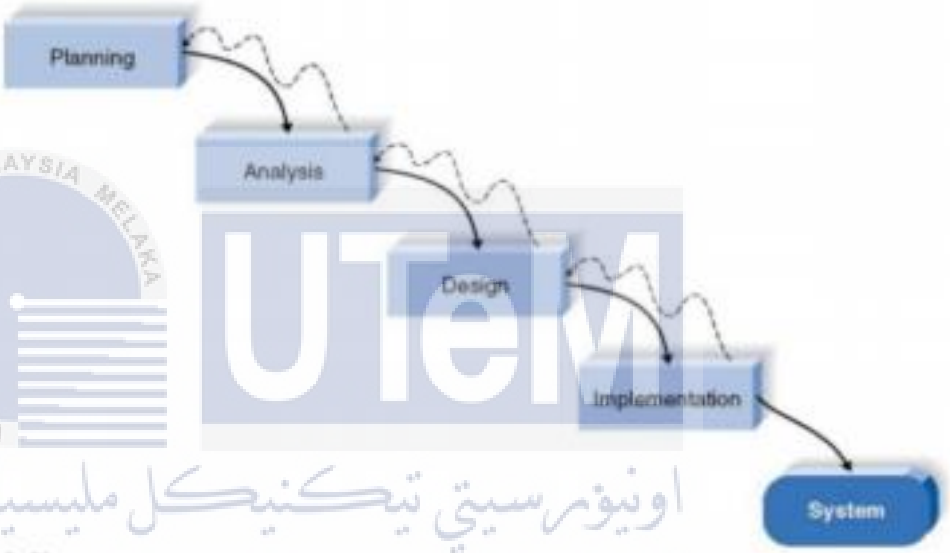

Figure 2.1: Waterfall Model

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• Planning

Plan on suitable and feasible topic.

• Analysis

Begin collecting required data to build the database. After that plan what processes are required to achieve the objectives of the project.

• Design

Sketch a design for the user interface based on the collected required data and processes.

• Implementation

Begin translating the planned processes and interface in programming languages. Beginning with creating the database, with tables, triggers, and procedures. After finished with setting up the database, the user interface is created. Then, the system is tested.

2.4 Project Requirements

2.4.1 Software Requirement

- XAMPP
- PHPMyAdmin
- Visual Studio Code
- Laravel
- Composer

2.4.2 Hardware Requirement

- Personal Computer

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2.5 Project Schedule and Milestones

Table 2.1: Gantt Chart

Milestone/Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Proposal															
Complete ERD & Design															
Authentication module															
Book records module															
Search and review module															
Special module															
Report module															
Presentation															

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2.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, this project is closely related to web and software development. Waterfall model methodology is used because this method is suitable when a project is short and for a project that is not too big. It also helps that this project requirements are fixed from the beginning and would not go through any changes during the development process. So, this approach helped to provide more predictable result. This