SOCIO- ACADEMIC USE OF ALUMNI COLLABORATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SUACMS)

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ABSTRACT

One of the valuable resources that academic institutions can have is Alumni. There is a need for alumni members to come under one umbrella where they can interact. Getting these alumni members together in order to share their views and information requires an interactive website. Designing collaborative site for alumni is becoming a paramount issue for every institution such as Universities, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and even Secondary Schools. With the use of information technology, Socio-academic Use of Alumni Collaboration Management System should be put in place in order to gather broader information about alumni. This paper presents a forum where alumni members may chat and share ideas, where a direct link of communication between the institution and its alumni members can be managed and where social and educational opportunities for the members may be communicated. It explains the frameworks used in the implementation of the study, the scope and the significance of the study. The methodology of the new system was properly expatiated. The design architecture for the study was taken into consideration. Use Case Diagram (UCD) was used as the design tool for the system. The relationship between the actors and the system was deeply considered and evaluated. The choice of programming language and reason for it was stated. The system was properly tested and implemented. Screen shot of each page of the system and its purpose was discussed. Finally, the paper recommends that every academic institution, from primary to tertiary, needs to put in place alumni website because of its numerous advantages as explained in this paper.

Keywords: Alumni, System, Collaboration, Member, Management, Database.

INTRODUCTION:

The greatest asset any Institution can have is the Alumni of the School. Alumni are the people who represent the Institution in the real world (Gandham, 2011). Alumni website is created for the students that have graduated from the schools. This is a web based application that allows former students to take advantage of the benefits and services that a school offers after graduation. The alumni network is becoming important in the development of the institution because of their vast potential that benefits both the school and the students. There are numerous
benefits for being an alumni member of a school, some of these benefits are: keeping a person informed on the events that are organized by the school, and when some important events will be held in the school. Another benefit is that information concerning a former student can easily be received and other members of the alumni community can be located without much stress.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES:
This paper, generally, aims at developing a Socio-Academic Use of Alumni Collaboration Management System where graduated students can keep in touch with one another and also to keep abreast of what is going on in their formal institution. The specific objectives are:

1. to create a forum where alumni members may chat, relate together and share ideas.
2. to create link where alumni members’ contacts can be stored if needs arise.
3. to enable institution manage the Alumni database.

SCOPE OF STUDY:
This work is designed for graduated students of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). The system will allow alumni members of the same school to register, post questions or messages, contribute to posted questions and to give room for individuals to chat and even browse through the photo gallery. It also allows the institution to be able to have, access and manage the alumni database when needs arise.

Fig. 1.1 Scope of the (SUACMS)
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:
The existence of any human being is subjected to networking with the people around him/her because nobody stands in isolation. Nowadays, networking has become simple for most people because of the ubiquitous mobile devices and the access to the internet. The major impacts of this paper are to:

1. eliminate the old ways of keeping contact through keeping of Photo Album or Contact book which may lost or destroyed when soaked by water.
2. take advantage of the emerging development in the field of Information Communication Technology.
3. have access to prompt information and up-to-date of new event taking place in one’s former school.

This figure shows the significance flow of the SUACMS. The system allows Alumni student to register their information on the website. This registration polls all the alumni information together in a central location called Database. This database helps to locate, update, retrieve and store those information for further use. Therefore, the alumni resources can then be managed by the administrator.

METHODOLOGY:
PROPOSED SYSTEM OVERVIEW:
The current system is an application for managing and accessing Alumni information. The system is to design and implement a software application that will make possible the managing and accessing of Alumni information with little or no effort. With this software, a member can enter details of his/her information, post opportunities, view events and update picture. The
system is designed in such a way that members can sign-up after which they can login with their user name and password. The moment a member logs-in, the first name of the user is displayed showing that such user has logged in.

USE CASE DIAGRAM (UCD):
This work employed the use of Use Case Diagram (UCD) as its design tool. Use Case Diagram is one of the tools used in Modeling System Design. It is a description of a system’s behavior and how the system responds to a request that originates from outside of that system. UCD is a sequence of operation in a system that yields a measurable value to an individual actor in the system. The four elements of UCD are: system, actors, the service that the system knows how to perform and the relationships between the elements.

