

Project 1 - Proposal

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1 Proposed Idea

The aim is to build a system facilitating a crowd-sourced book library for a university campus like IIT-D. The intention is to help users lend and borrow books from within the campus. The potential of the idea lies in the fact that individually people can have few books(textbooks, journals, magazines, novels) available in their personal collection but collectively the community may benefit from the different taste people have in their readings, amounting to a variety of books in a crowd-sourced environment. Needless to say, the target audience would be: IIT-D people consisting of students, professors, research fellows, staff, etc. who have a valid IIT-D email id.

Such valid IIT-D email-id holders are allowed to register on this system. Any valid user on the system is constrained to upload details about at the least two books which he can lend to others in the community. Users can look up books which are available for borrowing and can contact the book owners by sending a simple message. Once the physical transaction of the book is done. The borrower or the lender can change the status of the book on the system. In addition to this, the system can allow users to rate or review a book.

Tentative plan is to use the datasets such as available here: <http://bit.ly/1JMn0Mm>.

BX-Books dataset has a collection of about 2.7 Lac book details. This information can help us in setting up a basic system, where a user can find a book on the system and claim that he has a copy of such a book in his personal collection. Sometimes, if the book is not present in the system the user can create a new book entry in the database which could be later verified by moderators. Ratings can also be borrowed from the same dataset but for that dummy users with valid IIT-D emails would have to be constructed.