**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

It is universally accepted that, marriage is the union between a man and a woman (Arneson, 2010). Marriage is a universal institution, which is recognized and respected all over the world. Therefore, marriage is a contract whereby the parties enter into a legal relationship involving rights and obligations. As a social institution, marriage is governed by the social, religious and legal norms of the society. Consequently, the sanctity of marriage is a well-accepted principle in the world community. Marriage is the root of the family and of society. The domestic relation laws of most states and particularly of the state of New York define marriage as ‘a civil contract to which the consent of the parties is essential. Unlike most European countries, two systems of marriage are recognized in Nigeria- the monogamous and polygamous systems. These two systems differ fundamentally in character and incidents.

A monogamous marriage in Nigeria is the same as in England. It is the marriage which is described as ‘.....the voluntary union for life of one man and woman to the exclusion of all others’ (Izunwa, 2015), while a polygamous marriage may be defined as a voluntary union for life of one man with one or several wives. It is essential characteristic is the capacity of the man to take as many wives as he pleases. The character and the incidents of the system are governed by customary laws. Marriage is generally recognized by a [state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_(polity)), n [organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization), a religious authority, a [tribal group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribe), a local [community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community) or peers. Marriages can be performed in a secular [civil ceremony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_marriage) or in a religious setting where a clergy or congregations of religious faith communities marry couples; it is a religious rite/ceremony whereas, [Civil marriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_marriage) is a marriage without religious content carried out by a government institution in accordance with the [marriage laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriage_law) of the jurisdiction, and recognized as creating the rights and obligations intrinsic to matrimony(Collins dictionary of law  (Andrew, 2011). In some society such as the US, a marriage is only legal with the signing of a civil marriage license. Many couples get married by a judge or other public officiant. They do not need to go to a church, synagogue or mosque in order to marry. However, some government has made the process simpler by allowing religious leaders to perform a religious wedding and to act as a civil officiant (Family Code Section 360, USA). The religious leader must sign the civil marriage license before witnesses and the couple for the marriage to be legal. To this end, marriage registration stands as a core data in a nation’s registration (registry) system among other data such as birth and resident records of her citizen.

**Divorce**, also known as **dissolution of marriage**, is the termination of a marriage or marital union, the canceling and/or reorganizing of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thus dissolving the bonds of matrimony between a married couple under the rule of law of the particular country and/or state. Divorce laws vary considerably around the world, but in most countries divorce requires the sanction of a court or other authority in a legal process, which may involve issues of alimony (spousal support), child custody, child visitation / access, parenting time, child support, distribution of property, and division of debt. In most countries, monogamy is required by law, so divorce allows each former partner to marry another person; where polygyny is legal but polyandry is not, divorce allows the woman to marry a new husband.

Divorce should not be confused with annulment, which declares the marriage null and void; with legal separation or *de jure* separation (a legal process by which a married couple may formalize a *de facto* separation while remaining legally married) or with *de facto separation* (a process where the spouses informally stop cohabiting). Reasons for divorce vary, from sexual incompatibility or lack of independence for one or both spouses to a personality clash

Grounds for divorce vary widely from country to country. Marriage may be seen as a contract, a status, or a combination of these. Where it is seen as a contract, the refusal or inability of one spouse to perform the obligations stipulated in the contract may constitute a ground for divorce for the other spouse. In contrast, in some countries (such as Sweden, Finland,Australia,New Zealand),divorce is purely no fault. Many jurisdictions offer both the option of a *no fault* divorce as well as an *at fault* divorce. .

Though divorce laws vary between jurisdictions, there are two basic approaches to divorce: fault based and no-fault based. However, even in some jurisdictions that do not require a party to claim fault of their partner, a court may still take into account the behavior of the parties when dividing property, debts, evaluating custody, shared care arrangements and support. In some jurisdictions one spouse may be forced to pay the attorney's fees of another spouse.

Laws vary as to the waiting period before a divorce is effective. Also, residency requirements vary. However, issues of division of property are typically determined by the law of the jurisdiction in which the property is located

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Manual arrangement of data documentation has for quite some time been in presence went with its various burdens, for example, insistency in information section, tedious and absence of security etc. Marriage registration in Nigeria still take after the same quality of manual documentation close by other related procedures. Usually as dictated by the local, state and federal marriage registry, intending couple are required to fill different kind’s form containing various fields (names, photos, place of residence etc.) after which are requested to return after 21 days to receive confirmation to proceed with marriage plans. This has been grossly ineffective as married people go to places far from their residence to conduct secret marriage with other people. Also, on the day of the ceremony the couple alongside other couple is mandated undergo another form of documentation. Clearly this system of marriage arrangement is ineffective, ambiguous and time consuming. Accounting for lost records is another disadvantage of this system. However, the new system proposed by this study will eliminate the deficiencies of the manual method as it will provide an electronic system where various information of couple will be entered and viewed in any part of the world.

**1.3 MOTIVATION TO THE STUDY**

This study is motivated by the will to improve the Information System structure in a typical Nigerian organization. Also the defects in the old method of carrying out functions have made the process ambiguous and ineffective. So planning and executing a complement system will be a great accomplishment. Also, personally this project was motivated by the desire to face challenges in solving unsolved problems, the desire to get intellectual joy of doing creative work, and the desire to be of service to the society.

**1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Generally, the objective of this research work is to develop an information management system for the collection of married /divorced couple in Edo state, it is aimed at:

1. Finding out the possibility of having a well managed and centralized database of marriage records .
2. Instructing and enhancing the experience of those that will be appointed to handle the everyday running of the framework.

**1.5 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of this study is to thoroughly check the viability of the idea of electronic (computerized) documentation of marriage contract in Edo State.

**1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The areas covered by this study include:

* Review (study) of existing information system architecture as it relates to marriage and civil right registry around the world.
* Analysis of the current state of manual marriage documentation in Orede L.G.A council and developing a better framework.

**1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The advent of computer and internet has brought a huge advancement on how the world interconnects with one another. Now, with the aid of digitalized information system data and information can be accessed from any part of the world. The end product of this framework is going to change the outlook of marriage registry process in the Nigeria, thereby leading to a faster, reliable and secure marriage registration process as well as other vital statistics about married and divorced couples. The information that forms the document of this study is going to be available for other research work. Also, emerging data and records will serve as tools of factual evidence for lawyers and other civil right activist.

**1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This research work was faced with a lot of difficulties. Time constraint was one of the limiting factors in carrying out this study.

Lack of adequate Finance posed a little bit of problem. The extent in which data could be collected from the registrar’s office there at the council also constituted a problem. Irregularities in power supply also dealt harshly with the researcher.

**1.9 ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK**

Organization of the project was based on the content of the project. Chapter One contains the introductory part which briefly introduces the topic of the project. Also in this chapter are background of the study, aim and objectives, methodology, motivation, purpose, scope and limitation of the study. Chapter Two of the project surveys other written literatures on marriage, marriage registry as well as civil rights of citizen and its related statistics. Chapter Three analyzes the existing system. The analysis includes problems incurred by the existing system and then the design of a new system which proffer solutions to the problems encounter by the old system. It also covers the advantages of the new system over the old system. Chapter Four is about the requirements needed by the new system for it to function properly. It also covers the area of system implementation and program testing. Finally Chapter Five comprises of summary, conclusion, and recommendations.

**1.11 DEFINITION OF BASIC TERMS**

**DHTML:** Dynamic Hypertext Mark-up Language. It is a combination of HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, JavaScript and Macromedia Flash MX used to create animated and interactive websites.

