*Collaborative Online Forum for Filipino Experts Everywhere*

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Keywords—component, formatting, style, styling, insert (key words)

# Introduction

Unlike in most other countries, the number of places Filipinos can ask local experts about their highly technical questions is very sparse. Although some sites like Quora have Filipino experts answering in their site, questions and discussions about more obscure or specific fields of interest like Filipino history, the Filipino language, navigating the Filipino bureaucracy, and agribusiness are often non-existent except in specific threads on social media sites. The *Collaborative Online Forum for Filipino Experts Everywhere* or *COFFEE* website aims to connect the general populace to these Filipino experts.

To concentrate categories of information into sections, this website will be designed like an online forum, where people can go to their selected category, choose a topic, then ask their question about that specific topic. Users of the website can set their credentials on a specific field or category by selecting or creating a credential that corresponds to that field and uploading evidence that proves their credential. When a person is a certified expert in a category, it will show up in their answers. Moderators assigned to specific categories will oversee the approval of these credentials and the sanitation of their respective categories by deleting inappropriate posts and monitoring user reports. There will also be a voting system where people can upvote or downvote an answer to show their approval or disdain toward the content of the post. The original asker of the question, like in other Q&A forums, can mark a post as the answer they were looking for.

Just like any online forum, COFFEE will strive to be a place for trading ideas, information, tricks, and tips [1]. Most information will be traded via BB code-formatted text. Unlike other contemporaries such as Pinoy Exchange that focuses more on general information and pop culture, this website wants to strike a more subtle demographic of curious, like-minded Filipino enthusiasts, academics, and experts. In essence, it aims to be a Quora-like website that focuses on topic areas members are experts in and attracts real names whose credentials hold verifiable weight to answer [2].

# Related Literature

Internet forums are websites that allow people to trade information about specific fields or topics. It gives its users a way to communicate their questions and give answers to people who need it. They generally have some form of moderation to keep the website appropriate. Overall, they are functionally mini-portals on specific topics of interest [3]. COFFEE aims to be one such site for Filipino experts that do not have a medium to share their knowledge and expertise to the Filipino populace. Forums can be classified as anonymous or registration-based [3]. Since COFFEE relies on highly trained experts that have a lot of credibility, the website itself cannot be anonymous and it should display as much information about the people answering to give some accountability to people when answering so that they will do it responsibly. COFFEE takes a lot of inspiration from various forums, and picks some of the important elements they possess.

COFFEE’s interface is largely derived from the Filipino-based forum PinoyExchange, where they express opinions regarding local and international issues, updates on showbiz, and other pop culture topics. [4] Coincidentally, PinoyExchange organizes its topics in the same structure as COFFEE, but this is largely coincidental. However, since they already lined up in terms of content, it was decided by the developer that it is possible to replicate the interface format.