Use Case Diagram for an Alumni Website

![UCD for an Alumni Website](image)

Fig. 3.1 UCD for an Alumni Website
Goals in Content: To enable Alumni of a school to be well-informed, chat and share ideas, provide social and educational opportunities and attend to alumni questions.

Scope: Alumni Collaboration Management System

Actors: Alumni Member and Administrator.

DATA TYPE STRUCTURE:

### Table 3.1 Login Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldnames</th>
<th>Datatype</th>
<th>Fieldsize</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uid</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Stores each id of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stores each name of the username</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stores password of each user</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3.2 Acadinfo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldname</th>
<th>Datatype</th>
<th>Fieldsize</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Stores id of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matric no</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Stores each members matric no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course study</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Stores each members course of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year joining</td>
<td>Int</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stores members year of joining out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed out yr</td>
<td>Int</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stores members year of passed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.3 Registration Table

Reason: Saving Alumni data such as name, sex, phone email etc. for update and easy retrieval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fieldname</th>
<th>Datatype</th>
<th>Fieldsize</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uid</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Stores each id of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surname</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Stores each surname of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other name</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stores a other name of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stores the gender of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOB</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Stores date of birth of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Stores address of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Stores the state of origin of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Stores phone number of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Stores each user email address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stores login name of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Password</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stores the password of the user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Stores security answers of the user</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING:

IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING:

The implementation phase is the phase where deliverables are actually constructed and offered to the customer for acceptance. This system was developed on a HP 635 Duo core Laptop.

PLATFORM/INTERFACE:

The system was designed to be assessed from the World Wide Web via any Web Browser like Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome etc. For the purpose of demonstration, the software could be loaded on a PC or laptop which will serve as a local host server. Alumni Member signed up to the system by using a Username and Password. Once Alumni member is registered, a user’s
profile created stored and saved all his/her information in the database for further reference and retrieval.

CHOICE OF PROGRAMMING:
The programming languages used for this project is Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP), My Structured Query Language (MySQL), Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Dreamweaver. These programming languages were chosen because of their versatility in the area of web based application.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS:

HOME PAGE

![Fig. 4.1 Home Page](image)
The homepage provides menus to view gallery photos, contacts, the history of the institution and a link to the login page.
REGISTRATION PAGE

It enables members to be able to create their own account. Members will then be allowed to create their username and password which can later be used as a login into their various accounts.

ALUMNI LOGIN PAGE

Fig. 4.3 Login Page
This page gives access to users with correct username and password to the alumni page.

**ADMIN LOGIN PAGE**

![Admin Login Page]

Fig. 4.4 Admin Login page

This page allows administrator to Login to enable have access to the members.

**PERSONAL INFO PAGE**

![Personal Information Page]

Fig. 4.5 Personal Information Page
This page gives alumni members the privilege to view his/her personal profile

ACADEMIC INFO PAGE

![Fig. 4.6 Academic Info Page](image)

This page gives alumni the privilege to view his or her academic profile

DATABASE OF ALL REGISTERED MEMBER

![Database of All Registered Member](image)
Fig. 4.7 Database of All Registered Member

This page gives administrator the privilege to view all registered members

CONCLUSION:

This paper focused on Development of SUACMS tends to replace the former way of using diary, photo album and even piece of paper to store colleagues’ or friends’ contacts. The application uses Internet for its workability and a web browser is required. The Use Case Diagram was used as a system design tool for prototyping purpose and the table for the data type structure were fully drawn. Furthermore, the requirements needed for the implementation of the work were fully discussed.

The paper provided a benchmark for promoting the advancement, interests, welfare, unity, oneness and harmonious relationship between the numerous alumni members and the philanthropic support to the Institution. It will greatly assist the institution to have a common database of the alumni members and to be able to store, access, and manage the database. The data can be mined and can be subjected to any query when there is need for such. Finally, the paper recommends that every academic institution, from primary to tertiary, needs to put in place alumni website, because of its benefits as explained in this paper.

REFERENCES


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