ELECTRONIC APPLICATION TO MAKE AND DEVELOP A CONTENTS SYSTEM FOR THE POSSESSIONS OF SUDANESE NATIONAL DOCUMENTS HOUSE (SNDH)

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Abstract: This thesis is aimed at exploring and studying the current system utilized by the "Sudan national documents house" in order to define its problems, and then to develop an electronic system that can overcome all existing problems. The problem had been studied in the period commencing from the beginning of Feb. till May 2012. Using (object oriented program) method to analyze and design computed data based systems.
The study concluded the following: Based on comparing the running of the system with previous criterions and the opinions of clients & operating staff, it became clear that the system was heavily burdened with problems, since it is being operated manually in most of its aspects, and there is a need to apply an electronic system through which all transactions of the system can be done. And that is by making use of the advantages & benefits of electronic applications in such away that, the interaction between the researcher and the document system is done via internet; right from the beginning of requesting a document, search for it in a limited time, up to the stage of browsing it. In addition to that, it will enable the house to compete the world of international documents houses, Especially when we know that, there are documents' houses in the Arab world that have done the same practice .
Keywords: (SNDH: Sudanese National documents house).

Introduction

Sudan's national documents house was first established under the British mandate with the name (Archives of the Sudan office) then later was changed to (Central documents office) in the year 1965, then after that it became (National documents of the Sudan house) its current name. It is the establishment concerned with the safekeeping of the various records and archives of the government; in addition to other Sudanese documents and manuscripts. Archive is generally regarded as the memory of the state and the country, because it preserve the history and the rights of the country; and effectively contributes to solving most of the disputes; whether locally or with neighbouring countries, it does uphold for claimers their entitled rights which are documented and stipulated upon in the government archives. Due to

the importance of Archives; it has become a necessity to maintain and develop it in such a way that, it complies with the requirements of today's world; the world of information & haste. The scheme provides the needed speed for getting data and enhances the potentiality of searching for information. Taking everything into account, it had become a necessity to develop a scheme for computing (documents house) in order to upgrade it and enable it to cope up with the challenges of our time, The research is an integration of a number of technical processes that, analyse the existing system at (SNDH); and consequently design a proposed system that would include software and hardware suitable for implementing the scheme efficiently in order to obtain a complete electronic copy of (SNDH) possessions stored in their warehouse, and to receive the newly incoming documents; and to make them obtainable via the internet; the thing that, would add many advantages; and at the same time safeguards the original documents and facilitates classifying, searching and browsing processes, And eventually enables (SNDH) to get into the electronic government, assuming that, it would be the hub and fulcrum of the national scheme for documents.

Research problem:

Despite all the exerted valued attempts and efforts to update the existing flaws of the systems used by (SNDH) in an effort towards the electronic govt. yet, it did not cope up with the regional and international developments, beside that, an overall integrated electronic system has not yet been applied, and the current system has some deficiency. Moreover, the life span of the original documents is almost over; and has already begun to lose their chemical & physical properties, therefore any direct dealing with the documents either by browsing or transferring might further reduces the life span of the document and could damage it. Computing the document safeguards it against transfer and browsing which must not be done except in cases of extreme necessity, computing permits reading the document and safeguards it at the same time.

The importance of the research

Due to the vital importance of (SNDH) in preserving the Sudanese national identity and the memory of a civilization that has extended throughout ages; considering that it contains documents that date back to the time of Sultanate of Sinnar (1552-1820) and the Kingdom of Darfur (1445–1916) in addition to the documents of Mehdi era which constitutes the greatest collection; beside government of the Sudan collections during mandate. And the documents and records of the succeeding national governments since the declaration of independence in Jan. 1956.Moreover there are collections of daily news papers, photographs, manuscripts,

university thesis, maps and others. The number of documents as of now is estimated to be about thirty million.

Objectives of the research

•The research aims at analysing the system used by (SNDH), identify its deficiency and repair it.

•To safeguard the original documents against direct usage by making possible electronic browsing.

•To Shift from manual to automatic indexing in order to save the original documents against damage.

• To facilitate the possibilities of participating in the unified indexes and data basis at the local, national and international levels.

•To enhance the potentiality of searching in a relatively short time for the sake of benefiting form the possessions of (SNDH) and to encourage researchers.

•To provide necessary information for strategic planning institutes as well as supporting scientific research and studies.

•To improve the possessions' system of (SNDH) such as documents and manuscripts; by increasing the ability to circulate them via the internet in a protected manner.

Methodology of the research

The research has adopted the descriptive analytic method, the description of the elements (entities) of the system is done by using modelling language; whereby (unified object oriented system) is used for analysis, and electronic packages are developed at the site.

The proposed system has been designed in such a way that, it would be capable of overcoming the various aspects of the problem, and support the results and recommendations by necessary statistical indications UML.

