

Creation of Prototype Web Portal for Management Studies Subjects

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Abstract - This paper A portal presents diverse content and applications to users through a consistent, unified web-based interface. Portal administrators and users can customize portals, and content can be presented based on user preferences or rule-based personalization. Each portal is associated with a web application that contains all of the resources required to run portals on the web. The information retrieval system once designed and development of portal, needs to be research scholars and faculty members for Management studies departments only.

Keywords: Web Portals, Web Design Tools, Management Studies, Prototype Portal

I. INTRODUCTION

A portal is a software module which can run on any device with internet connectivity with it. It can run on the web browser of a computer or a phone. The major benefits of a portal are that user can configure, customize and personalize the contents within it. A portal represents a website that provides a single point of access to documents, data, applications and information. since an end user point of view, a portal is a web site with pages that are organized by tabs or some other form of navigation. Each page contains a nesting of sub-pages, where individual windows that display anything from static HTML content to complex web services. Portals thus form a network of links present at a single site which acts as a node, and this node creates a medium for information transfer and retrieval.

As (Nielsen, 2006) in this study other goals will be to create of a set of tools to assist developers and administrators assess and maintain the quality on university web portals. Assuring quality can be easily attained by simple usability tests and questionnaires. Since it is difficult to create a “one size fits all” set of metric, other aspects according to the model this project bases its findings on, will be described in general terms as guidelines for developers and administrators of university web portals.

A management study was applied in the creation and maintenance of a database to store Inter related subjects.

Management Modeling, Business Communication, Commerce, Cost Accounting, Economics, Management studies Programming, Organizational Behaviour, operational Research, Financial Analysis, Management

Information System, Marketing Management, Statistical Analysis, Research Methodology, Operations Research, etc... Development of this type of database involved not only design issues but also the development of intricate interfaces where by researchers could both access offered data as well as submit new or revised data.

A. Information

According to (Shannon 1993, p180). “The word ‘information’ has been given different meanings by various writers in the general field of information theory. It is hardly to be expected that a single concept of information would satisfactorily account for the numerous possible applications of this general field.”

As Luciano Floridi (2011) stresses, it is a polysemantic concept associated with different phenomena, such as communication, knowledge, reference, meaning, truth, etc. In the second half of the 20th century, philosophy begins to direct its attention to this omnipresent but intricate concept in an effort of unravel the tangle of significances surrounding it.

B. Information system

An information system is software that helps you organize and analyze data. This makes it possible to answer questions and solve problems relevant to the mission of an organization. Its help Review and Business Courses. An arrangement of hardware, software, infrastructure and trained personnel organized to facilitate planning, control, coordination, and decision making in an organization. A business application of the computer. It is made up of the database, application programs, manual and machine procedures and encompasses the computer systems that do the processing.

II. MANAGEMENT

The Management studies as a discipline is more than 80 years old, there is no common agreement among its experts and practitioners about its precise definition. In fact, this is so in case of all social sciences like psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science etc. As a result of unprecedented and breath-taking technological developments, business organizations have grown in size and complexity, causing consequential changes in the

practice of management. Changes in management styles and practices have led to changes in management thought. Additionally, management being interdisciplinary in nature has undergone changes because of the developments in behavioural sciences, quantitative techniques, engineering and technology, etc. Since it deals with the production and distribution of goods and services, dynamism of its environments such as social, cultural and religious values, consumers' tastes and preferences, education and information explosion, democratization of governments, etc., have also led to changes in its theory and practice. Yet, a definition of management is necessary for its teaching and research, and also for improvement in its practice.

Many management experts have tried to define management. But no definition of management has been universally accepted. Let us discuss some of the leading definitions of management: Peter F. Drucker defines, "management is an organ; organs can be described and defined only through their functions".

Henry Fayol, "To manage is to forecast and plan, to organize, to compound, to co-ordinate and to control."

