Creation of an online community of bibliophiles using a dedicated social media platform

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Abstract **- The world has seen drastic changes in every possible field in last forty years or so, and majority of this has been made because of the tremendous progress in the field of computers and information technology. But, however in the present times reading as a hobby has been losing its touch, very less people especially the younger generations are inclined towards them, it is often seen as an activity for elderly and even if people like to read, its rather challenging to find people with similar mindsets and interests. That is where our work comes into play. The aim of our work is to provide a fully dedicated platform for book lovers, a diverse and varied online community where, it is easy to share your readings, talk about them with your online friends, exchange messages and even books. This could also be used as a university networking site, focused on facilitating the exchange of books between the seniors and fresher as well as a book endorsement platform.**

Index Terms **- social networking site, Django, Python, Books, Read List, Recommendation system.**

I.INTRODUCTION

After conducting an informal survey, we found out that in present times people are reading less and less books, [1] and thus to promote reading as a hobby, we have proposed a solution in the form a social networking site, solely for book lovers, a place where you can meet people with similar reading interests.

The objective of this project is to provide a fully dedicated platform to readers, where they can know about top-books of major genres, people with varied reading interests, share their read list (the books they plan to read or have read) with their friends on the platform. It can also be used as an end to end platform, in universities and college campus for the providing easy exchange of books between the students.

The approach taken to implement this idea is:

1. Encourage users to signup/login based on their previous interaction with the application, while they visit the landing page.
2. After the user signs up, the details provided by him are stored in the database for future authentication and authorization. And a profile is generated based on the details they provided while creating an account.
3. The user can start adding posts about their readings and so on, after their profile is created.
4. The details we are collecting from the user includes: Email address, Location (Country and city)
5. If the user has added location, then the application will suggest people based on their common location.
6. The application also uses their preferred genres data as one of the criteria to filter and group users.
7. The backend keeps on analyzing the name of the books added by the user in their read list to, decide the top eight reads and endorse them on the application.

II. RELATED WORK

We searched the entire internet, to find a platform which combines the allure and benefits of reading with the charms of a social platform or community. There is a famous book review platform named goodreads, where you can read books, share your readings with people you might know, keep a reading bucket list and so on. However, what we are trying to provide is a more intimate platform for people to connect, like migrate your local reading group to our platform, increase your circle and provide or take part in discussions, showcase your readings by the posting it onto the platform.

III. SYSTEM DESIGN

The web application will consist of a user interface, allowing the individuals to use our platform. The backend will contain all the logics for user authentication, authorization, business logic for recommendation systems. MySQL database is used to store the information.

The technologies used are:

1. HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, Python for frontend,
2. Backend is handled by Django, which is a web development framework using Python language.

1. Python

[4] It is an interpreted high-level general purpose programming language. Python's design philosophy emphasizes code readability with its notable use of significant indentation.

2. Django

[5] It is a high-level Python web framework that enables rapid development of secure and maintainable websites. Built by experienced developers, Django takes care of much of the hassle of web development, so you can focus on writing your app without needing to reinvent the wheel.

3. Bootstrap

[6] It is a free and open-source CSS framework directed at responsive, mobile-first front-end web development. It contains CSS and (optionally) JavaScript based design templates for typography, forms, buttons, navigation, and other interface components.

4. HTML5

[7] The Hyper Text Markup Language, or HTML is the standard markup language for documents designed to be displayed in a web browser. It can be assisted by technologies such as Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and scripting languages such as JavaScript.

Web browsers receive HTML documents from a web server or from local storage and render the documents into multimedia web pages. HTML describes the structure of a web page semantically and originally included cues for the appearance of the document.

5. Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

[8] It is a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in a markup language such as HTML. CSS is a cornerstone technology of the World Wide Web, alongside HTML and JavaScript.

Features are:

1. Adding book genres, adding books in your read list,
2. making posts,
3. search and follow people (based on common interests) or whosoever present on the site.

The user's homepage will also show a personalized news feed, containing the posts of their friends/followers.

We are also keeping track of the top books, present in every readers read list, which will also suggested to other users on the website.

The application will be generating or storing a lot of static files (images in this case), these will be stored in a file type storage format and will be delivered to the application using a Content Delivery Network.

