**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background of the study**

Assessment for many colleges and University courses includes some form of assignment which students complete, individually or as groups, and submit for marking and feedback. Online Assignment submission management system (OASMS) involves the collection, date stamping, redistribution to tutors for marking, collation of results, and return of assignments to students. (Tregobov,2008) breaks the process down into four stages: submission, recording, marking, and return. Online assignment submission and management (OASMS) involves the use of the World-Wide Web, the Internet and computers in this process.

In traditional system of assignments submission. The student submits a hard copy of the assignment in a fixed due date either in class or at the lecturer office, this process is a very time and effort consuming operation, and it also needs extra cost. In the other side the lecturer must preserve a space to arrange all assignments, and it will take a huge space every semester, this process require the lecturer to spend extra time to organize each assignment and quizzes with its group

Various submission systems have been developed to ease the tasks of lecturers. However, many of these systems fail to meet all the required criteria for an ideal submission platform. The inherent problems with email-based submission systems lie in their security vulnerabilities and limitations in file attachment capacities. Most existing online assignment submission systems do not allow for structuring files, correcting automated assessments, or supporting extension requests. Additionally, some systems cater to only one type of assignment, while others do not enforce deadlines, allowing students to submit assignments even after the due date. These shortcomings have led to the development of an online assignment submission management system (OASMS) with enhanced features (Ogbozor & Okolo, 2022).

This study introduces a web-based online submission system designed to enforce submission deadlines. The system benefits both students and lecturers by allowing students to submit their assignments anytime and from anywhere (e.g., from home or a cybercafé) before the due date.

The focus of this research is on the Department of Computer Science at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Currently, the assignment submission process within this department is predominantly manual. Students typically receive their assignments in class, complete them on paper, and submit them either to the class representative or directly to the lecturer. Occasionally, electronic submission via email is used, where the lecturer provides an email address to the class, and all assignments are sent to that address.

Implementing an online assignment submission management system in the Department of Computer Science is expected to significantly improve the speed and efficiency of assignment processing, thereby enhancing both the quality and quantity of learning. This system will allow students to submit assignments online to specific courses, where teachers can access and grade them. The most significant advantage of an online assignment submission and management system is its faster transmission of assignments compared to traditional methods. Additionally, it will enable students from other units registered for specific courses to participate in assignments related to those courses (Umar & Abubakar, 2020).

**1.2 Statement of the problem**

The manual system currently employed by many universities and colleges presents significant challenges in effectively managing student assignments. One of the major issues is the lack of a reliable record-keeping system for tracking the submission time and grades of assignments. This absence of records complicates the verification process, making it difficult to determine whether students have submitted their work on time or at all.

Furthermore, some students submit their assignments after the deadline, while others may lose their work, necessitating a rewrite and resubmission. Department members also encounter difficulties, as there is no systematic method to confirm whether a student has submitted their assignment. After grading, assignments may be misplaced or picked up by the wrong person, leading to further confusion and loss.

In addition to the problems with the manual system, using an email-based submission system also presents several issues. The primary concerns with email submission systems are related to security vulnerabilities and the limited capacity for attaching large files. Emails can be easily intercepted or misdirected, compromising the confidentiality of student work. Moreover, there is no structured way to organize the received assignments, making it difficult for department to manage and retrieve them efficiently. This can lead to further confusion, especially when assignments are submitted late or are not properly labeled by students (Ogbozor & Okolo, 2022; Umar & Abubakar, 2020).

A significant limitation of previous projects is the lack of support for extension requests, which would allow students who cannot submit their assignments within the designated timeframe to request an extension and submit their work at a later date. To address this, the development of an online assignment submission management system is proposed. The primary goal of this project is to create a paperless environment that streamlines the submission process, thereby reducing the unnecessary workload for both students and lecturers. This system will allow students to submit their assignments anytime and from any location, eliminating the need for the lecturer's physical presence. Additionally, the system will securely store all submitted assignments, enabling students to view their grades at their convenience. By incorporating support for extension requests, the new system will overcome the limitations of previous approaches, ensuring that all records are maintained accurately and mitigating the problems associated with both the current manual and email-based systems.

**1.3 Aim and objectives**

The aim of this project is to develop an efficient and secure online assignment submission system that addresses the limitations of both manual and email-based systems, ensuring accurate record-keeping, and enhanced support for extension requests for both students and lecturers. This system will facilitate a more organized and accessible method for students to submit their assignments and for lecturers to manage, grade, and track submissions effectively. The following are the study's objectives:

1. To allow students to view assignment questions online and submit their work digitally.
2. To develop and implement an online assignment submission management system tailored for the department.
3. To establish a secure system that ensures students can confidently submit their assignments, knowing they reach the intended recipient.
4. To create an intuitive interface for the assignment submission process, making it straightforward and user-friendly.
5. To integrate enhanced support for extension requests, enabling both students and lecturers to easily manage and approve deadline extensions within the system.
6. To equip lecturers with effective tools for tracking, grading, and returning assignments, thereby streamlining the overall management and reducing administrative burdens.

**1.4 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY**

Several significant concerns are driving the design and implementation of the Online Assignment Submission Management System (OASMS). As educational institutions increasingly adopt digital learning environments, the demand for efficient, secure, and user-friendly systems for managing assignments has become critical. In many institutions, traditional methods of handling assignments such as manual submissions or email-based systems—are outdated and inefficient, leading to issues like administrative overload, lost submissions, and inconsistent grading practices (Ogbozor & Okolo, 2022). Recent advancements in educational technology offer new opportunities to enhance the submission process, improve communication between students and lecturers, and provide valuable insights for academic management (Umar & Abubakar, 2020).

Economically, a well-designed assignment management system can reduce administrative costs, improve the quality of education, and enhance student satisfaction—all of which contribute to the long-term success and reputation of academic institutions (Johnson & Clark, 2021). Additionally, streamlined assignment processes benefit the broader educational community by promoting fairness, transparency, and equal access to resources for all students.

**1.4 Scope and limitation of the study**

This study centers on the design and implementation of an Online Assignment Submission Management System (OASMS) tailored to the evolving needs of students, lecturers, and academic administrators. The system will be equipped with features such as digital access to assignment prompts, secure online submission capabilities, automated tracking of deadlines, grading tools, and robust support for managing extension requests. The primary objective is to evaluate how the system enhances the efficiency of the assignment submission process, ensures reliable record-keeping, and improves the overall experience for both students and lecturers in a modern educational setting.

**1.5 Significance of the study**

This research is significant for several key reasons:

1. **Lecturers:** The system allows lecturers to focus on core academic duties by streamlining the process of managing assignments, grading, and record-keeping, thereby reducing the time spent on administrative tasks.
2. **Students:** Improved submission processes and enhanced communication channels lead to higher levels of student satisfaction and engagement, contributing to better academic performance.
3. **Developers:** Insights from this study can inform the development of future educational technologies, particularly those aimed at optimizing digital learning and administrative processes.
4. **Researchers:** By contributing to the existing body of knowledge on digital solutions in education, this study provides a foundation for future research into educational management systems.

The proposed online assignment submission management system (OASMS) is scalable and adaptable, making it applicable beyond the immediate academic context. The personal motivation for this project arises from a desire to apply computer science expertise to solve practical challenges, demonstrating technical skills while making a meaningful contribution to the improvement of educational practices.