A. Importance of Management studies

It is said that Management studies is the gate and key of the arts. According to the Mary parker follett "Management is the art of getting things done through people". Managers are responsible for taking actions so that individuals can contribute their best to group objectives. Thus, management applies to every organization whether it is large or small, profit making or nonprofit making and a manufacturing or service enterprise, such as church, defence, sports authority, universities or hospitals. Effective management is the concern of every person in the organization, particularly the top level management cader.

In this modern age of Science and Technology, emphasis is given on arts such as commerce, economics, banking, financial, human resources Management studies, which is a arts by any criterion, also is an efficient and necessary tool being employed by all these arts. As a matter of fact, all these arts progress only with the aid of Management studies. So it is aptly remarked, "Management studies is a Social of all Sciences and art of all arts."

B. Information Technologies in management studies

Information technologies have the potential to support much-needed large scale change in management studies education. Technology-rich curricula can help meet the demands of the new standards for more inquiry-based learning and new content and can support more sweeping change that goes far beyond what is envisioned in the standards. To fully realize the management studies potential of all students, we need to develop new and far more ambitious curricula for a quite different future that information technologies make possible.

C. Need for a management studies portal

The students, researchers as well as faculty members to access information keep shuttling between e-books, e-journals, patents, theses, e-database, management studies software, management research and so on. To give a bird's eye view of various resources in the field of management studies, a single window service was conceptualized in the form of a management studies portal. It aims to provide information related to management studies and its allied subjects, through a single user interface and to access a wide variety of electronic resources in the field subscribed by the management studies institution and also other scholarly information sources that are available in full text on the web. Searching and filtering the sources available on the web and then judging what would prove useful to management studies students is of course a very tedious job.

D. Web Portal

A portal represents a website that provides a single point of access to applications and information. The portal can access from an end abuser perception, a portal is a web site with pages that are organized by tabs or some other form of navigation. Each page contains a nesting of sub-pages, where individual windows that display anything from static HTML content to complex web services. Portals thus form a network of links present at a single site which acts as a node, and this node creates a medium for information transfer and retrieval.

A portal is a software module which can run on any device with internet connectivity with it. It can run on the web browser of a computer or a phone. The major benefits of a portal are that user can configure, customize and personalize the contents within it.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the management studies portal is to fulfill the information requirements of the faculty members, researchers and students in the Department of management studies, and also its allied departments at management institutions. As such, its objectives are:

1. To the user can get all information, content and applications under a single portal.
2. To design and develop a web portal for sharing the management studies databases and web resources.
3. To evaluate the web portal for its usefulness and the friendliness of the user in the field of management studies.

Answering these objective questions contributes to a better understanding of Web Services and Web Portals. Helping the designers to better develop the appropriate tool for the user.

IV.SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The present research is focusing on creating of subject portal in Management Studies using HTML5, CSS at front – end and PHP, Jquires at the back end. The windows platform is the operating system on which portal runs, Apache as a server, MySQL as database and PHP as the scripting language. The scope of this research is limited mainly to Management subject offered in Management Studies institutions. Management Studies is a major branch of study related to many interdisciplinary components such as Commerce, Corporate Sectors, Economics etc., so the available information is more both in terms of printed and online. For the convenience of the research we consider curriculum structure of the subject as a limitation to surf the information. For designing the subject portal we collected the some relevant sources of information according to the syllabus offered by the Management Studies institution.

A. Operational definitions

The portal file contains all the components that make up that particular instance of the portal, such as books, pages, portlets, and look and feel components. Many components have a hierarchical relationship to each other. For example, a book contains pages and pages contain portlets. The definitions of the key terms employed in these studies are given below:

B. Management studies

The field of commerce, business consists of the following areas of studies viz., management studies is a rapidly developing branch of online trading and is highly interdisciplinary, using techniques and concepts from informatics, Management studies was applied in the creation and maintenance of a database to store Inter related subjects Management Modeling, Business Communication, Commerce, Cost Accounting, Economics, Management studies Programming, Organizational Behaviour, Operational Research, Financial Analysis, Management Information System, Marketing Management, Statistical Analysis, Research Methodology, Operations Research, etc.,

C. Desktop

A desktop an on-screen representation of desktop, which is used in the macintosh, windows 2000 and windows NT. A buzzword attached to applications traditionally performed on more expensive machines that are now on a personal computer.