**HTML:** For creating Hypertext Mark-up Language and secure hypertext for client-side scripting language in Website design.

**PHP:** (Archaic: Personal Home page). Hypertext Preprocessor. These languages work closely with the Web server to interpret the requests made from the World Wide Web, process these requests, interact with other programs on the server to fulfill the requests, and then indicate to the Web server exactly what to serve to the client’s browser.

**SQL:** Structured Query Language, basically used in querying the databases to retrieve, updates, and review database

**CSS:** Cascading Style Sheet. A client-side scripting language, used in styling the Web Pages for a greater user-experience.

**ASP:**  Active Server Pages. A server-side scripting language like the PHP.

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**SERVER:** A specific application, called a Web server, will be responsible for hosting the application.

**NOTEPAD++**: This is an advanced text editor used in writin programming codes for various languages.

**APACHE:** A server technology, designed to assist the webmaster in utilizing database and Server technology.

**WINDOWS:** An operating system built by Microsoft.

**KU-BAND:** A network communication system that connects a station to the internet.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Marriage, according to thesaurus- a world renowned encyclopedia and dictionary defined marriage as the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law. It is a legally sanction contract between a man and a woman. Entering into a marriage contract changes the legal status of both parties, giving husband and wife new obligations. Public policy is strongly in favor of marriage based on the belief that it preserves the family unit (Yen, 2011).

Traditionally, marriage has been viewed as vital to the preservation of morals and civilization ([Burger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_E._Burger), 2011). It also stress that the principle upon which the institution of marriage is founded is that a husband has the obligation to support a wife, and that a wife has the duty to serve the husband. In the past, this has meant that the husband has the duty to provide a safe house, to pay for all necessities such as food and clothing, and to live in the house. A wife’s obligation has traditionally entailed maintaining a home, living in the home, having sexual relations with her husband and rearing the couple’s children. Changes in the society have modified these marital roles to a considerable degree as married women have joined the workforce in large numbers, and more married men have involved in child rearing (Vucheva, 2013).

Ancient and medieval philosophers such as Pluto, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas expressing their view on the subject of marriage stated that ‘Marriage’ can be refer to a legal contract and civil status, a religious rite, and a social practice, all of which vary by legal jurisdiction, religious doctrine, and culture (Andrew, 2011). History shows considerable variation in marital practices: monogamy and polygamy has been widely practiced, some societies have approved of extra-marital sex and, arguably, recognized same-sex marriages, and religious or civil officiation has not always been the norm (Papadaki, 2010). More fundamentally, while the contemporary Western ideal of marriage involves a relationship of love, friendship, or companionship, marriage historically functioned primarily as an economic and political unit used to create kinship bonds, control inheritance, and share resources and labor.

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Divorce should not be confused with annulment, which declares the marriage null and void; with legal separation or *de jure* separation (a legal process by which a married couple may formalize a *de facto* separation while remaining legally married) or with *de facto separation* (a process where the spouses informally stop cohabiting). Reasons for divorce vary, from sexual incompatibility or lack of independence for one or both spouses to a personality clash.

**2.2 HISTORICAL ORIENTATION OF MARRIAGE**

Setting the agenda for contemporary debate, ancient and medieval philosophers raised recurring themes in the philosophy of marriage: the relation between marriage and the state, the role of sex and procreation in marriage, and the gendered nature of spousal roles. Their works reflect evolving, and overlapping, ideas of marriage as an economic or procreative unit, a religious sacrament, a contractual association, and a relationship of mutual support.

In his depiction of the ideal state, Plato (427–347 BCE) described a form of marriage contrasting greatly with actual marriage practices of his time. He argued that, just as male and female watchdogs perform the same duties, men and women should work together, and, among Guardians, ‘wives and children (should be held) in common’ (The Republic, ca. 375–370 BCE, 423e–424a). To orchestrate eugenic breeding, temporary marriages would be made at festivals, where matches, apparently chosen by lot, would be secretly arranged by the Rulers. Resulting offspring would be taken from biological parents and reared anonymously in nurseries. Plato's reason for this radical restructuring of marriage was to extend family sympathies from the nuclear family to the state itself: the abolition of the private family was intended to discourage private interests at odds with the common good and the strength of the state.

Aristotle (384–322 BCE) sharply criticized this proposal as unworkable. On his view, Plato errs in assuming that the natural love for one's own family can be transferred to all fellow-citizens. The state arises from component parts, beginning with the natural procreative union of male and female. It is thus a state of families rather than a family state, and its dependence on the functioning of individual households makes marriage essential to political theory. The Aristotelian idea that the stability of society depends on the marital family influenced Hegel, Rawls, and Sandel, among others. Aristotle also disagreed with Plato on gender roles in marriage, and these views too would prove influential. Marriage, he argued, is properly structured by gender.

In contrast to the ancients, whose philosophical discussion of sex and sexual love did not confine it to marriage, Christian philosophers introduced a new focus on marriage as the sole permissible context for sex, marking a shift from viewing marriage as primarily a political and economic unit. Since the late twentieth century, major social changes in Western countries have led to changes in the demographics of marriage, with the age of first marriage increasing, fewer people marrying, and more couples choosing to cohabit rather than marry. For example, the number of marriages in Europe decreased by 30% from 1975 to 2005 (Vucheva, 2013). In most cultures (i.e among the Africans), married women had very few rights of their own, being considered, along with the family's children, the property of the husband; as such, they could not own or inherit property, or represent themselves legally (more like a coverture) (Vucheva, 2013). In Europe, the United States, and other places in the developed world, beginning in the late 19th century and lasting through the 21st century, marriage has undergone gradual legal changes, aimed at improving the rights of the wife. These changes included giving wives legal identities of their own, abolishing the right of husbands to physically discipline their wives, giving wives property rights, liberalizing divorce laws, providing wives with reproductive rights of their own, and requiring a wife's consent when sexual relations occur. These progressions have happened fundamentally in Western nations and there are trust that the creating scene will soon or are stepping in same heading among developing nations (Ember, Carol R. 2011).

**2.3 THE WESTERN VIEW AND TYPES OF MARRIAGE**

The type, functions, and characteristics of marriage vary from culture to culture, and can change over time. In general there are two types: civil marriage and religious marriage, and typically marriages employ a combination of both (religious marriages must often be licensed and recognized by the state, and conversely civil marriages, while not sanctioned under religious law, are nevertheless respected). Marriages between people of differing religions are called interfaith marriages, while marital conversion, a more controversial concept than interfaith marriage, refers to the religious conversion of one partner to the other's religion for sake of satisfying a religious requirement (Bedner, & Huis, 2010). For the Americans and Europeans, in the 21st century, legally recognized marriages are formally presumed to be monogamous (although some pockets of society accept polygamy socially, if not legally, and some couples choose to enter into open marriages (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2010). In these countries, divorce is relatively simple and socially accepted (Kelleher, Susan, 2013). Study shows that the prevailing view toward marriage today is that it is based on a legal covenant recognizing emotional attachment between the partners and entered into voluntarily.

