CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the introductory part of the Student Project Management System, the background of the study, its problem statement, the aim and objectives, scope and limitation of the scope and definition of some key terms.

1.1 Background of the study

In the information age that we live in, rapid changes in information and communication technologies (ICT) have become common in every field of our lives. The tools and materials that we use in our daily lives are renewed almost daily. In paralleled with these changes, ICT applications have inevitably entered into learning and teaching activities (Muhammet et. al. 2012).

In most tertiary institutes in the country, computer science students seek a mini project in a given field of specialty as part of the lower level of their degree program. Usually, a project can be filled by at most one student, though in some cases a project is suitable for more than one student to work on simultaneously. To give students something of a choice, there should be as wide a range of available projects as possible, and in any case the total number of project places should not be less than the total number of students.

The project/dissertation is a module that provides the students with the opportunity to design, undertake or conduct an independent piece of research or study related to their Program of studies under the guidance of a supervisor, who is normally a member of the academic staff (full-time or part-time). Other qualified supervisors may also be appointed subject to approval by the Head of Department and Dean of Faculty/ Director of Centre. (Abraham, 2013).

A Project is an investigative undertaking, a structured, organized experiential learning including design work, field work or other placement learning. A ‘Project’ leads to a ‘dissertation’ that is assessed (Thorn, 2015).

1.2 Problem Statement

The traditional way of managing mini project in FCSIT need to be reevaluated since project/research writing is sensitive aspect of student education in the bayero university, kano. Before now, lecturers ask students to go out and get mini project topics for themselves for approval. This system made mini project writing look less like a class assignment which does not require an extra effort to complete rather an issue of copying. Most students are fond of getting their project write-up/documentation destroyed either to loss of computer system, misplacing files, fire out break and lots more. One of the most annoying and frustrating activity in conducting a research work is submitting your initial project chapters to a busy supervisor, one that is engaged both at undergraduate and postgraduate level, the entire manual process is not effective. It has become widely recognized that manual storage of student projects has inherent problems. Using Bayero University Kano (faculty of computer science and information technology) as a case study, students submit hard copies of projects’ write-up to their various individual supervisors within the department and faculty. Some of the disadvantages of this traditional method are as listed below;

* Difficulty in reviewing documentations of student work, as a result of supervisor been busy most times.
* Records of project topics carried out by a student are stored in the departmental library for a long time which occupies valuable office space.
* Projects are prone to loss due to natural disasters such as fire outbreak.
* Difficulty in searching for project topics already done, that needs to be reviewed.
* Backing up projects becomes a problem since more space will be employed.

Faced with the need to organize projects, the proposed system for management of student projects is unique and totally inventive in its incorporated approach. Its functionality of making project management easier makes it called for. The system to be developed makes use of rich internet technology to replace desktop application with web application running on a remote server.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The aim of this research study is to develop an online student project management system for FCSIT in Bayero University Kano to effectively manage undergraduate students’ mini projects.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives are set out:

* To design and manage a database for the system.
* To automate the entire manual/traditional method that is in use.
* To aid mini project selection and allocation.
* To aid student project topic selection, also to avoid project topic redundancy in the same department.
* To test the online student project management system using FCSIT as a case study.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of this project covers Students’ Project Management in Bayero University Kano. This scope will be achieved in the following areas:

* Coupling the energy of staff at a faster pace.
* Managing complex changes in an organized way
* Retrieving data as at when required.

The system will allow eligible student within FCSIT to submit mini project proposal, upon approval he/she will be able to upload project initial documents. Project Supervisor also will have to approve proposed topics, download and review document and give recommendations. The project supervisors manages the entire activity for the project management etc. All stakeholders must log into the system to interact with the system.

Usually, every work has some limitations and this study is not exempted. The two major limitations of this study are the time limits within which the study is expected to be completed as well as access to faculty project repository. The study is limited to faculty of computer science and information technology of this institute.

1.5 Significance of the study

The significance of this study is to move from manual management of mini projects to computerized management for easy retrieval, storage, accuracy and security and document duplication check. This research work will offer the following benefits to (FCSIT) in Bayero University Kano:

* Enable easy and reliable project topic selection.
* Reduced Storage since the system with be a web based system.
* Improved, faster and more flexible search document.
* Improved Security on uploaded document.
* Avoid losing files to natural disaster.