D. Internet Explorer

Internet explorer is a free internet browser from Microsoft corporation which works across many different computer platforms. Regardless of the website we visited, internet explorer can display the most complex web pages.

E. Shell

An outer layer of a program that provides the user interface, or way of commanding the computer. Shell is typically add-on programs created for command-driven operating systems, such as UNIX and DOS. It provides a menu-driven or graphical icon-oriented interface to the system in order to make it easier to use.

F. Page

Pages contain the portlets that display the actual portal content. Pages can also contain books.

G. Menu

An on-screen list of available functions that can be performed at this time, whether it is a set of tabs, a set of links, or a tree structure. Web Logic Portal provides two types of menus: single-level and multi-level.

H. Layout and Placeholder

Layouts and placeholders (not to be confused with personalization placeholders) work together to structure the way portlets and books are displayed on a page. A layout is a combination of HTML tags DIVs, SPANs, and so on and CSS styling used by a page to determine the physical locations of portlets on the page. Administrators and users can choose different available layouts for pages. Placeholders are the individual cells in a layout in which portlets are placed. WebLogic Portal ships with some predefined layouts, and you can also create your own custom layouts.

I. HTML

Short form of Hypertext Markup Language, HTML is what web designers and developers write when they create web pages. HTML isn't really a programming language as it is missing many of the standard features associated with programming languages. It is more a way to describe how things should appear in a web browser. With it one can make sections of text bold or make the typeface bigger.

Purists believe that HTML shouldn't be used to specify content layout. They feel that the content should flow freely and fill the screen in whatever way best suits the end-user. It is best to think of HTML as the glue that binds all this functionality into something that a web browser can interpret and display for the end-user.

J. PHP

In web programming, PHP is a script language and interpreter that is freely available and used primarily on Linux web servers. PHP, originally derived from personal home page tools, now stands for PHP: Hypertext

Preprocessor, which the PHP FAQ describes as a “recursive acronym.”

K. Server

A computer device on a network that manages network resources. It stores files and provides services to the client machines.

L. Apache

A widely-used public domain, UNIX-based web server from the Apache Group. It is based on NCSA’s HTTPd server. The name came from a body of existing code many “patch files”.

M. Hyperlink

An element in an electronic document that links to another place in some documents or in an entirely different one which supports linking graphics, sound and video elements in addition to text elements.

N. MySQL

It is a multithreaded, multi-user, SQL Database Management System (DPMS). MySQL AB makes MySQL available as free software under the general public license (GPL).

O. Prototype

Creating a demo of a new system. Prototyping is essential for clarifying information requirements. The design of a

system must be finalized before the system can be built. While analytically-oriented people may have a clear picture of requirements, others may not.

P. Webmaster

A person responsible for the implementation of a web site. Webmaster must be proficient in HTML as well as one or more scripting and interface language such as JavaScript, Perl and CGI. They may also have experience with more than one type of web server.

Q. Serial Crisis

The serial price inflation that has severely afflicted academic libraries is known as “serial crisis”.

R. Web Portal

Originally a general purpose Web site offering a wide variety of resources and services and links to other Web sites. However, the term is increasingly applied to Web sites that offer such services only within a particular industry, occupation, or field.

S. Design of Web Portal

After creating the databases and deciding the hardware and software requirements, the prototype portal design process commenced. The web portal has been named as management studies portal which stands for management and business administration information.