In the West, marriage has evolved from a life-time covenant that can only be broken by fault or death to a contract that can be broken by either party at will (Robert, 2013). Other shifts in Western marriage since World War I include:

* There emerged a preference for maternal custody of children after divorce, as custody was more often settled based on the best interests of the child, rather than strictly awarding custody to the parent of greater financial means (Luscombe, 2010).
* Both spouses have a formal duty of spousal support in the event of divorce (no longer just the husband).
* Out of wedlock children have the same rights of support as legitimate children
* In most countries, rape within marriage is illegal and can be punished
* Spouses may no longer physically abuse their partners and women retain their legal rights upon marriage.
* In some jurisdictions, property acquired since marriage is not owned by the title-holder. This property is considered marital and to be divided among the spouses by community property law or equitable distribution via the courts (Yen, Hope, 2010).
* Marriages are more likely to be a product of mutual love, rather than economic necessity or a formal arrangement among families.
* Remaining single by choice is increasingly viewed as socially acceptable and there is less pressure on young couples to marry. Marriage is no longer obligatory.
* Interracial marriage is no longer forbidden (Kunz, 2011).

**2.4 TYPES OF MARRIAGES UNDER NIGERIAN LAW**

The legal concept of marriage has been expanded to include marriage between a man and a man and between a woman and a woman in some jurisdictions but for the purpose of this study, no discussions will be made on it as same sex marriage is illegal in Nigeria (Itoro, 2014). Basically there are three different types of marriage that a man and a woman can contract in Nigeria. They are:

1. Statutory Marriage
2. Customary Marriage
3. Islamic Marriage

**2.4.1 Statutory Marriage**

This type of marriage is in accordance with the Marriage Act which is a federal legislation which makes provisions for the celebration of marriages in Nigeria. It is clear that the Act is designed only for the celebration of marriage between a man and a woman, and the marriage has to be a monogamous one Nwogugu (2010). A monogamous marriage has been defined in section 18 of the Interpretation Act; law of the federation 1990 states as follows:

A marriage which is recognized by the law of the place where it is contracted is a voluntary union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others during the continuance of the marriage. Parties will be deemed to have the capacity to marry if they satisfy the marriage Registrar of the following requirements.

**Age:** The Marriage Act does not specify any minimum age limit. It merely states that unless a party is a widow or widower, there is need to obtain the written consent of either the parents or guardians where such person is under the age of twenty one years (Larson, 2014). The Act further provides in section 49 that whoever shall marry or assist any person to marry a minor under the age of twenty one years, not being a widow or widower, shall be liable to imprisonment for two years.

**Consent:** Under statutory marriage, parental consents of both the male and female parties is a legal requirement but only in cases where either or both of the parties are under the age of twenty one years (Nwogugu, 2010). The Marriage Act is silent in relation to the consent of parties themselves but the Matrimonial Causes Act (MCA), 1970 provides for the ‘real consent’ of the parties, that is, consent obtained without ‘duress or fraud’.

**Subsisting Marriage:** Parties will lack the capacity to embark on a statutory marriage if either of them is already married under the Act to another person and the marriage has not been dissolved by any court of law (Aduba, 2010). Also, section 33 (1) of the Marriage Act provides that no marriage in Nigeria shall be valid where either of the parties thereto at the time of the celebration of such marriage is married by native law or custom to any other person other than the person with whom such marriage is had. It is therefore clear that unless the Registrar is satisfied that there is no subsisting statutory or customary law marriage on the part of any of the parties wishing to marry under the Act (Aduba, 2010), he shall not issue them with a certificate to marry under the Act.

**Kindred and Affinity:** Persons intending to get married must ensure that there is no impediment of kindred or affinity between them. The list of prohibited degrees of consanguinity and affinity applies to statutory marriages and it is provided in Schedule 1of the MCA (Aduba, 2010). A Registrar will not issue a certificate to marry unless he is satisfied by reason of a sworn affidavit by the parties that there is no such impediment. A marriage between two persons who are within the prohibited degree of consanguinity or affinity is void. Under section 4 of the MCA, where persons are within the prohibited degrees of affinity and desire to marry, they may apply in writing to a Judge for permission to do so and if the Judge is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances, the Judge may by an order permit the parties to marry one another.

Marriage under the Marriage Act may be celebrated in any licensed place of worship by any recognized Minister of the church, however before the Minister of the church celebrates the marriage, the couple shall have delivered to him the certificate of the Registrar of Marriages or the Registrar’s license authorizing such marriage (Aduba, 2010). Alternatively, the couple may decide to celebrate their marriage in the Registry before a duly licensed Registrar appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Marriage Act.

**2.4.2 Customary Marriage**

There are various ethnic communities in Nigeria and the various ethnic groups have their different marriage customs. There are however some generally accepted customs common to most of them which will be discussed here. Marriage under customary law creates a relationship not only between a man and woman but also between the two families involved (Beregudo, 2011). The wife is regarded by the members of her husband’s family as having been married not solely to her husband but into the family and therefore a member of their family. The husband on the other hand is not so regarded by his wife’s maiden family, even though there exists a continuing relationship with that family.

Marriage under Customary Law is largely polygamous. A polygamous marriage is the union of one man with several wives. There is no limit to the number of wives a man can marry under customary law (Beregudo, 2011). It must be noted however that many couples initially get married under customary law and thereafter marry under the Act. This is valid provided the marriage is between the same persons. The legal implication of the marriage is that it would have to remain a monogamous marriage (Beregudo, 2011). Section 47 of the Marriage Act provides that where a man is married under customary law with one woman and subsequently marries another different woman under the Marriage Act, the second marriage is void.

After intentions to marry has been communicated between the two parties concerned and also between their respective families, discreet inquiries may be carried out by each of the families in order to discover facts about the parties. These facts may sometimes be based on the family’s social and health background as well as the character of the party. For example, investigations may be carried out to find out if the family concerned has any contagious or hereditary disease such as mental illness; whether the person concerned has bad habits such as stealing or lying. Some of the facts found may constitute bars to the proposed marriage.

Generally the following are pre-requisites for a valid customary marriage:

**Betrothal:** When the families concerned are convinced that there are no facts that could hinder the marriage, the betrothal, which is the formal engagement of the parties will now take place. The engagement usually consists of a formal process of agreement to marry between the prospective spouses, the giving of consents by their parents or guardians and the giving of gifts (in money and/or kind) by the man to the woman and her family. After the betrothal then actual marriage takes place (Nwogugu, 2010).

**Capacity of the parties:** Most of the customary laws in Nigeria do not prescribe any age for the solemnization of customary-law marriage. This lacuna in the rule of customary law has to a large extent encouraged a high incidence of child marriage, with all its attendant evils (Nwogugu, 2010). In some areas, child betrothal is rampant but marriage does not in fact take place until the parties have attained the age of puberty. There is no doubt that there were a lot of child marriages under customary law because there was no law against child marriage (most of which occur in the northern part of the country) but since the passing of the Child’s Rights Act 2003, no marriage of persons below the age of eighteen is allowed under Nigerian Law - section 21 of the Act.

**Consent of the parties and parents:** The intending couple have to give their consent to a customary marriage. The Supreme Court in the case of Osamwonyi v. Osamwonyi 1973 NMLR 26 held that under Bini Native Law and Customs, the consent of the parties was necessary for a valid marriage under customary law (Nwogugu, 2010). Parental consent is also necessary before a valid customary marriage can take place. Furthermore, under section 361 of the Criminal Code Act, it is an offence punishable with seven years’ imprisonment for any person who with the intent to marry a female person of any age or to cause her to be married by any other person takes her away or detains her against her will (Nwogugu, 2010).

**Marriage consideration/bride price:** Marriage consideration otherwise called bride price is one of the essential requirements of a valid customary marriage. The bride price includes any gift or payment in the form of money, natural produce or any kind of property given by an intending husband and his family to the parents or guardian of a female person on account of the marriage (Itoro, 2014).

