

A REPORT DESCRIBING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS FACED BY GRADUANTS AND STAFF DURING CLEARANCE PROCEDURES AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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1 Introduction

Online clearance system is an internet base research work that will help ease the queuing system in the universitys clearance process. Online clearance system will build an effective information management that is very convenient to use for schools since it is internet based and can be accessed from anywhere. It is aimed at developing a computer software system that replaces the manual method of clearance for graduating students and that also help students to carry out their clearance without coming to the various offices for clearance. The designed software will serve as a more reliable and effective means of undertaking students clearance, remove all forms of delay and stress as well as enable you to understand the procedure involved, as well as how to do your clearance online. This project work makes use of data collection from the university, materials and journal from various authors and the software was developed to effectively achieve the aim of the project In this project, the implementation of the computer based system was carried out using PHP language, Html, CSS and the database for the software is MySQL.

KEYWORDS: Computer network, Automation, Clearance, Query Language, World Wide Web, Databases, Online, System

2 Background

Improvement in information and communication technology has made time and space less complex and could be seen that this modern age is the age of information boom in which an average individual wants to explore the information system. Thus, the capability for timely acquisition, utilization, communication and retrieval of relevant and accurate information has become an important attribute for better teaching and learning processes (Adebayo, 2008). The use of ICT in educational arena is not limited to teaching and learning situations alone, but also extend to the administrative assignments. One of such administrative tasks is the development of a web-based clearance system called online clearance. By definition, clearance is a status granted to individuals, typically members of military, university graduates and employees of governments and their contractors, allowing them access to classified information. The term clearance is also used in private organizations that have a formal method to vet employees for access to sensitive information. Clearance can refer to authorization or permission from an authority (Anigbogu, 2000; Chimezie, 2000; Wikipedia 2013). The act of clearing an individual involves granting individual a permission to have access to sensitive or secret documents or other information. The Oxford dictionary defines online as controlled by or connected to a computer and as an activity or service which is available or performed using the internet or other computer network (Dictionary of British and World English, 2015). As people of this generation become more dependent on the internet for information, the need for automated clearance becomes more apparent. Online clearance is now used in various academics institute both locally and internationally for various

clearance, for instance, online hostel accommodation, UTME online clearance exercise, online admission exercise, online graduating clearance exercise, and National Youth Service Corp online mobilization registration exercise to mention but a few. The admission process of students is strictly done online in some universities such as Ambrose Alli University, where physical presence of admitted candidates is not required in the university premises during the clearance exercise as it is strictly online while in some university in Nigeria such as University of Ibadan, University of Ilorin, Tai Solarin University of Education, the admission process are done online, and physical presence of candidate is needed for other admission clearance exercise. Online clearance system has been employed by International Islamic University for vetting graduating students. In universities like TASUED, there is need for automated method of data keeping, so a greater need for an automated online clearance system. This will go a long way in alleviating the various problems and stress involved in the manual method of clearance. Also, the issue of delay in youth service as a result of inability to complete the tedious manual processing of clearance will be curtailed. The focus of this research therefore is to provide a reliable and transparent system devoid of personal inclinations and interest, to eliminate travelling and queuing of students during clearance in the study university and to serve as reference material to other researcher.

3 Problem statement

When a student is about to graduate in Makerere University, he/she will take his/her degree exam after which he obtains a clearance form from Exam and Record Unit of the University after the payment of all necessary dues. This form will have to be certified at various departments and units including bursary, library, candidates department, and the University Health Centre. The bursary department certifies that the student has completed all payments while library will have to certify that the student does not owe any textbooks and library materials, and so. In summary, the current final clearance system of the university is a manual one. This makes the system so tedious and time-consuming. In this case, students will have to visit all the clearance offices with a form for them to sign. Once the form is fully signed, it proves that the student has been cleared. In the manual system, the clearance forms are documented in a file cabinet. Each time the clearance form is needed, a search operation is conducted on the file cabinets to locate a particular students clearance form. To alleviate this problem, there is need to develop an efficient web-based platform that is reliable and cost-effective, which can manage the process efficiently. Therefore, the objective of this study is summarized below:

- To develop an online clearance system that will effectively and efficiently process students final clearance.
- To provide a reliable and transparent system for the students final clearance devoid of personal inclinations and interest.

- To alleviate the problems and stress encountered by students during final clearance, most prominent one being the queuing up of students at various clearance spot.

4 Aim and Objectives

4.1 Aim or general objective

Aim: To develop an on line system for clearing students while they are at any locations

4.2 Specific Objectives

- To conduct a system analysis in order to identify the current state of the system.
- To find out the requirements needed to develop the proposed system.
- To use the requirements to design the system.
- To implement the design of the system.
- To test and validate the system.

5 Research Scope

5.1 Geographical Scope

This study will investigate how clearance activities is done by students and official within Makerere University only and the departments that shall be sample for clearance will be collage departments like department like CIT and Collage libraries.

5.2 Theoretical Scope

The system will be limited to students, Collage Registrars and some college librarians only.

6 Research Significance

This research study will contributed immensely to knowledge through the development of an efficient and cost-effective web-based clearance system for Universities which has a potential of alleviating the delay problem associated with manual clearance system. With this development, the problem of personal inclination shall completely be eliminated.

7 Literature review

Clearance is a certificate giving permission for something to be done. In higher institution of learning, final year students that have satisfied the academic re-

quirements to graduate must undergo a clearance process before they disengage from the institution. The above fact prompted the development of a web-based database-driven students clearance system by Agbo-Ajala and Makinde (2015). The system was developed using PHP and MySQL, and is aimed at eliminating the delays associated with the manual process of final clearance. In similar manner, Umezinwa, Uwakwe and Abode (2015) developed online clearance system for final year clearance of Imo State University using PHP, JAVASCRIPT, CSS, APACHE and MySQL for the database. The above system was able to process data with great speed and also replaces the error-prone manual clearance system. Zuhair (2013) supervised a project on the development of online clearance system using ASP.Net to create interfaces of the system. The system which was implemented at Quest University, Nawabshah contain database that can store all the required information of students for clearance certificate via web pages. Awuzie (2013) summarizes the advantages of online clearance system to include the following:

- It save a lot of time.
- It is very convenient to use anywhere at any time e.g., office, bedroom or anywhere in the world.
- Information processing is very fast and delay can be avoided.
- It is inexpensive to students and school management.
- It also help the school in reducing cost such as labour and stationery.

As many universities have chosen to pursue the dynamic educational options available on web pages (online), the advantages of e-learning cannot be estimated. According to Cox (2005), online system is presented as an efficient means of conveying instruction to an extensive learning community any place at any time. Indicating that adequate attention be designated to online learning as it serves as the driving force and model for transformation of teaching, learning and formal schooling, Environmental Education and Training Partnership (2006) posits that, online course has the potential to provide learner individualized attention by the instructor. This is otherwise impossible in a large classroom environment. With the continued development of online system applications, many colleges and universities have begun to offer online courses as an alternative to traditional face-to-face instructions. Hillstock (2005) reports that 67

8 References

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