



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

SECOND YEAR PROJECT PROPOSAL

RIGHTS OF WOMEN INFORMATION SYSTEM

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Background

Women rights are the rights and entitlement claimed for women and girls of many societies worldwide. In Kenya, these rights are institutionalized, that is, are supported by the law in the new Kenyan constitution. Women rights differ from the broader notions of human rights through claims of inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls in favor for men and boys.

Some of these rights that women seek to have recognized outside the purview of general human rights can broadly be categorized as follows: political rights, rights to economic independence and equality, access to education, the right to control their sexual and reproductive lives, rights to children and property both within marriage and upon divorce, and rights to safety in workplace, at home and in public places.

Despite the provision of these rights women in Kenya are still vulnerable to male aggression, violence and discriminations neither do they know their land rights or rights of inheritance. Women are still not aware of their rights some is due to ignorance, others is illiteracy and some due to lack of information and misinformation.

“Another crucial area of concern is awareness by women of their rights. A right whose content is not known by the holder is at best a paper right. Legal awareness should be part of the task of achieving change in the legal status of women. Education of women on the content of their rights and modes of exercising those rights is a must if law reform is to achieve its stated objectives. “

(Mbote 2003)

My main motivation to develop this system was when I realized so many women both literate and illiterate are unaware of the existence of rights that protect them as well as other organizations that may provide them with the help they need.

1.2. Problem Definition

Although the new Kenyan constitution has explicitly stated the rights of women, very few women actually know their rights and what the law says since the information is scattered in various documents, libraries, publications and specialized websites, hence this information is not easily accessible. Therefore, there exists a need for an open forum to access information, get links to relevant organizations, address their problems and seek professional guidance all in one place.

1.3. Project Goal

By the end of this project I should have a fully functional prototype of the system that will be used to provide information to users on various rights of women and offer advice on women rights issues hence inform, educate and empower women through knowledge of their rights.

1.4. Project Objectives

1.4.1. Research objectives

- To determine how the development of a website with information on women rights would create awareness on women rights.
- To identify the rights that is specific to women in Kenya.
- To determine frequently asked questions on issues affecting women rights.

1.4.2. Systems development objectives

1. To develop a repository that contains specific categories of women rights and links to other websites that addresses specific issues on women rights.
2. To provide a search mechanism that will query the database containing women rights and displays the information.
3. To provide an interactive module that will enable interaction between users and a professional to discuss and seek assistance on legal matters.
4. To develop a repository with frequently asked questions about women rights and law.
5. To provide a module that will integrate the system with social media hence bridge the gap between the information and the target group.

1.3. Project Justification

In Kenya today several organizations and websites that fight for women rights exist, however none exists that offers an information system complete with a search engine for women rights as well as links to organizations that advocate for women rights and also provide an online advice line. Therefore, the system I am developing will be one of a kind and will be a great tool to inform, educate and empower women.

Assumptions

- Users have basic knowledge about computers and also the use of the internet.
- Users have access to a computer and internet.

1.4. Project Scope

The rights of women information system is a web based information system targeting women and girls in Kenya. The system will enable users to search for relevant information they want on women rights. The rights addressed will be broadly categorized as follows:

1. Nutrition, healthcare and reproductive rights
2. Rights relating to marriage and divorce
3. Women and social injustices
4. Women and education
5. Women and employment
6. Women and property rights
7. Others

It will also enable users to click on links to other organizations' website that may help. Also, the system will enable users to have an interactive session with a professional. In addition, users may check in frequently asked questions to see what many women ask and how they have been answered. And finally, it will enable a user to post a legal issue and allow others to comment on the issue hence get advice and guidance. The system will be integrated with social media such as Facebook in order to bridge the gap between the information and the target group.

1.5. Constraints

However, the scope of the project will be limited by a few constraints. Only selected sections of women rights in the constitution will be considered since the rights are too many and some too technical. Also considering that the time is limited to do a full research and compile all the rights concerning women as addressed in the constitution. The available database resource as well as financial constraints will limit the amount of data in the database.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

In Kenya today, many organizations both governmental and non-governmental champion for women rights. Such organization include FIDA-Kenya whose main aim is to provide legal assistance to women, CREDO, Ministry of Gender and Equity, CLEAR to name but a few. All these provide help to women but the women have to go to them physically to get assistance. Many women are ignorant of their existence hence they fail to reach a large population of the target group. Most websites that fight for women rights mainly are for economic empowerment, health and other specialized issues but none that addresses empowering women through knowledge of their legal rights and bring together these websites in one place for easy research. However, quite a similar system exists internationally called Electronic Information System for International Law as discussed below.