**Solemnization of the marriage:** Solemnization or celebration is an essential ingredient of a valid customary law marriage. It generally involves breaking kola, pouring libation, sharing drinks and other activities. The bride is invariably handed over to the bridegroom and his family (Itoro, 2014). In the case of Omoga v. Badejo 1985 NCNLR 1075, the Court held that there must be a formal handing over of the bride to the groom in the presence of the two families and witnesses and the acceptance and taking away of the bride to her husband’s house for marriage under Yoruba Native Law and Custom, to be valid (Itoro, 2014).

**Consummation of the marriage:** Consummation of the marriage under Native Law and Custom is essential. Consummation simply means having sex, with a view to making a marriage complete. In traditional societies, the very night of the marriage is eagerly awaited by the groom’s family as he is expected to announce his exploits to his family and state if his wife was found intact or not (Itoro, 2014).

**2.4.3 Islamic Law Marriage**

Islamic marriage like customary marriage is a polygamous one which allows the man to take up to four wives if he desires (Oji, 2014). It possesses most of the features of customary law marriage already discussed. The principal requirements of a valid Islamic law marriage are:

**Consent of the parties:** The parties to Islamic law marriage must freely consent to the union. However, under the Maliki School of Islamic Law, a father has the right to conclude a marriage on behalf of his infant sons and virgin girls. The ceremony is called the Ijbar (Oji, 2014). The exercise of this right may be ameliorated by the fact that the child has the option to repudiate the marriage contract on the attainment of the age of puberty. However, a father loses his right of Ijbar where he allows his daughter to choose a husband from among her suitors.

**Parental consent:** As in other systems of customary law, parental consent is necessary for the valid celebration of marriage under Islamic law.

**Payment of the Saduquat:** Saduquat (Sadaki) or dower is the bride price received by the parents of the bride to be. It is the entitlement of the woman and not that of her parents, though it is paid through the parents.

**Solemnization:** The marriage needs to be solemnized by a Mallam in the presence of at least two upright Moslem witnesses.

The very foundation of every just and morally upright society is dependent upon the nature and success of the institution of marriage as reflected in that society. Though the concept and understanding of marriage may differ in different societies as is seen in Nigeria, where the law recognizes three distinctly different types of marriages, it is important to note that these differences do not necessarily negate the importance and essence of marriage which is the union between a man and a woman (Oji, 2014).

**2.5 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE**

The essential difference between a Christian and a civil wedding lies in the heart of the definition or in the basis of the union. In a civil marriage, the marriage is, aside from the wedding ceremony, a contractual agreement. A civil marriage meets the state’s necessary legal requirements so that the newly forged bond between spouses will provide a basis for the exchange of property and will be recognized in the eyes of the law (Sanderson, 2010).

A Christian marriage on the other hand is "a permanent covenant and sacrament where Christ is at center," Siegfriedt said. While a civil wedding pronounces the union of husband and wife before a legal authority, and often family and friends, a Christian wedding celebrates the union before God. In addition, a Christian wedding carries the implication that the marriage is forever, and that the marriage will be celebrated according to the teachings of the Church.

The Episcopal Church expects lifelong committed relationships to be characterized by fidelity; monogamy; mutual affection and respect; careful, honest communication; and the holy love which enable those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God, Siegfriedt said, citing the General Convention’s Resolution on Human Sexuality (Garlick, 2011). Many faith communities allow only Christian weddings to be held in their sanctuary. Some congregations may permit clergy to officiate at Christian wedding ceremonies in other settings, such as private homes or outdoors, or to perform a blessing of a civil union, said the Rev. Anne V. Sutherland, a retired clergy member of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church, U.S.A.

**2.6 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS WITHIN CIVIL MARRIAGE AND REGISTERED PARTNERSHIP**

Being legally married within the context of civil registration or in a registered partnership entails certain rights and obligations. These include maintenance and rights of inheritance;

**Use of Each Other’s Surname:** You may use your partner’s surname. This may be in combination with your own surname, but not in official documents (such as your passport or driving license). You must always use your own surname in these documents.

**Not mandatory to testify in court cases:** You are not required to testify against your spouse or registered partner in a court case. This is known as the right to decline to give evidence (Burger, 2011). The right to decline to give evidence also applies to members of your family and members of your spouse’s or registered partner’s family.

**Performing legal acts:** You and your spouse need each other’s permission for certain acts or decisions, for example the sale of a house in which both of you lives (Burger, 2011).

**Maintenance:** You and your spouse or registered partner has a responsibility to support each other financially. You both have a duty to provide for each other’s maintenance.

**Rights of inheritance:** Married and registered partners are each other’s legal heirs. You may, however, appoint someone else as your heir in your will (Kentucky. 2012).

**Entitlement to Pension:** A pension scheme enables you to build up rights to an old age pension. If you divorce or terminate your registered partnership, the pension rights built up during your marriage or registered partnership will be divided between you, unless you agree otherwise (Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, 2011). Many pension schemes also enable you to build up rights to a surviving dependents’ pension. A surviving dependents’ pension is an allowance you receive if your spouse or registered partner (who built up the pension rights) dies, (Kentucky, 2012).

**2.7 HOW TO OBTAIN A CIVIL MARRIAGE RITE IN NIGERIA**

Civil marriage is very important as it is recognized by the laws of Nigeria and can on its own serve as proof of a marriage contract between two people (Nwogugu, 2010). The Civil marriage is protected under the Marriage Act, Chapter 218 of Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 (An Act to make provisions for the celebration of marriages). There are Two (2) types of Marriage Registries in Nigeria:

**2.7.1 Federal Marriage Registries**

Lagos - Ikoyi Registry (covers all those resident in Lagos, South-South, South East and South West).

Abuja - Wuse 2 (covers all those resident in the Northern region).

**2.7.2 All States have various Registries at the State and Local Government level**

The registry is a hub of activities throughout week days, as the choice of registering marriage by most couple has largely increase because of its reputation and benefits. Activities like swearing of oath, obtaining of marriage license, counseling, and actual marriage ceremonies. Tuesdays are for oath swearing, while Wednesday through Fridays are for contracting marriages. However should a couple decide to have their wedding on Mondays or Saturdays, it comes at a fee. The registry does cater for the entire resident within its jurisdiction. Various activities are carried out at the registry. There are two distinct type of a marriage been contracted at the registry aside the typical Christian and Muslim marriages. There’s the marriage between Nigerian to Nigerian and Nigerian to non-Nigerian marriage or Non-Nigerian to Non-Nigerian (Nwogugu, 2010). The steps below gives a guide on the proceedings that one should consider when seeking to wed at the registry (Nigerian to Nigerian)

**Step 1 (Forms)**

Obtain and fill out form called “Notice of Marriage”. When filling out this form, all birth names of couples should be boldly written with both surnames underlined. One (1) passport of each couple should also be attached (it is worth noting that a stipulated fee is charged on submission of this form).