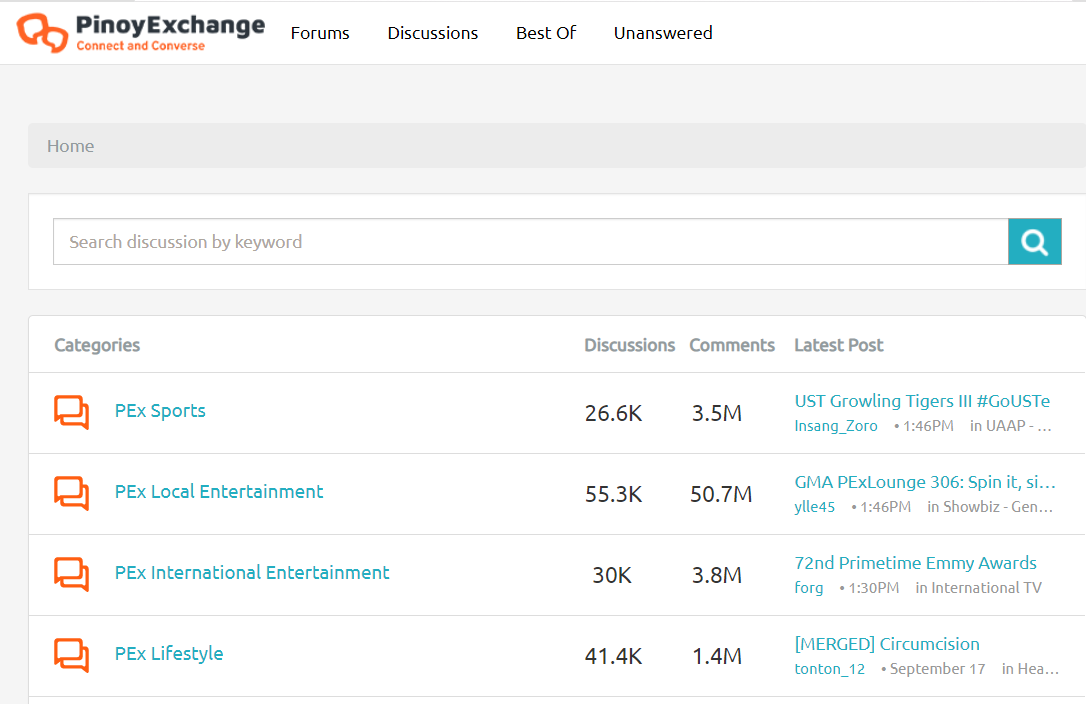


Figure 1. PinoyExchange UI

As can be seen in Figure 1, Pinoy Exchange divides the forum into categories, where each covers a specific topic about popular culture ranging from sports to international news. The categories themselves are arranged in table format with the first column corresponding to categories, the second to number of discussions, the third to the number of comments, and the fourth to the latest post. Inside the categories, there are subcategories essentially display in the same way. COFFEE takes this basic structure and makes subtle changes to it to make it more native to the site.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110207111054/http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/quoras_new_algorithm_for_ranking_answers.php>

<https://www.quora.com/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/technology/13social.html>

# Methodology

To achieve a rich set of features, forums typically need some of the more relational design patterns in MySQL databases. After all, most of the features of any typical forum will involve some one user-to-many *objects* mapping, where *objects* may refer to posts, categories they moderate, and in the case of an expert-oriented forum like COFFEE, the credentials they hold.

The first section of this methodology will provide exposition for each database and their tables. Because of the importance of the relationships between the tables, the second section will be dedicated to exploring how they relate to one another via their primary and foreign keys and why it was done this way. The third section will show all the mechanisms of the website itself and how they were developed with the aid of PHP.

## MySQL Databases and Their Tables

COFFEE has three primary databases for storing information. This section will discuss each one and the tables contained within them.

### COFFEE User Database

The first database is *coffee\_user\_db*, which stores some of the information directly related to each user such as their account information,

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*a**b* 

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## Some Common Mistakes

* The word “data” is plural, not singular.
* The subscript for the permeability of vacuum **0, and other common scientific constants, is zero with subscript formatting, not a lowercase letter “o”.
* In American English, commas, semicolons, periods, question and exclamation marks are located within quotation marks only when a complete thought or name is cited, such as a title or full quotation. When quotation marks are used, instead of a bold or italic typeface, to highlight a word or phrase, punctuation should appear outside of the quotation marks. A parenthetical phrase or statement at the end of a sentence is punctuated outside of the closing parenthesis (like this). (A parenthetical sentence is punctuated within the parentheses.)
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* There is no period after the “et” in the Latin abbreviation “et al.”.
* The abbreviation “i.e.” means “that is”, and the abbreviation “e.g.” means “for example”.

An excellent style manual for science writers is [7].

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1. Table Type Styles

| Table Head | Table Column Head | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table column subhead | Subhead | Subhead |
| copy | More table copya |  |  |

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##### Acknowledgment *(Heading 5)*

The preferred spelling of the word “acknowledgment” in America is without an “e” after the “g”. Avoid the stilted expression “one of us (R. B. G.) thanks ...”. Instead, try “R. B. G. thanks...”. Put sponsor acknowledgments in the unnumbered footnote on the first page.

##### References

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7. M. Young, The Technical Writer’s Handbook. Mill Valley, CA: University Science, 1989.

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