Books station

(for students Books services)

Department of Information Technology

Faculty of Computing and Information Technology

King Abdu-Aziz University

Jeddah – Saudi Arabia

[Spring 2022]

Students:

Aljoharah Alzahrani	1905103
Elaf Aloufi	1911265
Manar Altaiary	1906775
Sara Ehsan	1825193
Wed Eshmawi	1909526

Introduction

Books station is a company that aims to facilitate university books services for students and staff inside universities. This makes it easier to find university books in one place which advantages the most students who need them. The services we provide through our company web application included buying books and used books(that had been borrowed by students before) to students at reasonable price, also students can borrow the needed book for a semester with small amount of money. This solves the problem for some students who cannot afford the original price of the books and for the students who don't want to buy the books just want to borrow them for the required course semester. We provide pickup and delivery options for the orders. This report will discuss the vision, mission, strategic objectives, and strategies we used for our company. We will also mention the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats we analyzed of the company. Overviews, projects periodization and the charter of the selected project.

Report overview

Our project is called Books station. It aims to facilitate educational book services between students and non-students with negotiable prices. This solves the problem for some students who cannot afford the original cost of the textbooks or cannot find their intended ones, and it also helps reduce waste paper. We solve these problems by building a web application offers university books(textbooks) and the user can search for the needed book for a reasonable price.

Vision

The vision is to be the first choice for academic services among students and non-students by facilitating the process of finding university educational resources and make it easy to reach and manage.

Mission

Books Station's mission is to be the most successful platform in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for university educational book services among students and non-students. In doing so, Books Station will meet the student's needs by simplifying the process of finding, borrowing, and buying university educational books (textbooks) at a reasonable price through our web application.

Strategic objectives:

- Reduce waste of used books over the next year
- Grow used book sales
- Create a digital book trading platform
- Prioritize reusing books
- Offer competitive pricing
- Shorten delivery and pick-up time

Strategies:

- Provide options to offer Hard-copy books and digital format.
- Provide a reliable trading platform with a very good user experience
- Determine target audience and prices of competitors and set prices accordingly
- Provide a professional express delivery service.
- Provide a pick-up option.

SWOT analysis

Strengths:

- Student time-saving.
- Student money saving.
- Having experience in the web application development field. (Internal resources: skilled knowledgeable staff).
- Solves the problem of book trade for a large group of society, especially for students.
- Customer experience, fast and reliable service.
- Shorten shipping time.
- User-friendly web application.
- Highly needed by the community.
- Online payment.
- Minimize wastage of resources.

Weaknesses:

- Faster product release to market/use.
- Small development team.
- Extended focus on low prices.
- Dependent on one nation and certain places (Reliance on one country).
- System errors can have a huge influence (Availability sensitive).
- Limited funding (Lack of funding).
- High advertising budget
- The limited amount of each book is insufficient to accommodate the needs.

Opportunities:
- Weak competitors.
- Rapid growth due to customer demand (Fast growth).
- Harnessing new technology and trends (Digital sales). / Migration to digital resources.
- Chance to champion literacy.
- Build branches.
- Additional book and materials.
- Expand and systematize marketing efforts.
- Increase public understanding of available services.
- Increase of available services.
- Forge and/or strengthen alliances with: Schools, Colleges, Homeschoolers, and other educational organizations.

Threats:

- Delay in product design.
- Increasing culture of technology and electronic books.
- Rising tax.
- Insufficient books and materials.
- Technologies need replacement and maintenance

Strengths

- Student time saving.
- Student money saving.
- Having experience in the web application development field. (Internal resources:skilled knowledgeable staff).
- Solves the problem of book trade for a large group of society, especially for students.
- Customer experience, fast and reliable service.
- Shorten shipping time.
- User-friendly application.
- Highly needed by the community.
- Online payment.
- Minimize wastage of resources.

Weaknesses

- Faster product release to market/use.
- Small development team.
- Extended focus on low prices. Dependent on one nation and certain places (Reliance on one country).
- System errors can have huge influence.
- Limited funding (Lack of funding).
- High advertising budget.
- The limited amount of each book is insufficient to accommodate the needs.