Return to the registry after 21 days with already filled forms. You would be given another set of forms “Affidavit on Application for Certificate”. This form is to be submitted with the birth certificate of both parties (in absent of a birth certificate a Declaration of Age can be presented). The next form to be filled is the Certificate of Bachelorhood/Spinsterhood. If couples had been previously married an Affidavit of Marriage should be presented instead of the Certificate of Bachelorhood/Spinsterhood. If one or both couple had children before this marriage, an Affidavit should also be presented stating the number of children. On enquiry why this was, I was told that is was for the purpose of fairness and transparency (please note that a stipulated fee is charged for these forms). A date for interview for couple is set

**Step 2 (Requirements)**

1. You are required to notify the registry on your preferred wedding date.
2. You are required to provide two witness from both parties.(please note it’s not genders specific)
3. You are expected to present 2 rings(male and female) or a bible/Quran as the case may be

**Step 3 (What to Wear)**

1. Wedding dresses and Suits
2. Native attire
3. Corporate ensemble
4. (Please note that short sleeves, shorts and jeans are not allowed)

**2.7.3 Nigerian to Non-Nigerian/ non-Nigerian to non-Nigerian**

**Step 1 (Forms)**

* 1. Obtain a form called the “particular for special marriage license. This form aims at getting enough information and data about the couple.
  2. Written application for special marriage license by either spouse
  3. Birth certificates or attestation of age of the couple from the national population commission (for Nigerians only)
  4. Scanned copies of data pages of international passport of the couple and stamped entry page (where applicable)
  5. One recent passport of the couple (each)
  6. Certificate or letter of identification from state of origin (Nigerians only)
  7. Sworn affidavit of bachelorhood or spinsterhood from a law court or recognized institution with the evidence of a payment of prescribed fee or If couples had been previously married an Affidavit of Marriage or;
  8. Sworn affidavit/evidence of single with child/children from law court or recognized institution with evidence of payment of prescribed fees.
  9. While foreign nationals should provide any of A-D (as applicable) above from equivalent/institution in their countries.
  10. Payment of prescribed fees.

Note: You are to provide original copies of the above documents on the day of your interview.

**2.8 THE NEED FOR PROOF OF MARRIAGE**

One of the most important events in an adult’s life is getting married. After the wedding, proof of marriage becomes an important part of an individual’s vital statistics records. A marriage certificate should be stored in a secure location, for example a safety deposit box or an electronic data bank, with other important documents, such as birth certificates, social security cards, and medical documentation, to name a few; Where retrieval is possible (Vucheva, 2013). Proof of marriage documentation is important for a variety of different identification needs. For example, if a woman decides to take her husband’s name, she will need her marriage certificate in order to update her driver’s license, social security card, and other official forms of identification. It can also be an important part of estate planning to show proof of next of kin and designation of beneficiaries. For those who are tracing their family’s genealogy, marriage certificates are an incredibly important part of a family’s history (Kunz, 2011). Also in the case of natural disaster, theft, or other unexpected issue, there are times when it is necessary to acquire replacement marriage records.

**2.9 THE PLAE OF INFORMATION SYSTEM IN MARRIAGE REGISTRY IN NIGERIA**

In a world of vast technological advancement, records of marriages conducted in Nigeria’s premier civil marriage registry located in Ikoyi, Lagos; Wuse, Abuja and the various state and local government registries are manually documented, a situation expert say could lead to loss of much treasured records, (Oyedokun, 2016). The Civil marriage is protected under the Marriage Act, Chapter 218 of Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 (An Act to make provisions for the celebration of marriages). People exchange marital vows daily and it is shocking to know that the government is not taking full advantage of opportunities the smart office presents. Sadly, they do not even have a functional web portal. As part of gathering information for this study. It is observed that the registry office at the local government lacked common computers. All that is available is an archaic typewriter left behind by the colonial masters. It is gathered that the colonial masters established and managed the registry while they were here and the left it to Nigerians. With advancement in technology, there are better ways the government could better the lot of the ministry after 52 years of the colonial masters’ exit from the shores of the country. In instances when people need to get something from their records, officials will have to search through the entire records, one after the other and this is tedious. The search may take a whole week, two weeks or four weeks, said a worker at the registry who pleaded for anonymity.

Oyedokun (2016), president of Records and Information Management Awareness Foundation (RIMA), a not-for-profit organization sensitizing the public on the benefits of proper records management with IT applications, said under the prevailing circumstance, valuable documents could get lost. If they do not have proper document control and management platform it could lead to loss of time, hence retrieving of documents will be cumbersome. There is also the tendency of loss of records and documents. “In addition, there will be a waste of manpower. Due to the volume of work they generate most of the workers will be most times engaged on sorting out one document or the other, thereby reducing productivity, because lesser time will be given to other issues. In address the prevailing situation, the registry need to have ICT infrastructure in place. The management would also need to carry out a research on current activities; capture the current manual processing which can be transferred to electronic process. A web portal should be develop; this, which has multiple advantages. First, it will reduce the crowed that come for verifications; hence people can at different places check position of their papers or applications. By so doing the Registry would have enhanced its revenue base, because people need to buy scratch cards to log on the portal.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.1 INTRODUCTION**

Research methods are the different systems, plans and calculations utilized as a part of research. Every one of the methods utilized by a researcher amid a research study is termed as research methods. They are basically arranged, experimental and esteem nonpartisan. They incorporate hypothetical methods, exploratory studies, numerical plans, measurable methodologies, and so forth. Research methods help us gather tests, information and discover an answer for an issue. Especially, investigative research technique call for clarifications taking into account gathered realities, estimations and perceptions and not on thinking alone. Research methodology is a precise approach to take care of an issue. It is an exploration of concentrate how research is to be done. Basically, the techniques by which researchers go about their work of portraying, clarifying and anticipating result are called research methodology. It is additionally characterized as the investigation of methods by which information is picked up.

The kind of examination used to gather required data for composing and outlining of the result of this study is descriptive research. This sort of research incorporates review and truths discovering enquiries of various types (Lebow, 2012). The data for this study was accumulated by analyzing the condition of information documentation as it exists at the present. The old method for enlisting marriage at the council will be investigated through individual meeting and observation. Another system will be design and tried with chose candidate taken indiscriminately.

This is a basic research and will employ a survey of design of “data collection” and “investigation”. An extensive survey of the Marriage registry, in Oredo Local Government Council, Benin City will be conducted to study the possibility transforming its registration system to a computerized one an having it accessible globally through the internet. Thus, it becomes important to state that this research work is mainly concerned with data collected.

**3.2 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

Exact information can give an unmistakable comprehension about the useful necessity of the present information entry system and finding on whether the prerequisites and target that have been laid out are being accomplished. This can help either to enhance the current system or re-configuration of another system. In doing this, we apply essential and auxiliary methods of social affair information about the current and proposed system. The data used in this study were collected from two sources of data collection, the primary and secondary source. The primary sources include, the direct observation, interview and examination of documents about the existing system while the secondary source includes: journals, magazines, textbooks, etc.

**3.2.1 Primary Data Collection**

In using primary data collection, the researcher gathered the information himself utilizing subjective and quantitative strategies. The key point here is that the information he gathered were related to the issue being tackled. However, there are numerous strategies for gathering essential information. The primary techniques utilized as a part of this work were interviews and perception (observation).

**Interview Proceedings:** In completing the interviews in the ministry, many personnel who were worker as imminent couple that were available gave consent and reasonable and related information were gathered. These responses will form the basis of the solution that new information system will offer. Phone calls as well as emails were made to get in touch with the registrar and other key office holders that were unavailable at the time of the interview.

Some of the questions asked include:

* Please sir/ma can you please introduce yourself and the department you represent in the ministry.
* How long have you been working in Oredo Local Government Marriage registry and what are your experiences using this manual biro-paper method to enter records?
* What are some of the major challenges that you and your colleague face on a daily basis as regards to your job routine?
* How do you handle dissension from prospective imminent couple?
* How fast is the system while retrieving/storing information?
* How secured is the system?
* How would you feel if the system is centralized and fully computerized?
* How would you like the enhance system to resemble?

