**DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INVENTORY**

**MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**1.1: INTRODUCTION**

The research served to develop an Inventory Management System that covered the

product information storage needs for Smart shoppers’ Masaka. With the

implementation of this prototype, the company information will be far safer and much

better accessible. This chapter is dedicated to fully understanding the nature of the

problem and proposing a solution to it. It also explains the significance of the system to

the Company.

Smart shoppers’ is one of the large supermarkets in Masaka and has gained such a

wealth of experience in the industry. It has 2 branches in Masaka town and the other in

Nyondo with its Headquarter in Masaka town. Its vast interest is in Business Venture

spans across a wide Market Area with Stores and Warehouses in Masaka town.

The supermarket offers wholesale, retail and distribution services of their products to its

customers. For the matter of wholesale services, it is only carried out from the stores

and warehouses while the retail services are offered at their chain of supermarkets

where distribution services are offered in both places.

The existing system for the wholesale services was characterized by manual field

registration and file-based system which was susceptible to an excessive number of

mistakes, data redundancy and the difficulty of updating information about the goods in

stock is but just a few of the challenges the company faces.

**1.2: Statement of the Problem**

Smart shoppers’ Masaka Stores and warehouses use manual ledger systems that

results in a lot of undesired drawbacks. There is a lot of time wasting since the

information is first written on hard copies then typed into a spreadsheet program. It

takes a very long time to search for a particular record with the current system and lots

of paper and ink are wasted too. This makes the system very inefficient.

With flat files, data duplication is a common problem that results in all sorts of problem

such as update and delete errors just to mention but a few. Since the manual ledger

system can easily be manipulated and ledger books can also get lost thus leading to

**1.3: Specific Objectives**

* To collect and analyze user requirements that was to provide the researchers with

enough information of what the system users want the system to accomplish

* To design an Automated Inventory Management System that acts as the blue print

for the new system.

* To implement a prototype of the designed system that realizes the system designs

and provides the real first taste of the actual system.

* To test and validate the designed system that ensures all systems requirements are

met.

**1.4: Research Questions**

I. How To design an Automated Inventory Management System that acts as the blue print

for the new system?

ii. How To implement a prototype of the designed system that realizes the system designs

and provides the real first taste of the actual system?

iii. How To test and validate the designed system that ensures all systems requirements are

met?

iv. How to collect and analyze user requirements that was to provide the researchers with

enough information of what the system users want the system to accomplish?

**1.5: Significance of the Study**

Due to the current problems in in existing system, the designed system can be more important to the company in the following ways. Research is used by academicians in their researches as reference when it comes to reviewing literature. ii. The company is able to save a bit more money on expenses as it wouldn’t need to buy much paper and ink. iii. The system also goes a long way in reducing fraud as it would neatly keep track of all the assets in the company. iv. The customers are better served as information access with the new system would be far much faster. v. The suppliers for the company also benefit as the new system makes it easier to know which items need to be restocked.

loss of data which is very vital for the company; this makes the system insecure.

This therefore resulted into a need for an Automated Inventory Management System to

be put in place which would help in improving the system. The advent of an Automated

Inventory Management System would thus rid of the problems nurtured by the manual

ledger system used by Smart shoppers’ Masaka.