Opportunities

- Weak competitors.
- Rapid growth due to the customer demand (Fast growth).
- Harnessing new technology and trends (Digital sales). / Migration to digital resources.
- Chance to champion literacy.
- Build branches.
- Additional book and materials.
- Expand and systematize marketing. efforts. Increase public understanding of available services.
- Increase of available services.
- Forge and/or strengthen alliances with: Schools, Colleges, Homeschoolers, and other.
- educational organizations.

Threats

- Delay in product design.
- New rivals.
- Increasing culture of technology and electronic books.
- Rising tax.
- Insufficient books and materials.
- Technologies need replacement and maintenance.

Overview of project1:

Books reservation system in campus:

Project name: Books reservation application

Project manager: Douaa Sennari

Project sponsor: King AbdulAziz University

Business case: Create an application to provide books reservation system for students inside campus.

Problem: The long distance between buildings in campus and the long time it takes to complete borrowing process in the campus library. Also, for worst cases where student takes long time to reach the library and find out the needed book copies are not available or already borrowed by others.

Goals: Here are some of our main goals with this project:

- Develop a platform that provides services for borrowing books in campus.

- Save student's time.

Deliverables: Here are the tasks we hope to complete throughout this project:

- An application that provides books reservation services for students/university staff.

- The application provides feature for checking if the book is currently available.

- provides feature for borrowed the need book through the application with specified borrowing period.

Risks or obstacles:

- **Users might not be trustworthy:** Some students might not retune the books the borrowed or the returned it damaged.

- **Users might not be punctual:** some of the renters might not return rented books on time causing problems for next reservations time and quantity.

Overview of project 2:

Project name: Scan and convert to pdf application.

Project manager: Douaa Sennari.

Project sponsor: King AbdulAziz University.

Business case: Create an application to scan documents and convert/export them into a searchable PDF file format easily.

Problem: The increase in dependence on electronic documents nowadays due to the continuous shift to the digital world.

Moreover, businesses create and transport a variety of files on a daily basis. In most cases, contains private data, and certain document protection steps need to be taken to keep content secure, and using PDF files is a safe, convenient method of distributing private information over the internet.

Goals: Here are some of our main goals with this project:

- Develop a platform that provides portability of files to be read/accessed anywhere and on any device, supports searchability to easily find the desired content through a quick search, and security and data protection.

- Files compression without sacrificing quality.

- Streamline file conversions to save time.

Deliverables: Here are the tasks we hope to complete throughout this project:

- An application that provides the ability to scan documents and convert them to PDF files.

- The possibility of sending the converted files to several applications such as WhatsApp and Email.

Risks or obstacles: Here are some obstacles we may face:

- **The low number of users:** As there are many applications that provide similar services.

- **Lack of services provided with regard to files:** We can overcome this by providing more features including file modification, merging, and deleting pages from pdf files.

- **The presence of many competitors:** Since our project scope is small, we can find that there are a lot of applications that provide advanced services in file conversion and modification.

Overview of Project 3:

Project name: Books station web application

Project manager: Dua'a Sinnari

Project sponsor: Aljoharah Alzahrani, Elaf Aloufi, Manar Altaiary, Sara Ehsan, and Wed Eshmawi

Business case: Create a web application that aims to facilitate university book trade between students and non-students with appropriate price.

Problem: Some students cannot afford the original price of the books at the same time there are a lot of wastepaper of the used textbooks own by students who finished university courses and don't need their books anymore.

Goals: Here are some of our main goals with this project:

- Create a web application that allows buyers to offer any university books(textbooks) and the seller can search for the needed book.

- Students who cannot afford the original price of the books can use our web-based application and negotiate with the buyer on the price.

- Helps students make money from their used textbooks they don't need.

- Helps reduce wastepaper.

Deliverables: Here are the tasks we hope to complete throughout this project:

- A web-based application for university textbooks trade

- Provide negotiation on the price feature.

- Provide feature to create an account that enables the user to be both seller and buyer on the same account.