After the interview process, It is observe that 95% of responds indicated that congestion of office, time factor, Ambiguity (storage and retrieval of vital statistics), as well as insecurity of those statistics were major challenges.

**Observation Method:** In addition to the interview the researcher also carried out through observation of the process, this enables the study to experience direct data and techniques of how the imagined data framework will function. Enough data, realities and discoveries were accumulated amid the perception procedure. This rich-experience outlines the reason for delineating the viewpoint of the information system for the ministry.

**3.2.2 Secondary Data Collection**

The secondary information sources used in this project include reports generated by federal and state marriage registry as well as the ministry of interior affairs. Others include literature search from journals, magazines, records from the council, etc. The researcher likewise took a gander at a few records that give insights about how the current framework is operated. Notes were taken about how the archives were readied and for what reason. Likewise, the way and courses in which data and reports moved/appropriated, rundown of principles, rules, approaches and so forth; utilized as a part of running the framework were considered. Through this strategy, the researcher increased knowledge much about the current issues, check focuses and controls, information stream, handling, examination, rundowns of reports and other helpful data.

**3.3 ANALYSIS OF EXISTING MARRIAGE REGISTRY SYSTEM**

A system is a group of inter-related elements integrated with a common purpose of accepting inputs and producing output through an organized transformation process. Web base information solution for Oredo LGA marriage registry in this case is considered as a system. The system is broken down into the following components namely: inputting of enriched information, manipulation of that information and publishing those information on a web server.

From the interviews and observation carried out by the researcher, it is noted that 90% of the task carried out at the registry are done manually (ink- on paper). Here is the breakdown of those processes:

* Once an imminent couple have decided to have a civil weeding, a Form A otherwise known as notice form will be obtain and in it credentials such as Names, Age, Address, Occupation, Consent( for minor), and signature are filled. To accompany this is two colored passport, one for each person.
* The form is then posted on the **Notice Board** at the registry for 21 days. The notice is also entered in a book called the **Marriage Notice Book**, which may be inspected during office hours without fee. This is to notify the general public of the marital contractual interest of the person’s involved.
* After the expiration of the notice and payment of the **Prescribed Fee** (this differs at each registry), the Registrar would issue a **Form C** after the following criteria has been met and satisfied. Which are:

1. That one of the parties has been resident within the district in which the marriage is intended to be celebrated.
2. That each of the parties to the intended marriage (not being a widower or widow) is twenty-one years old, and if under that age, the consent herein after made requisite has been obtained in writing and is annexed to such affidavit (meaning you have to get written permission/consent from the bride-to-be's parent or legal guardian).
3. That there is not any impediment of kindred or affinity, or any other lawful hindrance to the marriage
4. That neither of the parties to the intended marriage is married by customary law to any person other than the person with whom such marriage is proposed to be contracted.

Once the requirements mentioned above have been confirmed, the couple would swear an affidavit before the registrar or recognized minister of religion. During the sworn affidavit, the registrar would reiterate the above Prohibitive degrees and also explain the penalties involved. Failure to disclose a breach in any of the above makes the defaulter liable to two years imprisonment. Thereafter, the Registrar signs a declaration/affidavit to show that the couple understands the implications under the law and have met and satisfied all that has been required of them.

* Upon proof that there is no lawful impediment to the proposed marriage, and that the necessary consent, if any, to such marriage has been obtained, the Minister will dispense with the giving of notice, issue the certificate, and grant his/her license, known **as Form D**, authorizing the celebration of a marriage between the parties named in such license.

The couple then selects a date for the wedding, usually within three months from the date the notice was placed with the registry.

* The ceremony is usually not longer than 30 minutes. During the proceedings, the Registrar would print the marriage certificates in duplicate and with counterfoils as in the **Form E**. The officiating minister will fill up in duplicate a marriage certificate with the particulars required by Form E, and enter in the counterfoil the number of the certificate, the date of the marriage, names of the parties, and the names of the witnesses.

The certificate will then be signed in duplicate by the officiating minister, by the parties, and by two or more witnesses to the marriage. The minister having also signed his name to the counterfoil will deliver one certificate to the parties, and within seven days, thereafter file the same in his office.

* Every Registrar will then register the marriage in a book called the Marriage Register Book, every certificate of marriage filed in his office according to the **FORM F.**

**3.4.1 Input Analysis**

**The existing system basically records** information that cut across Names, Age, Address, Occupation, status, Consent, Signatures, Photograph and comments from both imminent couple, Registrar, Officiating Minister and witness.

**3.4.2 Output Analysis**

Following the inputted data and time of processing those data at the ministry. The output afterwards is to show the statistics of the married/divorced couple.

**3.5 THE PROBLEMS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM**

Taking a closer look at the working of the method of information processing on ground, one would notice that the process is 95% manual (which is ink- on paper) and 5% computerized (which is basically when they need to print the form E- which is the marriage certificate). However, a close analysis of the daily activities reveals the following problems:

* Timing: Due to a manual framework, each of the registration process is handle by one person, which invariably leads to time wastage.
* Inaccuracy: Manual system of data documentation are never accurate due to human error. Often a times complains are raised by imminent couple and other client of the ministry for incorrect spelling of names, Improper tagging of photos, Improper filling etc.
* Lack of security: This system as at present does not provide security of its records. As a result anyone can have access as long as get hold of the log book which is kept in drawl.
* Inefficiency: The system for managing information here is clearly inefficient following a complaint from one of the directors that the photos published outside do not make much impact. As some persons go to location far from their residence to have another marriage when this one is still processing. He stated that the purpose of publicity is to inform the general public of the intension of the contract entered by the two individual (imminent couple).
* The system lacks reliability: Apart from the fact that records are voluminous and difficult to find, they are often reported missing. This however does not provide room for recovery in case of misfortune that may occur to the couples’ documentations.

**3.6 DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM**

The new system is a digitalized information system for the civil marriage applicants. The system enable the organization to deal with problems usually encounter by the traditional system and also brings reduction in un-necessary exacted labor, cost of printing forms and maintenance. It also provides wide publicity as well as security of records.

**3.6.1 Benefits of the Proposed System**

* Quicker access (or retrieval) to marriage documents without having to check file cabinets that takes a long time to locate documents.
* Portability of the system. The system can be installed in any computer that has the required tools to run the application.
* Reduced file-handling, maintenance, and redundant copying.
* Reduced staff time for tasks including data entry, pulling and shelving files, and making copies of documents for the public.
* The system is very flexible to operate.
* Security of files and documents are much more guaranteed than in the semi-manual system
* Accuracy is ensured and better than the semi-manual system operated at the Oredo LGA.
* The system is more reliable than semi-manual system. It administrator can check whatever operations carried and by who.
* User levels are set up to ensure who does what and at what time.

**3.6.2 Proposed System Specification**

In other for the new system to meets the organization objectives in terms of standard and security, the following design approach is implemented

1. Database Design Specification: This basically contains all the input of the user of the system at all levels. It contains all the client details such as: Name, Age, Address, Occupation ,status etc.
2. Output Design: The end product of the processing. This will enable vital pre-information about the marriage, photos of intending couple , statistics of married and divorced couple.

