

## Bringing Craigslist 'Free' Items to the Needy

111182466

Every day, there are thousands of items posted to a Craigslist offered free of charge, ranging anywhere from books and clothing to cars and pianos. At the same time, there are plenty of organizations and charities that would greatly benefit from these items, but it takes an effort to scour through Craigslist every day to find posts of interest. This project would create a website that allows organizations to sign up for a service that filters posts by location and the keywords they specify, and sends email notifications once a post is found. There are many existing technologies such as List-Alert<sup>[1]</sup> or Mokriya Craigslist<sup>[2]</sup> that send email notifications for specific Craigslist posts, but none of them attempt to connect the givers to the needy. In addition, our website would allow you to send an automated response to these sellers, introducing your organization and how it would benefit from the item for grabs. A children's book drive could use the website to find posts advertising free books. A shelter could be notified when unwanted furniture is being offered. We will conduct a user study to identify the website's usability and quantitative analysis to discover how many free items are successfully obtained.

1. List-Alert. (n.d.). Craigslist Alerts at List-Alert.com. Retrieved September 9, 2013, from <http://www.list-alert.com/>
2. Mokriya Craigslist. (n.d.). The best, FREE, officially licensed craigslist app for iPhone and Android. Retrieved September 9, 2013, from <http://craigslist.mokriya.com/>