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| Module 5 PMA  Digital Development with Python | | | | | |
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Abstract

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Introduction

The purpose of this written work is to document a webapp proposal that help students plan their dissertation project during their masters studies in University of Warwick, specially in the timeframe where students have to find a research topic and tutor. This phase accounts 50% of the entire process but impacts 100% of it. This means, the webapp does not focus on time and scheduling. It focus on motivation and organization of ideas, that if done well, will affect positively the dissertation schedule.

The scope of this written paper is a basic-level explanation of the proposed code structure, languages and functionality, which also show a basic layout for final users. That means that there is no feasibility, marketing, user experience or any other studies that are important for technology developments (Beck, 2000).

During the process of dissertation planning, students face many stages that when not completed at time, might result in other problems such as lack of interest in chosen subject, miss deadlines, accumulation of work, among other. For those reasons, I decided that a planning web app is not completed without taking into account the level of enjoyment while planning, as well as the enjoyment in the chosen dissertation topic.

This written work is composed by three sections, application goals, application front-end and application back-end. First section, explain current problem with students and their planning process and later, I propose some indicators that measures the success of the webapp. Second section, explains how the webapp works at an users level and a technical level. Languages used the implemented code structure is comprised in this chapter. Finally, in the third section, data bases logic and testing approach is explained.

Conclusion

Application goals

It is known that the percentage of students who find a tutor by the date in which the deadline is close, presents a peak. Therefore, it is intuited that this large percentage of students did not know what topic of tutor suited them, otherwise they would have chosen a tutor before. The process of choosing a project topic and a tutor represents 50% of the planning process. That is from November of present year to March of next year. To tackle 50% of the entire dissertation process is a major issue, not just because of what represents out of the total schedule, but also, because it impacts the next 50% (from April to September). If students can engage in a dissertation topic that really interest them it can be argued that the quality could improve, and partial drafts are going to be delivered on time. So, the entire dissertation process is full of late applications, and dissertation topics which could be uninteresting for students.

Finding a topic is a one of the hardest things to do (Saunders, et al., 2019). Dissertation project selection website shows dozens of topics as well as more than 521 tutors (University of Warwick, 2022). On the other hand, students must select a dissertation topic when they have just taken 3 modules, being the first of them too general with no depth at the beginning of the course.

Research topic it supposed to be an excited phase (Saunders, et al., 2019) and not finding an interesting research topic negatively impact that expected outcome. The webapp must guarantee not only time and deadlines are accomplish but to stimulate students before and during their dissertation projects.

The webapp general objective is on facilitating the process of dissertation planning, from the very first step for students which is choosing the topic and tutor. I proposed the following indicators to correctly assess if students find the process easier (see table No. 1)

Table 1. Objectives and indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective** | **Description** | **Indicator** |
| Time choosing topic | Amount of time (days) spend looking for a topic to research about | (Days spend with web app/Days spend without web app) -1 |
| Time choosing tutor | Amount of time (days) spend looking for a tutor to research about | (Days spend with web app/Days spend without web app) -1 |
| Philosophical approach on dissertation project | Correct understanding and usage of philosophical approaches on dissertation projects | (Survey results after webapp/survey results before webapp) – 1 |
| Students Satisfaction | Level of satisfaction of students who complete their dissertation project | (Survey results after webapp/survey results before webapp) – 1 |

As seen in table 1, particular objective focuses in some steps that are part of the process highlighted in the webpage (University of Warwick, 2022) such as finding a topic and finding a tutor, while other objectives focus on dissertation requirements on philosophical approaches (University of Warwick, 2022a) and finally a new quantitative objective which is satisfaction. This last one does not exist currently in University of Warwick.

The proposed webapp, intends to engage students in a topic and tutor that really interest them, and reduce the time spend in finding such subjects which at the end, can allow them to begin to research and writing before deadline.

Application front-end

We have written what makes hard the process of choosing a research topic and a tutor. Fortunately, there are some similar problems such as choosing a career or master’s degree, and some creative solutions for these problems. For Instance, The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) (2022), has developed a quiz which guide students and prospects through a series of questions that helps them discover what career suit them. As seen in Figure No. 1, UCAS invites students to take the quiz, and after shows 30 questions with the same 5 answers.

Figure 1. UCAS career quiz.

Text

Description automatically generated with low confidence Timeline

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Under this logic, figure No. 2 explains the general logic and basic layout of the webapp based on a quiz opencode

Application back-end

Conclusion

# References

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