**3.7 DATABASE DESIGN**

Database configuration is the procedure of delivering a nitty gritty information model of a database. This sensible information model contains all the required coherent and physical outline decisions and physical stockpiling parameters expected to produce a configuration in an information definition dialect, which can then be utilized to make a database. A completely credited information model contains point by point traits for every element. In this work, MYSQL database administration framework is utilized to make the examination framework database. Normalization is a methodical method for guaranteeing that a database structure is suitable for universally useful questioning and free of certain undesirable qualities, for example, insertion, redesign, and cancellation that could prompt loss of information integrity. Schema refinement of the database indicates how the information is standardized and diminishes information deficiency and clashes. Physical outline of the database determines the physical arrangement of the database on the capacity media. This incorporates point by point detail of information components, information sorts, indexing choices and different parameters dwelling in the DBMS information word reference. It is the point by point configuration of a framework that incorporates modules and the database's equipment and programming details of the framework. The accompanying subsections the physical outline of the tables that constitute the database and the ER (entity-relationship model) graphs.

**3.7.1 Table Design Specification**

**Table 3.1:** Couples Details (Form A)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field | Data Type | Description |
| RegID | Varchar | Registration ID |
| Surnames | Varchar | Family Name |
| Middle names | Varchar | Know native name |
| Last Names at birth | Varchar | First name |
| DOB | Date | Date of birth |
| Sex | Varchar | Male and Female |
| status | Varchar | Married or divorced |
| Address | Varchar | Address of the intending couple |
| Mail Address | Varchar | Mailing address |
| Phone No. | Int | Phone number of couple |
| Occupation | Varchar | Occupation/Rank |

**Table 3.2:** Applicant National

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field | Data Type | Description |
| RegID | Varchar | Application No. |
| Nationality | Varchar | Country of Origin |
| State | Varchar | Sate of Origin |
| LGA | Varchar | Local Government Area |

**Table 3.3:** Couples Next of Kin

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field | Type | Description |
| RegID | Varchar | Registration ID |
| Name | Varchar | Name of next of kin |
| Phone Number | Int | Phone no. of next of kin |
| Contact Address | Varchar | Address of next of kin |
| Relationship | Varchar | Relationship of next of kin |

**Table 3.4:** Certificate Detail (Form D)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field | Type | Description |
| RegID | Varchar | Registration ID |
| DOM | Date | Date of marriage |
| Fee | Int | Service charge |
| D.O.I | Varchar | Date of Insurance |
| Name Of Registrar | Varchar | Registrar name |
| Registrar signature | Bignit. | Signature of the Court registrar |
| Officiating Name | Varchar | Marriage official |
| Church Name | Varchar | Name of Church |
| Couple Signature | Bignit | Couple signature |

**3.7.2 E-R Diagram (Entity Relationship Diagram)**

|  |
| --- |
| **Couple nationality** |
| Reg ID |
| Nationality |
| State |
| LGA |

|  |
| --- |
| **Couple Details** |
| RegID |
| Surnames |
| Middle Names |
| Last Names |
| Birth Names |
| Age |
| Sex |
| D.O.B |
| Marital Status |
| Address |
| Occupation |
| Phone No. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Couple next of kin** |
| RegID |
| Names |
| Phone No. |
| Address |
| Relationship |

|  |
| --- |
| **Certificate Details** |
| RegID |
| Date of Marriage |
| Name Registrar |
| Signature of Registrar |
| Officiating Name |
| Church |
| Signature Of Couple |

**Figure 3.1**: E-R Diagram

**3.8 BENEFITS OF PROPOSED SYSTEM**

The ease of using an electronic device over manual process cannot be compared. The following are the advantages of the proposed system over the existing one:

1. It will help to keep the record of marriage and also the record of divorced.
2. It will help to know the actual number or the statistics of divorced and married couples
3. It will provide a fast look up of any couple’s data as it makes use of a database (mysql) to organize data.
4. It will help to eliminate manual ways of keeping record divorced and married couples.
5. It will help to protect loss of couple’s data as all data is backedup in the cloud.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**4.1 DESIGN STANDARD**

In order to achieve a dynamic web development, the programmer made use of **Dynamic Hyper Text Markup Language** (**DHTML**) for client-side scripting and (**PHP**) for the server-side scripting.

A **DHTML** contains tags such as <head><body><tr>, while **PHP** contains tags such as<PHP? <echoes etc. Which tell the browser about the format of the Webpage. A **DHTML** file has an **.html** filename extension, so as PHP has a PHP filename extension. PHP and

DHTML tags can be created on a text editor such as Notepad.

Both DHTML and PHP can be employed in the creation of a dynamic web page and that gives it a unique feature.

Also a server technology APACHE was effectively utilized to hold the database and communicate with the web page effectively. The latest version of apache as built by WAMP Server Technology was used and Structured Query Language (SQL) was used for the databases.

**4.1.1 DHTML**

DHTML stands for Dynamic Hypertext Markup Language. DHML is not a technology in itself; it is a combination of HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, JavaScript and Macromedia Flash MX used to create animated and interactive websites. The main drawback of DHTML is that it is very difficult to develop and debug. During program implementation, the researcher incorporated DHTML in the form of style and web interaction.

**4.1.2 PHP**

PHP belongs to a class of languages known as middleware. These languages work closely with the Web server to interpret the requests made from the World Wide Web, process these requests, interact with other programs on the server to fulfill the requests, and then indicate to the Web server exactly what to serve to the client’s browser. The middleware is where you’ll be doing the vast majority of your work. With a little luck, you can have your Web server up and running without a whole lot of effort. And once it is up and running, you won’t need to fool with it a whole lot. But as you are developing your applications, you’ll spend a lot of time writing code that makes your applications work. In addition to PHP, there are several languages that perform similar functions. Some of the more popular choices are ASP, Perl, and ColdFusion

**4.1.3 Server**

Almost all of the work of Web applications takes place on the server. A specific application, called a Web server, will be responsible for communicating with the browser.

A relational database server stores whatever information the application requires. Finally, you need a language to broker requests between the Web server and the database server; it will also be used to perform programmatic tasks on the information that comes to and from the Web server. But of course none of this is possible without an operating system. The Web server, programming language, and database server you use must work well with your operating system.

**4.1.4 Apache**

The Apache Web server is the most popular Web server there is. It, like Linux, PHP, and MYSQL, is an open-source project. Not surprisingly, Apache works best in UNIX environments, but also runs just fine under Windows. Apache makes use of third-party modules. Because it is open source, anyone with the skill can write code that extends the functionality of Apache. PHP will most often run as an Apache extension, known as an Apache module. Apache is a great Web server. It is extremely quick and amazingly stable.

The most frequently stated complaint about Apache is that, like many pieces of UNIX Software, there are limited graphical tools with which you can manipulate the application. You alter Apache by specifying options on the command line or by altering text files. When you come to Apache for the first time, all this can be a bit opaque. Though Apache works best on UNIX systems, there are also versions that run on Windows operating systems. Nobody, not even the Apache developers, recommends that Apache be run on a busy server under Windows. If you have decided to use the Windows platform for serving Web pages, you’re better off using IIS. But there are conditions under which you’ll be glad Apache does run under Windows. You can run Apache, PHP, and MySQL on a Windows 98 machine and then transfer those applications to Linux with practically no changes to the scripts. This is the easiest way to go if you need to develop locally on Windows but to serve off a UNIX / Apache server.

**4.2 SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION**

A functional information system requires software, Hardware and a communication Network. The software requires a set of instructions that controls a computer’s action. It is a computer program that accomplishes some specific applications or tasks. This software can be purchased or a user can develop the software from software developers. The hardware requirements unlike the software refer to the physical components of the computer i.e. the peripherals in this design. The hardware, software requirements and network requirements for this system are listed below.