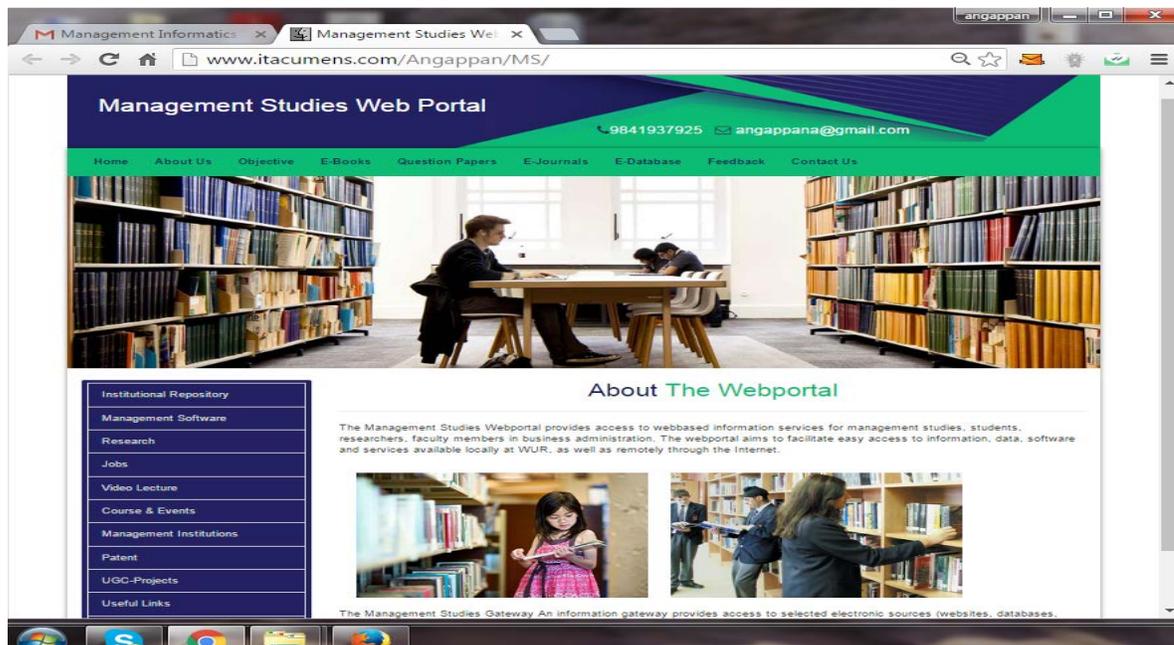


Fig. 1 Home page of the Management studies Portal

It gives easy and user-friendly environment for the interaction of the faculty and students with the system through a conventional web browser. Management Studies Portal Supports a co-operative mechanisms for assisting the student whenever necessary.

V. PILOT STUDY

A pilot study was conducted with a sample set of questionnaires from the target group comprising of research scholars and faculty members. Based on the study, a few corrections were carried over in the questionnaire. The revised version of the questionnaire was finally administered.

The questionnaire was administered to a total of 75 users, of which 25 were faculty and the remaining 50 comprised of Research Scholars. All of them have positively responded to the researcher’s distribution of the questionnaire.

VI. EVALUATION

The respondent’s data evaluating the management studies portal was consolidated and synthesized. The indicators for evaluation include:

1. Awareness of web portals
2. Relevance
3. Accessibility
4. Availability
5. Structure
6. User friendliness
7. Usefulness
8. Satisfaction

A. Awareness of web portals

The study was undertaken to know as to whether the research scholars are aware of web portals and it revealed the fact that 92 percent of scholars and 100 percent of the faculty members are aware of web portals whereas 08 percent of the research scholars are not aware of it.

