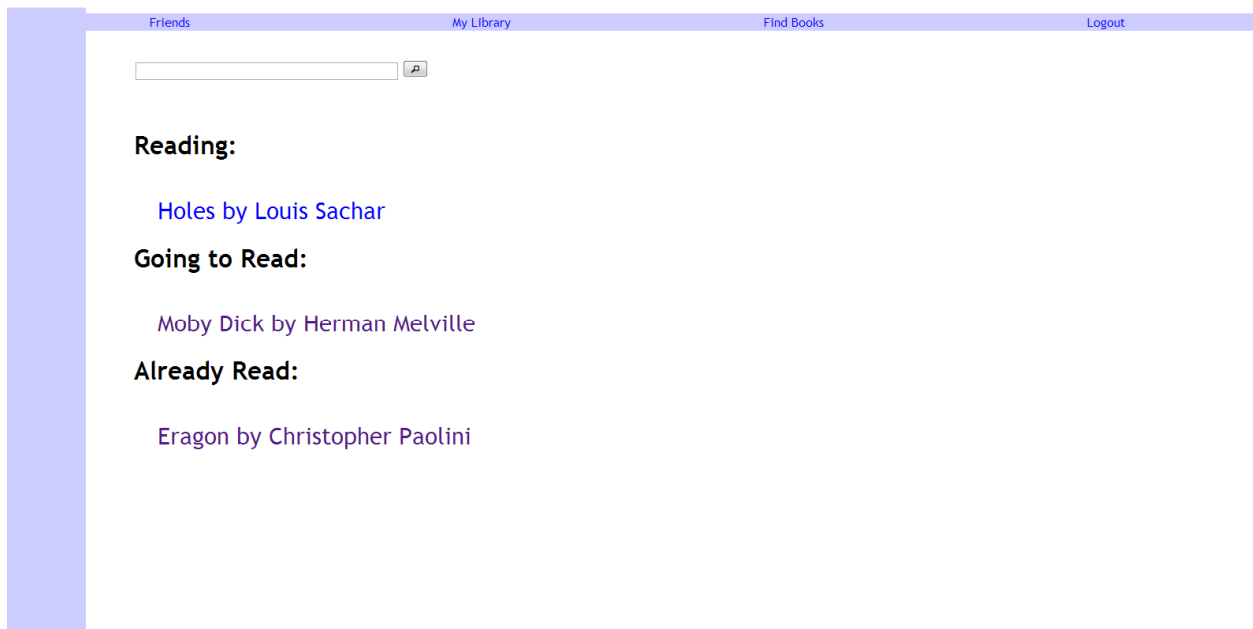


Ryan Lacey
6.813: UI
HW2
No Collaborators

Book Club Evaluation

HOME PAGE



1. Help & Documentation

Severity: Minor

Details: A user that happens to come across the site without knowing its purpose may have a hard time figuring it out. Assuming that no additional information is given during registration other than user sign-up details, then the user is dropped off into "My Library" without direction as to site features.

2. Aesthetic & Minimalist Design

Severity: Good

Details: After becoming familiar with the site, the design is straightforward and does not encumber the user with 'fluff'. It is apparent that minimalism was a goal site-wide, but especially notable on the homepage. The past, present, and future partitioning of readings is very clear.

3. Visual Navigation

Severity: Minor

Details: The books listed under the headings are closer in proximity to the following heading than to the preceding one, which could cause users to associate the wrong items into groups together on a glance. For example, *Moby Dick by Herman Melville* is closer to "Going to Read" than to "Reading", which is its actual category.

FRIENDS



Usman
Masood

Is reading [Twilight](#), [Artemis Fowl](#)

Liked: [Moby Dick](#)

Recommend
a Book to
Luly:

4. Consistency

Severity: Aesthetic

Details: The page is for Usman Masood, but asks if I would like to send a suggestion to Luly. Presumably will be fixed when backend is created.

5. Consistency

Severity: Aesthetic

Details: "Is reading" is not followed by any symbol, but rather goes straight into the book listing. "Liked" and "Recommend..." on the other hand have a colon before their data.

6. Recognition, not recall

Severity: Major

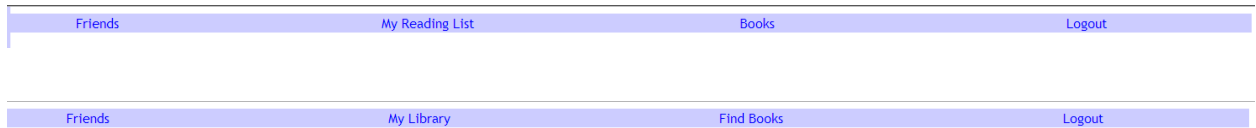
Details: The textfield for recommendations suggests that a user must recall book details exactly to make a recommendation. It is unclear if this means just the book title or the entire string including author name, since multiple books could have the same title.

7. Error Prevention

Severity: Minor

Users trying to send a recommendation may mistype when entering book information. The system confirms that a recommendation was sent, but does not give feedback as to what was sent. Thus a user could send a recommendation for the wrong book.