**4.3 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

**4.3.1 Software Requirements**

* Apache Xampp server
* Web browser
* Notepad++

**4.3.2 Hardware Requirements**

* Pentium processor (4 or above)
* RAM 2GB)
* Standard keyboard
* Hard disk (40 or above)
* A 1500v Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) .

**4.3.2 Network Requirements**

* Communication link i.e., Point-Point Antenna from a telecommunication company, C-band or resent Ku-band.
* Routers, Bridges and Switches.
* Cables or wireless Transmitters
* Rack or equipment cabinet

**4.4 PROGRAM DESIGN**

Server-side scripting using PHP and client-side scripting using DHTML which is a mark-up language. The application has the following Modules incorporated such as:

* Marriage / Divorce Record Registration Module
* CRUD (CREATE,READ,UPDATE,DELETE) Module for Uploaded Record

Whenever the user clicks on a particular navigation menu, it automatically links to the page requested by the user. In its organization, search Engine giant, Google was incorporated in all the web pages for easy connection or log on to other websites all over the globe.

**4.5 PROGRAM TESTING**

The aim here is to ensure that this program meets its requirements. A user can have a knowledge of what civil marriage is and also know how to undertake it in a matter of clicks. This program can link the user to parts of the globe within a few seconds. At this stage of the work every eventuality has been subjected to the most vigorous examination as envisage on the specification. Since the program is made of mark-up tags i.e. Mark-up languages, the following steps must be adhered to before the program can run:

1. Boot the computer and make sure that Windows Operating System is Installed in the system
2. Click the start button, click on all programs, scroll and click on Accessories and click on Notepad.
3. Write all the required codes or programs on the Notepad and save with a filename and a filename extension of. DHTML or PHP at this juncture the TEXT editor automatically compiles into a HTML/Web document.
4. Queue in data into the database with XAMPP SERVER’S SQL and link to the websites.
5. Open the web browser; go to localhost as provided by the SERVER technology.

**4.6 PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

Developing an information system is a complex but interesting task and every step covering the requirements, compatibilities, capacity, design and growth, operation, and maintenance of the system is important and should be carefully documented. The full details of the problem definition and problem solution which make up the program documents will be made available at the ICT control center-a new department that will be created as soon as this program is installed.

**4.7 TRAINING**

The new system is configured to capacity and will keep running the registry bureau as long as the board exists. In spite of the fact that, guidelines on the most proficient method to run the framework has been clarified in the testing sections. It is central to state obviously here those that are to be prepared in dealing with this framework and what they are to be prepared on. Since information includes equipment, programming, system assets and organization of spread data it implies everybody is to experience a particular preparing i.e., from the ICT wizard to the record guardian, staffs and chiefs**.**

**4.7.1 Training Method and Extent**

ICT staffs will be abreast with the following.

* operating a computer, using soft ware’s i.e., Microsoft office and editors
* Know how to write java scripts, HTML Tags and CSS for styling web pages
* Know proper database management using a well-known language i.e., PHP, MYSQL alongside with web servers e.g., Apache Xampp servers.
* Understand how a computer network works in other to facilitate the constant update of the framework i.e., Wi-Fi routers, bridge, Ku-band receiver etc.

Staffs/Record keepers are to be trained on how to use application interface to update the system with resent and relevant information. Whereas directors are also to be trained on how to log-in into the site and monitor traffics, take counseling sections and so on.

**4.7.2 How to Embark on Training Exercises**

For this framework to work of course, this methodology of training is proposed: The prepared program documentation contains some helpful preparing assets that will serve as aide for the ICT executive. The ICT heads are to sort out a preparation exercise for its whole staff in the organization ideally every quarter in other to meet with quick changing innovative technology.

**4.8 SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

The upkeep of this framework (new system) is in two stages in particular operational support and client interface support of the framework which begins when the framework gets to be operational, and this will proceed until the framework achieves the end of the life cycle. In spite of the fact that the framework is outline to be proficient and simple to utilize, it is vital to have a period for upkeep and this activity ought to be done by the framework examiner at the exhibition hall focus. The examiner is to give framework bolster and enhance clients interface (i.e overhaul web textual style styling, make it more intuitive furthermore expand the database to suit clients remark and expression) and give vital support to keep the framework working appropriately.

Framework backing is the progressing specialized backing for clients, and additionally the upkeep required to settle any mistakes, oversight or new prerequisites required for the framework. Be that as it may, before the framework will be upheld, it must be in operation. Framework operation is every day, week-to-week, until the framework is disposed of. There are four sorts of those maintenance exercises, which incorporate;

* Program upkeep – despite the fact that a framework is very much outlined and tried, however it a blunders and bugs are still happens.
* System recuperation – after quite a while, the framework disappointment might happen. This framework disappointment might bring about by loss of information, human mistake, and programming or equipment disappointment.
* Technical support – as said some time recently, clients are given the preparation before utilizing another framework. Be that as it may, once in a while, in spite of the fact that the preparation has been given, new and old non-ICT's and ICT staffs should be bolstered in utilizing the framework.
* System upgrade – after a long stretch of utilizing the framework, association might understand another necessity for framework and this calls for rebuilding of framework result.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1 SUMARRY**

Every organization has one question in mind; have we fared well without an online information platform so far? Why would we need one now? The answer is simple, for advertising and reaching wider Audience with relevant information as well as services. Advertising is the chief success tool of every organization; your target audience needs to know that you are out there. A website has become an effective tool of running obtaining information. Internet today is used 24/7 and is accessible to anybody anywhere. People these days depend on the internet for everything, including pin or paper. Today you can obtain anything just by the click of a mouse button. The question is, are you willing to foot the bills of obtaining one for your organization? The answer will take you a long way, if yes then you are ready to operate globally. With a website for Nigerian marriage registry, Applicant and couples all over the world that uses this platform can effectively communicate together at a low cost. Newsletter can also be periodically posted on their e-mail box to remind them of an important date or event. Also a news section will go a long way in keeping members abreast of recent happenings within and outside the organization.

**5.2 CONCLUSION**

Based on the result of the survey, it is pertinent to make the following conclusions.

* Far cheaper than print Advertising: The internet is extremely different from print advertising in that space is cheap, your advertisement is accessible for a longer period of time, the content can be changed without having to ask someone to do it for you ( if you use a content management system), you can reach a wider audience.
* 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week, 365 days a Year: The information included in the site will be available anytime, anyplace. No power failure, no hook. The internet is there to serve you every time. Even on public holidays or any other day of obligation, the internet is there to serve. No transmission failure.
* Growth/Opportunity: Internet can help the organization to grow stronger and increase its members faster; also opportunities provided by organizations can be savored by the intended audience.

**5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

In order to remedy problems encountered in server-side scripting, web masters will incorporate server-side scripting technologies such as PHP Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP), Active Server Pages (ASP.NET). This new innovation would help create login controls, member’s portal where members and officials can create and modify their account. However, this log- in controls every couples (imminent or permanent) portals. This would enable online registration for both couples and staff; thereby eliminating the rigors of manual or paper registration. Search Engine Optimization (SEO) will be employed in WebPages. With Search Engine Optimization (SEO), keywords or digitally every word could be searched or accessed or sought after in the WebPages. For instance webmasters should incorporate access to search engines such as Google, Yahoo, MSN, etc. Webmasters should learn to control a page with CSS (Cascading Style Sheet) as it is the ultimate styling sheet and occupies less spaces.

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