The problem had been studied using object oriented program for analysing and designing a computed data system arranged under four topics or enquiries as follows:

•Aims (aims of the system).Are there any new objectives for the currently existing system?

•Environment of the system. Is the existing system parallel to, and updating with the higher system and the adjacent or rival systems?

And to what extent do the persons in charge of this system evaluate experiments of protecting electronic publication in general?

• Technical development. Is the existing system updating with the fast developing

technology? And benefiting from it?

•The cost. Is the existing system expensive as regard running, maintenance and development processes?

A questionnaire has been done to explore the opinions of the staff running the system and those who deal with it about the deficiency and the weak points of the system.

The statistical analysis program (SPSS) had been used to illicit the results of the questionnaire which covered a specimen of clerks.

Research boundary:

Sudanese's national documents house (SNDH).

The results:

This thesis acknowledged the great importance of the role played by Sudan national documents house (SNDH) in preserving the origins of Sudanese diversified heritage; which includes readable scripts, fixed pictures, maps and news papers.

There is a necessity to archive those origins and to transfer them into digital format in order to facilitate their electronic circulation via internet for users, and at the same time preserve the origins against damage, if we just had a glance to the scripts and documents of the twentieth century, we would find that, (SNDH) has more that 33 million document.

• (SNDH) is one of the oldest in the world; specially the Arab world.

• This thesis has approached the issue of setting up and developing (SNDH) and converting it into an electronic one through which we can preserve the Suanses wealth of scripts as well as other Arab, Islamic countries and rest of the world.

• This thesis has concluded that, using electronic systems for archiving; preserve the document from being damaged, prolong its life span, and consequently preserve the heritage of the Sudanese nation.

• (SNDH) has been burdened with possessing, preserving, processing and retrieving different kinds of information and documents, using electronic systems ease that burden.

• The study has given a demonstration of (SNDH) since its establishment in 1916. (SNDH) now possesses millions of documents: Sudanese, Arab, Turkish, English and other countries, in addition to some very rare documents written in different languages; these collections of documents cover the history of Sudan through ages till the twenty first century.

• Digitizing scheme aims at converting all these documents and scripts to the digital format.

• The idea of studding the scheme began during the past three years by few steps as follows:

• System to digitalize all documents and scripts available at (SNDH).

• To arrange documents available in the stores in kind.

• To follow up the course of the document right form the source till arriving at (SNDH) up to the store.

• Light has been shed on documents to signify their importance; because many people are not aware of that.

• This study plans to solve the existing problems of the current system (the manual handling of documents which exposes them to damage due to overuse by allowing researcher to browse them despite the fact that, they are paper documents) by converting documents into electronic ones and by changing the whole system into an electronic one, that is, to setup a page in order to facilitate search and browsing electronically from anywhere.

• The system has also digitized the document and made it available for searchers of knowledge on the internet, the system has also provided digital archiving of the document and facilitated it via internet for general benefit (Photographs, historical documents, old and rare maps of different ages about Sudan, Arab and other countries, beside news papers) all are made available for users, Xeroxing also has been made possible in order to coy original scripts and facilitate them via internet.

Recommendations

1. would like to stress for the urgent need to catch up with current development witnessed by documents' houses on all fields of culture and communications, We know that, the world has become a small village by virtue of revolution on these fields, despite the fact that, application of technology is an expensive affair that requires huge budgets to provide for Hardware and suitable software to develop and modernize equipments and to carry out regular maintenance, moreover to train and qualify man power, make available buildings, furniture and appropriate environment, in order to offer quality services, the concerned authorities must look after this edifice for its vital importance to the history of this nation, worthy of mentioning; is to know that, (SNDH) has not yet approached to the stage of digitizing, its archiving is done by paper; the thing that, would render documents liable to damage, therefore, the scheme proposed by the researcher should to be implemented and developed.

2. Good care must be taken as regard the security of documents and copyright, because many people are not aware of the principals of copyright law, and that is the reason why many problems occurred, some piracy incidents took place where full or partial copies were taken

by using high tech. computers with high speed.

3. It is necessary to permanently activate documents security procedures and proposals.

4. To care for the training of staff in terms of how to deal with the archiving & digitizing of confidential documents.

5. To update with technological and programming developments.

6. Information technology, communication and media are means that must be utilized for archiving, translation and publishing of all types of documents.

7. Manpower engaged in the fields of archiving, modern technology and digitization ought to be increased so as to enhance and improve the speed and size of the knowledge published by (SNDH).

8. To create an adequate atmosphere for more cooperation with Arab and international documents' houses.

9. Attract experts and benefit from others experiences in indexing, archiving and digitizing (SNDH).

10. The government should provide the necessary funds for all the projects that aim at developing the contents of (SNDH).

It is a must to create an electronic environment for the indexer.

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