- Provide feature for choosing the method to receive the order.

Risks or obstacles: These are some obstacles we may face:

- **The limited amount of each book is insufficient to accommodate the needs:** we will solve this by providing a feature enable the users to make requests for the needed books so the seller can be notified with the requests in order to offer them.

- **Small development team:** we will work on expanding our business and employ more team members.

- **Limited funding:** we can solve this by take a specific percent of the seller earnings.

Projects periodization (Justifications):

Project 1 (Book reservation app):

There are various flaws in the project. Some of them are:
    -books can be stolen: they cannot ensure that students will return the books after use. New books will be needed, and the company will have to spend a lot of money on that.
     -time wasting due to the large distance between buildings on campus and the weather will not allow them to walk the entire distance to the library where the books are stored.
    - high cost: the project has a high cost due to many reasons. the books may get damaged while the students using them or may be stolen or lost and the company will need to purchase new books.
The above points indicate that the project risk is greater than the revenue and benefits of the project.

Project 2 (scan and convert to pdf app)

The best option for a fresh, successful idea won't be this project. Since similar websites already exist, this project will not be unique and will be a waste of time and money since the risks are higher than the gained revenue and advantages. Because certain specialized programming is required, we will require additional training to be able to do so, which will be expensive. due to this, it has lost priority and is now the least important project.

Project 3: (Chosen project)

- The project's cost is high, but it is worth it after the app is finished creation because the money spent will be reimbursed when students utilize the app.
- Save students' time: By preventing students from buying and selling books several times, the web will save time. Additionally, it will be helpful for students to use the web-based app to find certain books rather than asking other students about them.
-Guaranteed revenue: For a variety of reasons, all students need books to read or study, thus they will all utilize the web application to make finding, buying, and selling books easier.

After analyzing the project based on the above points, we found that the risk, return and profit of the project are in the same proportion and it is a suitable project for us.

Based on the first method for selecting projects which is the focusing on broad organizational needs we found that project 3 has a higher demand value by students and from graduates to sell their books. The funding of the project is available because it's not a complicated project and has clear simple requirements which is displaying books and delivery or pickup which is doable with a reasonable budget.

PROJECT CHARTER

1. General Project Information				
Project Name:	**Books station web application**			
Executive Sponsors:	**Aljoharah Alzahrani, Elaf Aloufi, Manar Altaiary, Sara Ehsan, and Wed Eshmawi**			
Department Sponsor:	**King Abdulaziz University**			
Impact of project:				
2. Project Team				
	Name	**Department**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Project Manager:	Dua'a Sinnari	Information technology	0564542342	Doua@gmail.com
Team Members:	Aljoharah Ali	Information technology	0535000275	Aljoharah@gmail.com
	Justine Cardenas	Marketing and sales	0535000275	Aljoharah@gmail.com
	Eva Holden	Human resources	0535045645	EvaHo@gmail.com
	Sara Marshall	Accounting and finance	0534646456	Sara1234@gmail.com
	Elaf Yousef	Engineering	0535045664	Ealoufi@gmail.com
	Savanah Giles	Information technology	0535566465	Saffan@gmail.com
	Manar Hassan	Information technology	0535567567	Mhasa@gmail.com
	Wed Mullins	Information technology	0543530265	AlMullin@gmail.com

3. Stakeholders *(e.g., those with a significant interest in or who will be significantly affected by this project)*

Project manager

Project sponsor

Management team

System Developers

System Designers

Data analysts

Employees

Marketing team

Related organizations (Competitors)

Students

Teachers

4. Project Scope Statement

Project Purpose / Business Justification *Describe the business need this project addresses*

It aims to facilitate university book trade between students and non-students with negotiable prices. This solves the problem for some students who cannot afford the original price of the books and also helps reduce wastepaper.

