

URbooks

Read it, sell it, buy it if you need it.

Team Lannister

- Eddie Samuels
- Mehr Kashyap
- Rishi Sharma
- Edward Barthelemy
- Jamie Alexander
- Nikita Miroshnichenko

Executive Summary

The objective of the system will be to provide a website for students to buy and sell textbooks and other academic related journals. The website would contain references to all of the courses offered by the University of Rochester. A registered member of the website will have the ability to add a tab for a class from the drop down menu of the references. Essentially the registered members of the website will have the ability to go through all of the created tabs by other members and see which books are for sale by other students or which are demanded.

A member of the website would be able to create a tab for a class (if the tab does not already exist) to either request to buy a textbook or offer to sell a textbook. The member would be able to name his price and lowest bid offer for the book. Members would have the capacity to have in-website mail between the website's members. Through this, members could negotiate over prices privately. If a member is interested in buying a posted book, then after clicking the 'Buy Book' button he/she receives a prompt with the seller's email to contact for negotiation.

If a tab for a course already exists, members will be able to enter the tab and see buy or sell requests. The format of the tab will be in the form of a forum, with a sub-tab showing a quick summary of the buy and sell options. The forum tab itself would contain the full posts of buy/sell requests with all of the entered descriptions, while the sub-tab will be a quick snapshot outline of the buy/sell requests with links to the general forum posts.

The objective would be to make a website and iPhone app.

Use Case 1: Alex wants to sell a book.

Alex Alexson wants to sell his Econ 209 textbook after the end of term. He wants to sell it quickly and doesn't want to deal with all of the facebook-related shenanigans that come with trying to sell textbooks through the UR Class facebook page. He logs

onto the system. To his surprise, an Econ 209 tab already exists so he doesn't need to make one. He's already quite happy as this means students are already trying to buy/sell textbooks for the Econ 209 class. He enters the tab and glimpses over the forum posts very quickly and spots some prices that other students are quoting. He clicks the 'Sell Book' button and types out a quick description with a modest price for the book and clicks submit. Now Alex plays the waiting game for someone to click the 'Buy Book' button and contact him.

Use Case 2: Bob wants to buy a book.

Bob Bobson wants to buy an Econ 209 textbook for next semester. He logs onto the website and is happy to see an Econ 209 tab already on the front page. After quickly looking through the sub-tab and then glimpsing over the main forum he spots Alex Alexson's post with a relatively cheap price. He clicks the 'Buy Book' tab and is prompted with the seller's email. He shoots Alex an email saying that he likes the price wants to buy the book. The two meet, exchange and talk about how URbooks is awesome and very easy to use.

Use Case 3: Charley wants to compare

Charley Charleson wants to buy an Econ 209 book but is low on money because he already spent most of his hard-earned cash on buying expensive books from the bookstore. He logs onto the website and is prompted to register as a member to proceed to the tab posts. He registers and receives a confirmation email. After clicking the link in his email, he is redirected back to the website and is now able to click on the courses tab. After looking through the Econ 209 tab he realizes that even though the used books are being sold at significant discounts, he still can't afford it. Without despair, he shoots some emails/in-website messages out to some sellers to see if he can get a deal or work something out. Charley gets a response from another member and is able to buy the book at a more affordable cost.

Required Technology

1. Server Side Framework: Java Web Development and Ruby on Rails.
2. Database: MySQL.
3. Ajax: To allow multiple simultaneous conversations.
4. Multimedia: Upload book images to show other members.
5. Make an API: Use API.
6. Design and Evaluate: User centered design.
7. Accessibility: Screen-reader friendly.
8. Go Mobile: iPhone.
9. Server-Side Processing: Processing of members posting about the same class.