NAVIGATION BAR



8. Consistency

Severity: Major

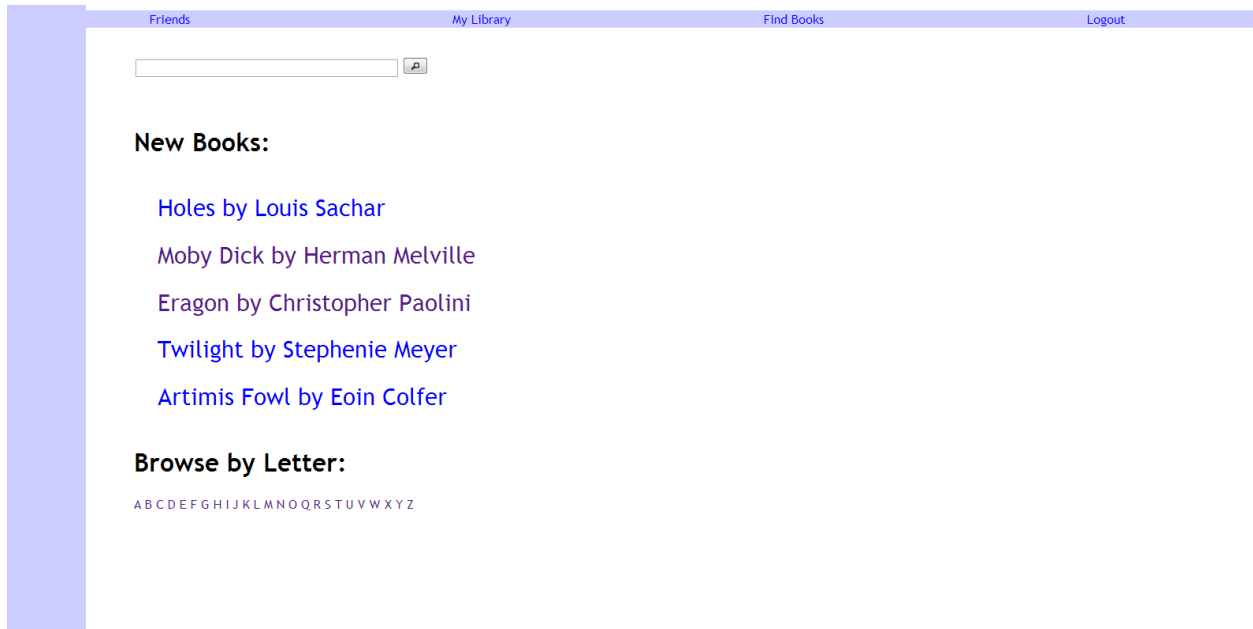
Details: The navigation bar lists “My Library” on all pages except *Friends*, which instead lists “My Reading List” in the same place. Incidentally, these links go to the same place, but have different labels. Potentially very confusing for navigation.

9. Visibility of System Status

Severity: Minor

Details: Feedback should be given to the user as to what part of the site they are in. For example, if a user clicks “Friends”, then while they are on that page the navigation bar should have the word *Friends* highlighted, bolded, a different background, or some other feedback.

FIND BOOKS



10. User Control & Freedom

Severity: Major

Details: This feature could be greatly improved with more robust search functionality. The current state suggests a filter solely based upon the book title. Suggestions for other filtering categories include the author, book rating, genre (although you don't appear to be tracking this information, so this can be ignored), and books liked by friends. The current implementation makes it hard to find new books if the user does not already know what they are looking for (the book title).

11. External Consistency

Severity: Minor

Details: “New Books” is ambiguous. In most other contexts this would suggest a book that was recently released. I am inferring, however, that these are books that have been recently added to the site. Another heading could eliminate this confusion.

12. Fitt’s Law

Severity: Minor

Details: The alpha characters are rather small, which makes it difficult to select the character that the user desires. With 2/3 of the horizontal space of the screen unoccupied, these characters sizes could easily be extended into the open space.

BOOKS

The screenshot shows a web page for a book titled "Holes". At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Friends", "My Library", "Find Books", and "Logout". The book title "Holes" is prominently displayed. Below the title, the genre is listed as "Adventure". A synopsis follows, stating that Stanley is sent to a juvenile delinquent camp where everyone is forced to dig holes. The rating is shown as four stars out of five. There are two buttons: "Add To Reading List" and "Recommend". A "Comments" section contains a text input box with an "Add Comment" button and three existing comments, each starting with "You: Comment [number]".

13. Track State

Severity: Good

Details: Newer comments are added nearest the comment box and older comments are pushed down. This ordering makes it easy for users to see what the newest information and commentary is for a particular book.

14. Consistency

Severity: Minor

Details: The book genre is the same typeface as the "Genre" label. This is the only place on the site in which information that would be loaded from the backend is of the same styling as the label it pertains to. It is also the only place in which the content is on the same line, instead of underneath, its label.

SEARCH BAR

15. Consistency

Severity: Cosmetic

Details: The search bar on the “Find Books” and “My Library” pages is smaller than the search bar on the “Friends” page.

16. Learnability

Severity: Major

Details: It is unclear if the search bars all perform the same search function or if they are page specific. Also, there is little information on what content is searchable. In other words, does the search bar on the “Friends” page search only for friends while the search bar on the “Find Books” page searches only for books? If not and the search bar only works for books, then how does one find new friends?