Objectives (in business terms) *Describe the measurable outcomes of the project, e.g., reduce cost by xxxx or increase quality to yyyy*

- Create a web application that allows buyers to offer any university books(textbooks) and the seller can search for the needed book
- Students who cannot afford the original price of the books can use our web-based application and negotiate with the buyer on the price
- Helps students make money from their used textbooks they don't need
- Helps reduce wastepaper

Deliverables *List the high-level "products" to be created (e.g., improved xxxx process, employee manual on yyyy)*

A web-based application for university textbooks trade that provides negotiation on the price, and provide feature to create an account that enables the user to be both seller and buyer on the same account, also the users can choose the method to receive the order. The users can make requests for the needed books so the seller can be notified with the requests in order to offer them through Books station web application.

Scope *List what the project will and will not address (e.g., this project addresses units that report into the Office of Executive Vice President. Units that report into the Provosts Office are not included)*

Within Scope:

This project adresses all levels of academic soceity: undergraduate students, graduate students, researchers, and Professors.

Outside Scope:

Indiviuals who do not fall within the educational academic community.

Project Milestones *Propose start and end dates for Project Phases (e.g., Inception, Planning, Construction, Delivery) and other major milestones*

	Start Date	End Date
Project Kick-off/ Inception	10/12/2022	31/12/2022
Planning Completion	15/1/2023	21/1/2023
Implementation/ Construction Completion	22/1/2023	28/1/2023
Testing Completion	29/1/2023	31/1/2023
Product Handover/Delivery		

Major Known Risks (including significant Assumptions) *Identify obstacles that may cause the project to fail.*

Risk	Risk Rating (Hi, Med, Lo)
The limited copies of each book may be insufficient to accommodate the needs	Med
The team can run out of budget during the implementation phase	Lo

Constraints *List any conditions that may limit the project team's options with respect to resources, personnel, or schedule (e.g., predetermined budget or project end date,).*

Limited funding, limit on number of staff that may be assigned to the project

Project deadline, limit the options in project scope

A limited predetermined budget, limit the quality and number of physical resources used

External Dependencies *Will project success depend on coordination of efforts between the project team and one or more other individuals or groups? Has everyone involved agreed to this interaction?*

5. Communication Strategy *(specify how the project manager will communicate to the Executive Sponsor, Project Team members and Stakeholders,*

A daily meeting of the team reviews progress, discusses what will be done next, distributes tasks among them, and, if problems arise, discusses how to resolve them. The group manager meets with the team members once a week to follow up on the work they did the previous week. Monthly updates are provided to the sponsor on the status of the project.

6. Sign-off

	Name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Executive Sponsor	Aljoharah Alzahrani		1/26/2023
Department Sponsor	King Abdulaziz University		1/26/2023
Project Manager	Dua'a Sinnari		1/26/2023

7. Notes

Project exhibits:

TASK	DESCRIPTION	Intervals	END DATE	Units	Cost per hour	Hours of work	Tools/ Resources	space	total
					LABOR		**MATERIALS**		**Total cost**
PROJECT 1									
planning	Collecting requirements Planning, analysis	1 / 2		1	50.00$ / 50.00$	10 / 10	100.00$	$300.00	500.00$
Execution	Implementation, coding, execute interface.	1 / 2		2	200.00$ / 150.00$	30 / 25	500.00$	$300.00	1.150.00$
Maintenance	Fixing bugs, make improvements	1 / 2		3	150.00$ / 150.00$	8 / 20	300.00$	200.00$	1.100.00$
testing	Test the final version	1 / 2		4	100.00$ / 50.00$	15 / 5	$100.00	$100.00	450.00$
SUBTOTAL					$900.00		$1000.00	$900.00	$ 2800.00

References

Node, Intelligence. "Competitive Pricing Strategy -- See How Products Are Priced." *Blog*, 14 June 2022, https://www.intelligencenode.com/blog/competitive-pricing-strategy-see-products-priced/.

PMC, Europe. "SWOT Analysis." *Europe PMC*, https://europepmc.org/article/med/30725987.

Kenton, Will. "SWOT Analysis: How to with Table and Example." *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 2 Nov. 2022, https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/swot.asp.

What Are Strategic Objectives? (with Steps and Examples). https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/what-are-strategic-objectives.