2.2. Existing systems

EISIL (<http://www.eisil.org>)

EISIL- Electronic Information System for International Law is an international electronic information system that has a database that contains all international laws and helps users to easily locate quality materials, authoritative websites and helpful research guides to international law on the Internet.

Similarities

It is quite similar to the system being proposed in terms of it being an effective search and teaching tool in the law field. It provides information on existing laws, provide links to other websites that deals with a particular issue and helps users to easily locate quality materials on the Internet concerning the law.

Differences

However, EISIL suites all international laws regardless of country or gender and includes big databases for all these but the proposed system is exclusively for the laws that affect women in Kenya and also includes an interactive interface where

one can get more information which is not in EISIL. Hence, the proposed system will be an improvement to the existing system by bringing more relevant information to the Kenyan women. Information they can relate with.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1. System development methodology to be used

The methodology adopted for the undertaking this project the will be modified waterfall approach which is a structured system analysis method (SSAM).It is a systematic step by step approach that begins at requirement finding and progresses through analysis, design, coding, testing and maintenance .

3.1.1. Requirement specification and analysis

This is a stage of system development lifecycle which involves collection of information that is relevant for the development of the system and then analysis of data and information to build a logical model of the system to be used in design phase. During requirement analysis, data collection will be through interviews and reviews of existing documents and publications. The target group to be interviewed will be Fida and a lawyer willing to help. Data flow diagram will be used to represent the logical model.

3.1.2. Design

This stage involves creation of a physical model that will satisfy the entire documented requirement for the system. The tools for design will be data flow diagrams and ERD diagrams for database modeling.

3.1.3. Implementation and coding

This stage involves translation of the developed designs into an actual system using suitable programming languages. For this project the languages used will be HTML PHP, CSS, JavaScript and jQuery. For database management MySQL will be used.

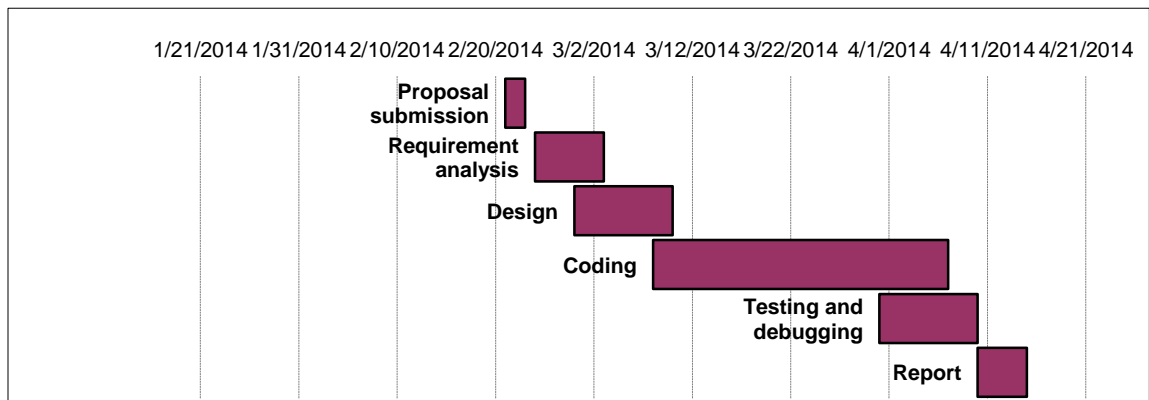
3.1.4. Testing

This is the last stage of development of the system although at every stage of development verification of user requirements will be done. Testing of the system will be done to ensure the system is satisfying all user requirements and is working efficiently. Both unit test and system test will be carried out.

3.2. Timeline/ Project Schedule

Activity	Start Day	End date	# of days
Proposal submission	2/21/2014	2/24/2014	2
Requirement analysis	2/24/2014	2/28/2014	7
Design	2/28/2014	3/7/2014	10
Coding	3/8/2014	4/5/2014	30
Testing and debugging	3/31/2014	4/10/2014	10
Report	4/10/2014	4/15/2014	5

Gantt chart



3.3. Resources

The resources required include:

- A personal computer and printer will be used for system development and project documentation
- Wamp server will be used for database management
- Code igniter framework will be used for development of the core software.
- Bootstrap will be used to develop the system's user interface.
- Advice and relevant information resources will be provided by Ms. Alice Maranga a lawyer at Fida-Kenya and Mr. Goddon a lawyer and lecturer at Jkuat.

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