ABSTRACT

The Ghana Music Documentation Project (GMDP) is to develop a comprehensive database on Ghanaian music culture that brings together the various data and resource materials of public and private sector stakeholders for policy makers, academics, administrators, artists and artistes, embassies, foreign visitors and all other interested persons. The GMDP would serve as a tool that is accessible to all stakeholders, flexible enough to account for the continuous change of the cultural economy and enables stakeholders to use it in different ways that best serve their respective interests.

The overall significance of the GMDP will be in the development of a sustainable tool and database that will benefit researchers as much as policy makers, practitioners, communities, and the public at large. As such, it will also be a major contribution to the Digital Humanities more generally, which have, so far, been centered within North America and Western Europe. Our commitment to cultural and musical sustainability is grounded in the firm believe that it is only within a dynamic and diverse cultural landscape at the grass-roots level that a vibrant market-oriented cultural economy can also grow. At the policy level, the project addresses five of the six implementation areas listed in Ghana's Cultural Policy. Specifically, these are "preservation and conservation of culture," "development and promotion of culture," "presentation of culture," "establishment of appropriate administrative structures," and finally "establishment of linkages with various sectors of national development" (NCC, 2004, 15-16).

The system would be developed based on HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, PHP, SQL and Google map API.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Ghana Music Documentation Project (GMDP) is to develop a sustainable tool and database that will benefit researchers as much as policy makers, practitioners, communities, and the public at large and promote Ghanaian music culture.

This chapter introduces the GMDP project, states its aim and significance. Section 1.2 outlines the background to the project. Section 1.3 talks about what

motivate us to do this project. Section 1.4 explains the problem statement. It highlights the objectives of the project, along with the requirements and constraints that have to be borne in mind during the development process. The research goal and objective are outlined in section 1.5. Section 1.6 talk about the research scope. The research question is presented in section 1.7. Section 1.8 provides information on significant of study. Section 1.9 provides information on outline of study. Section 1.10 summarizes the chapter.

1.1 Background Information

According to ("Music of Ghana," n.d.), there are many styles of traditional and modern music of Ghana, due to Ghana's cosmopolitan geographic position on the African continent. The best known modern genre originating in Ghana is Highlife. For many years, Highlife was the preferred music genre until the introduction of Hiplife and many others.

In recent times, many academic experts in the music industry have raised concerns and suggested methodologies to preserve the Ghanaian culture and music heritage. (Nketia, 2005) says that "for it is only through systematic collection, study and documentation of this material that the evolution of African music can be adequately studied in the future". John Collins also states that "the impact of technology on the production of Ghanaian music, along with the music's associated values and aesthetics, has two different aspects. Firstly, there are the direct positive and negative effects of hi-technology (videos, computer studios, synthesizers and drum machines) upon Ghanaian popular music". This has widely impacted the level of acceptance of technology within the Ghanaian traditional music. The concepts of copyrights which concerns itself with originality of artistic products in the Ghanaian traditional genres, for example, highlife music, has widely been undervalued and degraded.

The need of a music documentation system cannot therefore be disputed and overlooked and GMDP strives to be a major achievement towards a great and large music documentation in Ghana. The system deploys a web interface for easy access and to minimize cross-platform issues as well.

1.2 Problem Statement

Ghanaian music culture from the past has been lacking behind as compared to other countries and continents in the globe. This in most articles attributed to colonialism which introduced foreign music interleaved within our local music culture (John Collins,2005, *p.17*). A major concern is that the Ghanaian music is unable to trend and define its origin across the world, especially when it comes to the native and or cultural music which most of the traditional people and other tourists or interested persons are so much desperate. This has been a major problem for some time and the GMDP project has made it a concern to provide an appropriate solution to that.

The GMDP project is aimed at developing a sustainable tool and database that will benefit researchers as much as policy makers, practitioners, communities, and the public at large and promote Ghanaian music culture.

1.3 Research Questions

Research questions for this review include:

- How are sources and problems associated with existing systems promoting Ghana music be reviewed?

- How can geographical location of the music groups be represented on google map?

- How can the system be developed for easy interactivity?

1.4 Research Goal and Objectives

The goal of the GMDP project is to develop a comprehensive database on Ghanaian music culture that brings together the various data and resource materials of public and private sector stakeholders for policy makers, academics, administrators, artists and artistes, embassies, foreign visitors and all other interested persons.

The following are the strategic objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive review of sources and problems associated with existing application on Ghana music culture;

- To design and develop a web-based application for better usability experience and easy interactivity;

- To represent Ghanaian music culture on the globe for easy reach to all interested persons;

1.5 Research Scope

Web-based application for promoting Ghana music culture will be a designed and developed using web technologies and multimedia elements being soft and hard to completely accomplish the project. Some of the technologies that will be employed include the programming languages such as HTML, JavaScript, CSS, Bootstrap, PHP and SQL to build an impressive user interface for simple and clear user interactivity; Google map for database mapping to show the exact locations of the various music groups and more description to the kind of music they perform and other information. Users will be able to search and or browse the various music groups.

1.6 Significance of the study

The results of this project will be serving the following purpose:

- Project Ghanaian music culture to the world

- Promotion and preservation of Ghanaian music culture

- Assist researchers and other stakeholders in their activities prior to Ghanaian music culture

1.7 Structure or outline of the study

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Chapter Two

2.0 Literature review

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Ghana Music Culture

2.3 Music Documentation project

2.4 Music Information System

2.5 Benefits of Information System/Documentation to Ghana Music Culture

2.6 Conclusion

Chapter Three

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Design

3.3 Implementation

Chapter Four

4.0 Findings

Chapter Five

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Limitations

5.2 Future Works

1.8 Summary

This chapter clearly introduced the GMDP project, its aim and significance, emphasizing on the development of the web-based system that will aid and assist researchers and all other interested persons. Different sections were discussed; outlining the various sections included background information, problem statement, research questions, goal, objectives, plan and contribution, scope of study, significance of the study, the outline of study and summary.