

Chris Krause

Group Assignment 1

Database

Download: <http://www.krauselabs.net/dump/db.zip>

Statement of Purpose

The database we created contains a list of battleship classes from two countries, the United States and the United Kingdom in the last two hundred years. The scenario we have constructed has us working to create a database on the behalf of a joint project for the Naval History & Heritage Command and the British Royal Navy. The primary use of the database would be for college students and faculty in their historical research endeavors.

Indexing Rules

Our database is designed with ease of use in mind. By entering in a query for any of our six search fields, one can find battleships that match the desired characteristics. These fields are: Name, Country, Ships in Class, Commission Date, Max Speed, Complement, and Picture. The database was designed to use controlled vocabulary to produce fast and accurate results.

Textbase Structure

Textbase Information

Textbase: C:\Documents and Settings\Krause\Desktop\db\ww2

Created: 10/19/2009 12:12:01 PM

Modified: 10/19/2009 12:12:01 PM

Field Summary:

1. Name: Text, Term & Word
2. Country: Text, Term & Word
3. Ships in Class: Text, Term & Word
4. Commission Date: Text, Term & Word
5. Max Speed: Text, Term & Word
6. Complement: Text, Term & Word

7. Picture: Image, Term

Log file enabled, showing 'Name'

Leading articles: a an the

Stop words: a an and by for from in of the to

XML Match Fields:

1. Name

Textbase Defaults:

Default indexing mode: SHARED IMMEDIATE

Default sort order: <none>

Textbase passwords:

Master password = "

0 Access passwords:

No Silent password

Validation List

Country

United Kingdom

United States of America

Records

Name Warrior Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1860

Max Speed 14 knots

Complement 707

Picture HMSWarrior.JPG

Name Cerebus Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1868

Max Speed 9.75 knots

Complement 155

Picture Cerberus_(AWM_300036).jpg

Name Audacious Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 4

Commission Date 1869

Max Speed 13 knots

Complement 450

Picture HMS_Vanguard_h52617.jpg

Name Swiftsure Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1870

Max Speed 14 knots

Complement 450

Picture C:\Documents and

Settings\Krause\Desktop\db\SWIFTSURECLASS4.JPG

Name Devastation Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1871

Max Speed 13 knots

Complement 410

Picture 800px-HMS_Devastation_(1871).jpg

Name Superb Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1875

Max Speed 13.2 knots

Complement 654

Picture HMS_Superb_1917_IWM_SP_002744.jpg

Name Belleisle Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1876

Max Speed 12.1 knots

Complement 249

Picture sym0060_hmsbelleisle.jpg

Name Ajax Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1879

Max Speed 13 knots

Complement 345

Picture hmsajax15.jpg

Name Conqueror Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1881

Max Speed 14 knots

Complement 330

Picture HMS_Conqueror_wrecked.jpg

Name Admiral Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 6

Commission Date 1882

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 515

Picture HMSAnsonCirca1897.jpg

Name Colossus Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1882

Max Speed 15.5 knots

Complement 396

Picture 02_hms_colossus_1912.jpg

Name Victoria Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1887

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 630

Picture Hms_victoria.jpg

Name Trafalgar Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1890

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 577

Picture 450px-HMS_Nile.jpg

Name Royal Sovereign Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 8

Commission Date 1891

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 712

Picture HMS_Hood_(Royal_Sovereign-
class_battleship_of_1890s).jpg

Name Centurion Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1891

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 620

Picture HMSCenturion1892.jpg

Name Indiana Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1895

Max Speed 15 knots

Complement 473

Picture 300px-USS_Indiana_BB-1.jpg

Name Majestic Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 9

Commission Date 1895

Max Speed 19 knots

Complement 670

Picture HMS_Majestic_(Majestic-class_battleship).jpg

Name Canopus Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 6

Commission Date 1899

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 750

Picture 800px-HMS_Ocean_(Canopus-class_battleship).jpg

Name Kearsarge Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1900

Max Speed 16 knots

Complement 553

Picture USSkearsarge-bb5-underway.jpg

Name Virginia Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 5

Commission Date 1902

Max Speed 19 knots

Complement 812

Picture Uss_virginia_bb-13.jpg

Name Formidable Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 8

Commission Date 1902

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 780

Picture HMS_Implacable.jpg

Name Maine Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1922

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 561

Picture 011210.jpg

Name King Edward VII

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 8

Commission Date 1905

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 777

Picture HMS_King_Edward_VII,_King_Edward_VII_class_battle-
ship.jpg

Name Duncan Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 6

Commission Date 1903

Max Speed 19 knots

Complement 720

Picture HMS_Cornwallis_(Duncan-class_battleship).jpg

Name Swiftsure Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1903

Max Speed 19 knots

Complement 800

Picture HMS_Triumph_(1903)_as_completed_January_1904.jp

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Name Connecticut Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 5