IV. WORKING OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

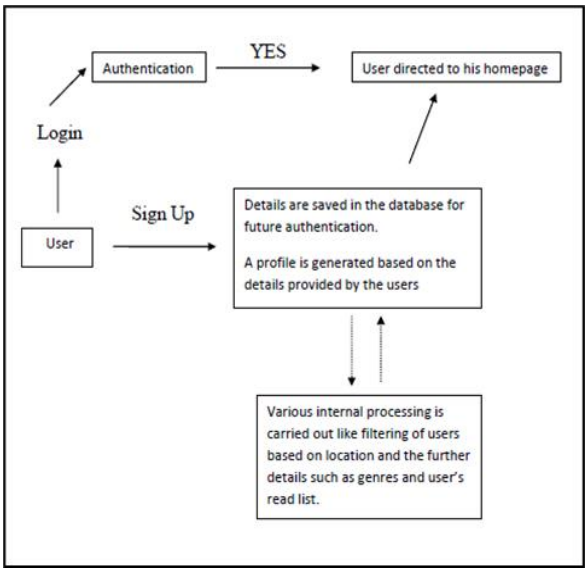

Fig 1: Application workflow

Recommendation systems:

Every time an individual logs in the site, a customized list of users for him to follow, are generated based on the current user's location, his preferred genres and read list.

Similarly, based on the genres preferences of a user, a list of books are also generated for him to follow along and add them to his read list.

V. RESULT

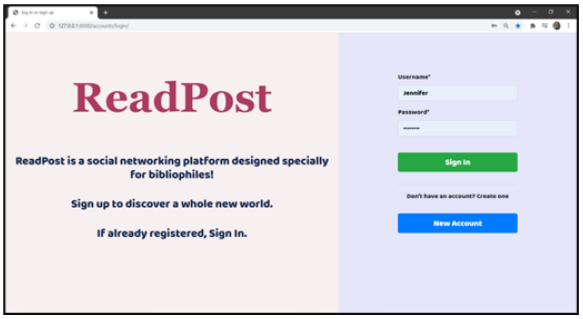

Fig 2: Landing page

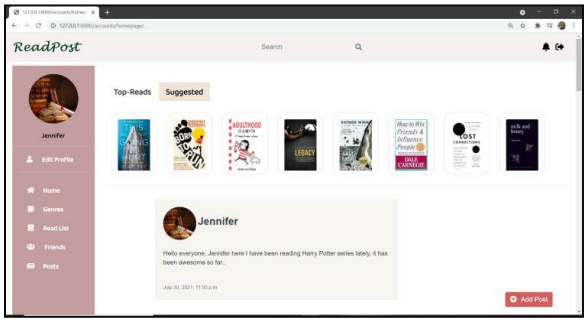

Fig 3: user's homepage

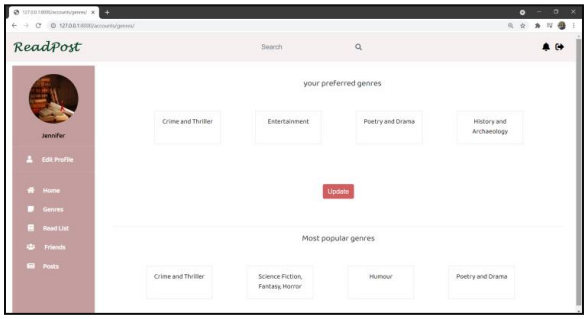

Fig 4: Update genres page

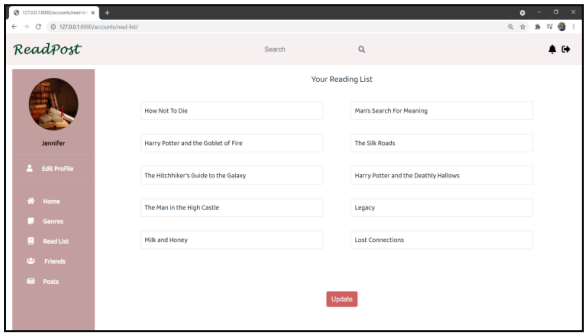

Fig 5: Update Read List page

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we discussed how diminishing interests in reading, can be effectively tackled by providing a dedicated platform in the form of a social media.

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