Background

**Mission:** Build a community to connect online students to each other, academic resources, jobs and their dreams.

- Predicted **Twenty Million** Online Students by the year 2020
- Over **33%** of University Students will be enrolled in one or more online courses.
- **91%** of all Universities identify online learning as a crucial component to their growth model.
- Online students face more challenges by being isolated from their peers, and lacking the ability to easily collaborate and seek out help.

Project Definition

- SparqEDU aims to provide online students with the same level resource access that classroom-based Universities offer.
- Students should be able to setup an account.
- Users should be able to create corporate accounts.
- Students should be able to contact and communicate with industry professionals to seek help or find jobs.

Anahita

- Free Open-source social networking Platform.
- Built and Maintained by Rastin Mehr.
- Limited overhead: maintaining the social platform
- Story-Graph architecture
- Built using php
- Found at www.getanahita.com

User Interface

Image 1: SparqEDU landing page with update UI design to match the Sparq theme.

Image 2: Ability to modify Academic or Corporate Account types within the UI.

Future Work

- Update UI with React.
- Integrate different User Roles.
- Update Suggestion/Search Algorithm

Features

- **Account Registration:** Anyone with access to a valid email can sign up
- **User Stories:** Sparq users can create posts to pages
- **Create & Join Groups:** Sparq Users have access to unique social groups to coordinate and socialize among peers.
- **Search:** Sparq Users have the ability to search and find other Sparq users.
- **User Account Types:** Ability for users to take on various roles to achieve various levels of Academic or Corporate access
- **Organizations:** Sparq Users can be grouped under an organization to represent a company, department, etc.
- **Jobs:** Sparq Users associated with an Organization are able to post jobs to the story.
- **Functional Testing Harness:** Automated Integration Testing with the use of Selenium.

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