Commission Date 1906

Max Speed 18 knots

Complement 837

Picture USS_Connecticut_BB-18.jpg

Name Mississippi Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1908

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 744

Picture USS_Mississippi_BB-23.jpg

Name Invincible Class Battlecruiser

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1908

Max Speed 25 knots

Complement 784

Picture HMS_Invincible_(1907)_British_Battleship.jpg

Name Lord Nelson Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1908

Max Speed 18.5 knots

Complement 800

Picture HMS_Lord_Nelson_(1906)_and_HMS_Agamemnon_(1906)
_anchored_in_Dardanelles_in_1915.jpg

Name Bellerophon Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1909

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 733

Picture HMS_Bellerophon_1909.jpg

Name St. Vincent Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1910

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 718

Picture 1174.jpg

Name South Carolina Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1910

Max Speed 17 knots

Complement 932

Picture Uss_south_carolina_bb.jpg

Name Delaware Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1910

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 933

Picture USS_North_Dakota_BB-29.jpg

Name Indefatigable Class Battlecruiser

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1911

Max Speed 27 knots

Complement 800

Picture HMS_Indefatigable_(1909).jpg

Name Neptune Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1911

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 759

Picture 797px-HMS_Neptune_(Royal_Navy_battleship).jpg

Name Colossus Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1911

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 755

Picture HMS_Colossus_(Colossus_class_dreadnought).jpg

Name Florida Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1911

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,001

Picture [USS_Florida_BB-30.jpg](#)

Name Orion Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 4

Commission Date 1912

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 750-1,100

Picture [2nd_Battle_Squadron.jpg](#)

Name Lion Class Battlecruiser

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1912

Max Speed 27 knots

Complement 997-1,267

Picture [800px-HMS_Princess_Royal_LOC_18244u.jpg](#)

Name Wyoming Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1912

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,063

Picture [USS_Wyoming_BB-32_circa_1912-13.jpg](#)

Name King George V Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 4

Commission Date 1912

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,000

Picture HMS_King_George_V_in_1941.jpg

Name Iron Duke Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 4

Commission Date 1914

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 925-1,022

Picture 747px-HMS_Emperor_of_India_LOC_00192u.jpg

Name New York Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1914

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,042

Picture USS_New_York-1.jpg

Name Queen Elizabeth Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 5

Commission Date 1915

Max Speed 25 knots

Complement 950-1,300

Picture HMS_Queen_Elizabeth_Lemnos_1915_AWM_H12931_clip

ped.jpeg

Name Revenge Class

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 5

Commission Date 1916-1917

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 997-1,150

Picture HMS_Royal_Oak_(08).jpg

Name Nevada Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1916

Max Speed 20 knots

Complement 864

Picture Uss_nevada.jpg

Name Pennsylvania Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1916

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 915

Picture USS_Pennsy_BB-38_1934.jpg

Name New Mexico Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 3

Commission Date 1918

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,084

Picture Uss_new_mexico_bb.jpg

Name Admiral Class Battlecruiser

Country United Kingdom

Ships in Class 1

Commission Date 1920

Max Speed 31 knots

Complement 1,169

Picture 350px-

[British_Battlecruiser_HMS_Hood_circa_1932.jpg](#)

Name Tennessee Class

Country United States of America

Ships in Class 2

Commission Date 1920

Max Speed 21 knots

Complement 1,464

Picture [USS_Tennessee_bombarding_Guam.jpg](#)

Report of Group Process

Initial communications regarding the project began on September 26th, when Chris mistook the initial DB/Textworks exercise that was due during that week as the group project proper and so began to discuss it with Ron through email. Initial discussions centered on the topic of the sort of item to be included in the database, and Chris initially suggested items with clear empirical attributes and measurements such as weaponry and vehicles, because they might be cataloged more effectively than the alternatives. The group concluded that communication would resume in about two weeks from that time, when the project was coming due. We also concluded that it would be best to stick to our own email accounts rather than the ones provided by ANGEL because they are more visible in our daily lives.

Ron contacted Chris on the 14th of October with a basic requesting for brainstorming and discussion of division of labor. Ron also offered some ideas for items to catalog. Most prominent of consideration was detergents. Chris responded shortly after, proposing a series of internal due dates:

15-16: decision as to topic

17: user model/indexing rules

18: record structure/finish "paper" aspect

19: database work

20: post project/final touches

Chris also offered to do all of the database work, while Ron would focus mainly on the conceptual work. The former suggested again that the group catalog weaponry or vehicles, namely World War 2 era ships, and provided some brief examples of how the statement of purpose and user model might look like with those items applied. After a few short emails back and forth, the record group of WW2 battleships was decided and the division of labor was agreed to by both members. By the weekend of the 17th work was being done by both parties, and clarifications and issues were tackled on a case by case basis via email.

The group's first major hurdle to completing the work was the nature and definition of the various fields. Chris wanted to include additional fields to create a more comprehensive database of vessels, while both members had to spend time clarifying the different technical definitions of the fields attached to the records. We had to discuss the difference between a launch and commission date of the ships, as well as if we were to include technical stats ship class refits or the original classes only. When Ron got down to compiling the data needed to be added into the database, he made the summary decision to only center around US and UK ships, otherwise we would go far beyond the scope of the project. He also decided to expand the scope of the ships selected to include pre-dreadnoughts for the opposite reason. Finally, he sent the data sheet including the records in plain text form and also a short and rough draft of the index rules and statement of purpose for Chris' consideration and revision. The data transmitted was in Microsoft Word document form.

