

# **FoundIt! : Your Campus-Wide Lost & Found**

## **A Campus-Based Lost and Found Management System**

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A Project Report

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In the Faculty of College of Computer Studies

At Kolehiyo ng Lungsod ng Lipa

Marawoy Lipa City

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## Introduction

The system: **FoundIt!** Is a web-based lost and found management system designed for campus environment. It centralizes the process of posting and claiming of found items, replacing manual and or disorganized methods with a more streamlined, digital database.

This is to ensure and facilitate the return of lost property to rightful owners by providing a concise “Active” list of found items, and a secure “Archive” list for claimed items by providing transparent information of the item and the claimant.

## Technologies Used

### Front-End

- ❖ HTML5
- ❖ CSS3
- ❖ Vanilla JavaScript

### Back-End

- ❖ PHP
- ❖ PDO (PHP Data Objects)

### Database Management

- ❖ MySQL

### Development Tools

- ❖ XAMPP Server
- ❖ phpMyAdmin
- ❖ Visual Studio Code



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## Database Design

The database schema follows a normalized 3-table structure to ensure data integrity and efficient management of items and archives.

## Entity-Relationship Diagram

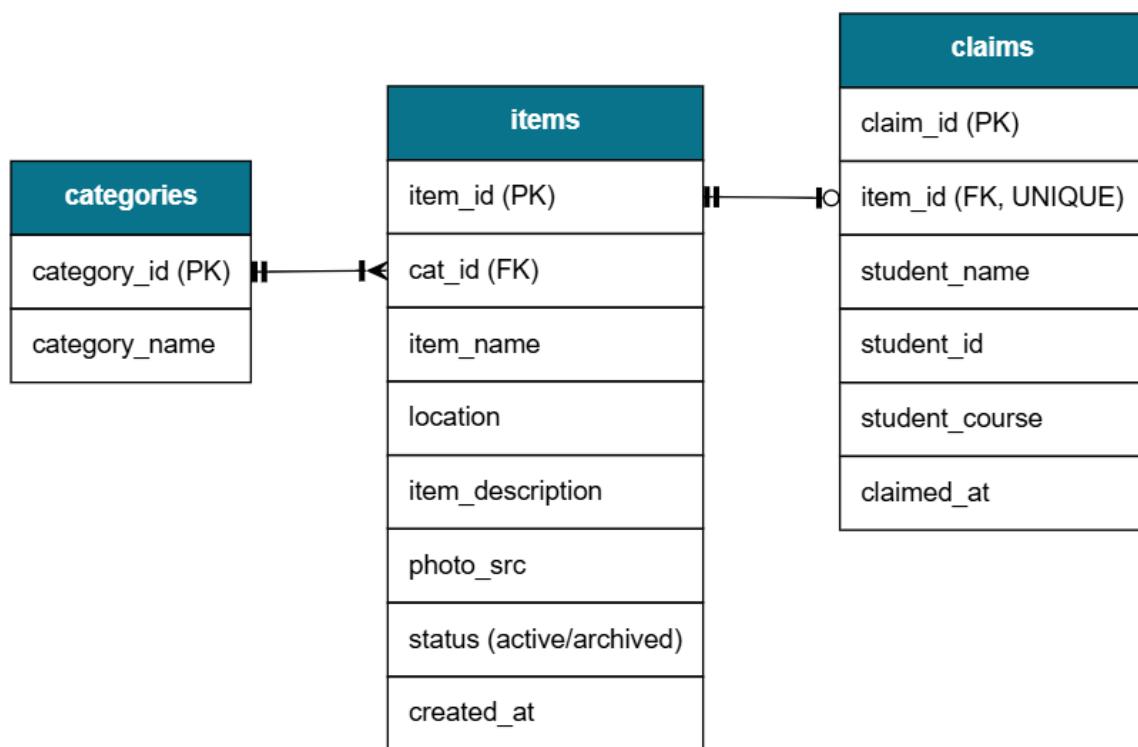


Figure 1 : ER diagram showing the relationship and cardinality using crow's foot notation

Table	Description	Key Columns
categories	Stores the valid types of items allowed in the system.	category_id, category_name
items	The main table storing every found object's details.	item_id, cat_id (FK), item_name, status.
claims	Stores sensitive student information for items that have been returned.	claim_id, item_id (FK), student_id, student_name.



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## Relationships

**Categories to Items (One-to-Many):** One category can be associated with many different items (e.g., many different phones fall under "Electronics"), but each individual item is assigned to exactly one category.