TABLE 1 AWARENESS OF WEB PORTALS

S.No.	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	46 (92)	4 (08)	50
2	Faculty Members	25 (100)	0 (0)	25
Total		71	4	75

B. Relevance of web portals

The relevance of web portal research and e-book mostly like by research scholar, e-book and e-journal mostly like by the faculty members. The ranking of the relevance by the research scholars and faculty members are

TABLE 2 RELEVANCE OF WEB PORTALS

S.No.	Feature	Ranking by	
		Research scholars	Faculty members
1	E-Books	II	I
2	E-Journals	III	II
3	E-Databases	IV	IV
4	Courses & Events	V	VI
5	Management studies Institution	VI	VII
6	Management studies Software	XII	III
7	Research	I	IX
8	Jobs	XI	VIII
9	Patents	IX	X
10	Institutional Repositories	X	V
11	Video Lecture	VII	XI
12	Useful Links	VIII	XII

C. Accessibility of web portals

It has been observed that 100 percent of the respondents have performed various searches on the management studies portal and recorded their satisfaction over the accessibility.

TABLE 3 ACCESSIBILITY OF THE MANAGEMENT STUDIES PORTAL

S.No.	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	50 (100)	0 (0)	50
2	Faculty Members	25 (100)	0 (0)	25
Total		75	0 (0)	75

D. Availability of web portals

The study revealed the fact that 94 percent of the research scholars and 88 percent of faculty members recorded that the item for which they searched for, was available in the management studies whereas 6 percent of research scholars and 12 percent of faculty members informed that the item was not available.

TABLE 4 AVAILABILITY OF WEB PORTALS

S.No.	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	47 (94)	3(6)	50
2	Faculty Members	22 (88)	3(12)	25
Total		69	6	75

E. Structure of web portals

The respondents were requested to opine as to whether the structure of the management studies is organized or not. Out of 50 research scholars, 96 percent of them opined that the structure of the management studies is organized and the remainders stated that it is not. In the case of faculty members, 96 percent of them recorded that the structure is organized whereas 4 percent of them informed that the structure is not organized.

TABLE 5 STRUCTURE OF WEB PORTALS

S.No.	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	48 (96)	2(4)	50
2	Faculty Members	24 (96)	1(4)	25
Total		72	3	75

F. User Friendliness of web portals

The research revealed that the user friendliness of the web portal was assessed as 'very good' by 84 percent of the respondents. This is followed by 'good' by 14 percent of the respondents. Only 2 percent of them stated that user friendliness of the web portal is not so good.

TABLE 6 USER FRIENDLINESS OF WEB PORTALS

S.No.	Opinion	Very Good	Good	Not so Good	Total
1	Research scholars	42(84)	7(14)	1(2)	50
2	Faculty Members	20(80)	5(20)	0(0)	25
Total		62	12	1	75

G. Usefulness of web portals

The research revealed that all the 100 percent respondents have unanimously stated that the management studies web portal is very much useful for research scholars and faculty members.

TABLE 7 USEFULNESS OF WEB PORTALS

S.No	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	50 (100)	0 (0)	50
2	Faculty Members	25 (100)	0(0)	25
Total		75	-	75

H. Satisfaction of web portals

The research shows that the 96 percent of research scholars and 92 percent of the faculty members are satisfied with the performance of the management studies whereas 4 percent of research scholars and 8 percent of the faculty members are not.

TABLE 8 SATISFACTION OF WEB PORTALS

S.No	Opinion	Yes	No	Total
1	Research scholars	48 (96)	2 (4)	50
2	Faculty Members	23 (92)	2 (8)	25
Total		71	4	75

VII. CONCLUSION

The findings from this study shown that the quality of the Management Studies web portal is low and that the portal itself is rarely used by the students. We proposed an approach for implementation and design of an interactive

web portal for students, scholars and faculties for Management Studies department. The proposed portal provides a platform for knowledge sharing with interactive and user-friendly modules for increasing productivity and saving the user time. It enables students to get all the useful resources under one portal like e-books, e-journals, e-database etc.,. The management studies web portal has been designed and evaluated for its performance among the target group and the major finding of the research are highlighted in this paper. This research is an outcome of the researcher; and the management studies prototype portal will be of great use and benefit to the management students, research scholars, faculty members and scientists, research and developing in the field of management study.

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