Chris requested that in order to clarify some outstanding concerns and questions that the group should communicate in real time, either by phone or by real time chat, and he provided his office number, cell phone number and his MSN, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), xfire and Google Talk screen names. Chris also stressed that if Ron felt as if he was doing a greater share of the work than he felt was fair, he should alert the former so he could make efforts to expedite the project's work. Ron suggested that Chris compose the group process report and the latter concurred. Ron informed Chris that he would message him on AIM in short order.

The day of the 19th of November was busy for the group. Ron and Chris spent several hours speaking over AIM to give some updates on the final state of their respective assignments. Chris made a summary decision to add the field of "picture" to depict the ships (as well as collecting the relevant pictures from military history websites), as well as revising "launch date" to "commission date" and "speed" to "max speed." An unexpected hurdle that arose was that Chris ran into an error when attempting to add more than 50 records through the DB/Textworks program. Attempting to do so prompted an error message, and a Google search revealed that this was a limitation of the student demo of the software we were using. Accordingly, approximately 8 records were omitted from the database, mostly comprised of ship classes commissioned during wartime:

Name: Colorado Class

Country: United States of America

Ships in Class: 4

Launch Date: 1923

Speed: 21 knots

Complement: 1,080

Name: King George V Class

Country: United Kingdom

Ships in Class: 5

Launch Date: 1940

Speed: 27.5 knots

Complement: 1,314 to 1,631

Name: Lion Class

Country: United Kingdom

Ships in Class: 4

Launch Date: 1939

Speed: 30 knots

Complement: 1,600

Name: North Carolina Class

Country: United States of America

Ships in Class: 2

Launch Date: 1941

Speed: 27 knots

Name: South Dakota Class

Country: United States of America

Ships in Class: 4

Launch Date: 1942

Speed: 28 knots

Name: Iowa Class

Country: United States of America

Ships in Class: 4

Launch Date: 1943

Speed: 33 knots

Name: Vanguard Class

Country: United Kingdom

Ships in Class: 1

Launch Date: 1946

Speed: 30 knots

A major concern was the topic of validation lists, which neither member of the group was familiar with from the readings or by common knowledge. Internet searches provided little sound guidance. Ron attempted to contact the greater group Hedgehogs through ANGEL. Chris finally found a definition by searching through the DB/Textworks manual and decided to use one for the field of "country," as the only valid values would be "United States" or "United Kingdom." Accordingly, Chris completed all of the database-related work, zipped it up and sent it to Ron for consideration.

Ron, who had initially agreed to write up the user model, was unsure what to do because he felt that it had already been defined in the indexing rules and statement of purpose. A discussion as to what a user model is and how it relates to the project came up, and neither member had a conclusive opinion on it. Chris finally suggested that Ron finish his commitment but that he would pay special attention to it during review and offer revisions. Finally, the topic of who was going to compile the group portion of the assignment was discussed and Ron volunteered to do it.

Then the group performed a victory dance.

Report of Individual Process

My responsibilities and contributions included:

1. Entering, checking, correcting and collating all of the data into the database
2. Revising and checking all of Ron's writings
3. Locating and inserting 50 photographs into the database
4. Worked with the group to design and implement the conceptual aspect of the project
5. Streamlining communication by insisting on real time over email
6. Helping to identify and overcome several operational concerns, hurdles and delays; showing leadership

The chronology and extent of my involvement in the project is detailed accurately in the preceding section. Accordingly I will devote this section to explaining why I made the decisions and pushed for the initiatives that I did.

I initiated communications with my group for two primary reasons: I fit naturally into leadership or at least "ball roller" positions, and I also had no desire to catalog items with verbose or unappealing qualities. When I think of a good database I immediately recall websites with World War 2 lore like uboat.net, filled with all sorts of minutia and technical details about various vessels of the era, and this is

where I got the idea. The topic is of interest to a history major like myself, and was luckily also of interest to my partner, who expressed that he was familiar with the material.

The nature of the data was such that few creative decisions had to be made in regard to presentation. This is in contrast, I think, to the posted examples on ANGEL. The ships have clear empirical attributes, and we simply designed a system which clearly displayed such attributes on the cue of simple queries. We selected the fields we did on the basis of most important characteristics defining warships of the era, that would enable a searcher to quickly isolate and cross reference attributes.

While Ron made the final decisions as to the fields, because he was responsible for organizing the raw data, I was insistent on adding additional and modifying already existent fields. When entering the data into the database, I made sure to correct any mistakes, consider the value of the attributes and also the usefulness of the search rules. In this fashion the project was matured. I was interested in adding the field of "picture" to the records so as to improve the research process a would-be searcher would experience. Pictures create memorable snapshots in the mind of the researcher, and also offer a compelling meter for "edutainment."