**Items to Claims (One-to-Zero-or-One):** An item exists in the system without a claim record while it is 'active'. Once it is 'archived', it is linked to exactly one claim record. This relationship is established through the item\_id, which is a **Unique Foreign Key** in the claims table to ensure an item cannot be claimed more than once.

## Web Interface

The initial webpage

The screenshot shows a web application titled "FoundIt! Your Campus-wide Lost and Found Hub". The interface is divided into sections: a left sidebar with "Post Found Item" and "Archive" buttons, a central "Found Items" area displaying the message "No found items posted yet.", and a footer with copyright information.

FoundIt!  
Your Campus-wide Lost and Found Hub

Post Found Item

Archive

Found Items

No found items posted yet.

© 2025 FoundIt! All Rights Reserved

Figure 2 : GUI of the initial webpage



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**Posting Form:** A dynamic interface that allows users to upload a title, location, description, and a physical photo of the found item.

**FoundIt!**  
Your Campus-wide Lost and Found Hub

**Post Found Item**

**Post Found Item**

**Item Title**  
e.g., Blue Hydroflask

**Category**  
Select category...

**Location Found**  
Select location...

**Description**  
Describe the item...

**Photo (optional)**  
Choose File No file chosen

**Submit Found Item**

**Archive**

**Found Items**

No found items posted yet.

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Figure 3 : GUI of the posting form

**Found Items Panel:** A real-time list that fetches "active" items from the database and displays them as cards.

**FoundIt!**  
Your Campus-wide Lost and Found Hub

**Post Found Item**

**Post Found Item**

**Item Title**  
e.g., Blue Hydroflask

**Category**  
Select category...

**Location Found**  
Select location...

**Description**  
Describe the item...

**Photo (optional)**  
Choose File No file chosen

**Submit Found Item**

**Archive**

**Found Items**

 **Blue AquaFlask**  
Category: Personal Belongings  
Location: Canteen  
Date Posted: 12/28/2025  
Description: Aquaflask na blue

**Claim This Item** **Delete**

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Figure 4 : GUI of the found items list



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**Claim System:** A modal pop-up that captures claimant details and moves the item from the "Found" list to the "Archive" through a database transaction.

The screenshot shows the FoundIt! interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with buttons for 'Post Found Item' and 'Archive'. The main area is titled 'Found Items' and shows a card for a 'Blue AquaFlask' found in the Canteen on December 28, 2025. A modal window titled 'Claim This Item' is open, prompting for 'Student Name' (Doakes), 'Student Number' (32322-23-2323), and 'Course & Section' (BSCS 2C). A 'Confirm Claim' button is at the bottom of the modal. The footer of the page includes a copyright notice: '© 2025 FoundIt! All Rights Reserved'.

Figure 5: GUI of the claim popup modal

**Archive:** A list where all claimed items are stored, showing the history of who claimed what and when.

The screenshot shows the 'Archived Items' section of the FoundIt! interface. It displays a card for a 'tumbler' found in the Canteen on January 8, 2026, with the description 'waaaaa'. Below the card, it shows the claimant information: Student Name (daven), Student Number (12122-34-6363), and Course & Section (BSCS 2C). A red 'Delete Record' button is at the bottom of the card. The sidebar on the left has a 'Back' button.

Figure 6 : GUI of the archived items panel



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**Mobile View Compatibility:** The webpage changes the structural layout when viewed in a much smaller screen.

FoundIt!  
Your Campus-wide Lost and Found Hub

Post Found Item Back

Archived Items

Blue AquaFlask  
Category: Personal Belongings  
Location: Canteen  
Date Claimed: 12/28/2025  
Description: Aquafask na blue

Delete Record

Found Items

No found items posted yet.

© 2025 FoundIt! All Rights Reserved

Figure 7 : GUI of the mobile view

## Challenges and Learning

**Challenge - Normalization:** Transitioning from a simple one-table design to a three-table relational model was difficult, especially managing **Foreign Key constraints** and ensuring that deleting an item also cleaned up its claim record (using ON DELETE CASCADE).

**Challenge - Pathing & Caching:** Debugging why images weren't showing up (404 errors) taught me the importance of absolute vs. relative paths in PHP and how browsers cache CSS files.

**Learning - Full-Stack Integration:** I gained insight into how JavaScript fetch requests bridge the gap between a front-end UI and a MySQL database via PHP.

**Learning - UI/UX:** Implementing object-fit: cover and display: block to ensure images perfectly filled their containers taught me the precision required in modern web styling.