

INTRODUCTION

The Vāda Project is a web application that teaches *pramāṇa-vāda*, a classic style of philosophical debate developed in ancient India and used for over a millennium. This debate format is designed to promote critical thought and reflection through its logical structure of theses and counter. This semester-long project was undertaken as a collaboration between students and faculty within the College of Computing and KSU philosophy department. Developers acquired the philosophy department's existing codebase, developed, refactored, and maintained a web-based UI and PHP+SQL server backend to deliver a well-documented and maintainable interactive platform for epistemological discussion.

METHODS

Through weekly meetings with end-users, and closely following the software development life cycle, a team of student developers delivered a codebase which emphasizes (1) usability and accessibility and (2) maintainability by future developers. Developers applied industry best-practices (user centered design, version-control, testing, and continuous integration) to discover and meet all requirements.

VERSION CONTROL / CONTINUOUS INTEGRATION

To enable present and future collaboration, developers closely used a GitHub repository to track changes. Code is deployed live from this repository to the production site. GitHub Actions perform automated code quality tests.

RESULTS

Students and staff in the philosophy department responded very positively to UI changes, and overall code quality increased. The project is actively being used as a teaching tool. Introducing students to non-western philosophy. This project will continue on to aid philosophy students that will go into law school, legal advising, and other technical positions.

LINKS

- Project website: vadaproject.github.io
- GitHub: github.com/VadaProject/application

Collaborative PHP+SQL web app using the principles of *pramāṇa-vāda* debate logic and philosophy.

