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DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT SEARCH PORTAL FOR GHANA

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PROBLEM DEFINITION

Problem

★ Road transport is the major means of transportation in Ghana (AIDOO et al., 2013)

 \star Over 95% of all passenger and freight traffic and about 97% of all passenger miles in Ghana is by road (UNESCO, 2010)

* Privately owned or corporate taxis, *tro tros* (shared minivans), buses commuting between major cities (Abane, 2011)

★ Difficulty in finding terminals specific location and detailed information

* Fares and stations keep changing

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Figure: Kaneshie Transport Terminal



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This project seeks to:

- ★ To develop a web application that provides detailed information about transport terminals:
 - * To mitigate the difficulty in finding transport terminals and improve trip planning
 - To provide reusable data and a cross platform system by implementing a geospatial database containing exact location of transport terminals



METHODOLOGY

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Methods used for this project:

- * Review of relevant and related literature
- ⋆ Developing a query system for routes
- * Developing a portable geospatial database
- Field survey to collect information on some transport terminals
- * Crowd sourcing terminal information



TOOLS USED

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The tools used for this project are:

- * Python
- ⋆ Django
- * Material Kit
- * PostgreSQL
- ⋆ QGIS
- * Leaflet and OpenStreetMap
- * GPS receiver and Smartphone



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

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The results and discussions:

- User gets routes based on destination and departure searched
- * A user can access all available operators and view detailed information on each station
- * User can compare fares visually
- ★ A user is able to access station location in external platform
- ⋆ Groups for managing staff privileges
- ⋆ Detailed history of changes available in administration dashboard



ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SYSTEMS

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Although there exist systems with similar functionalities as this project, most of these existing systems:

- ⋆ Do not suit and have focus on the Ghanaian transport system
- * Lack fare information
- * Are less reliable; E.g. Word of mouth
- * Are not frequently updated



STRUCTURAL MODELING CLASS DIAGRAM

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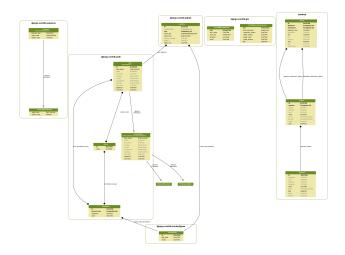


Figure: Class Diagram





CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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It can be concluded that this system:

- ★ Will improve trip planning and easy access to information only available within terminals to traveler hence saving time
- ★ Should be adopted by Ghana Tourism Authority to help tourists find their way around Ghana transport network

I would recommend that:

- * Users should be able to book seats from the platform and also support voice input for the visually impaired
- * The system could get users current location and find nearest possible departure stations for their routes



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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THANK YOU