UNRAVEL ADMISSIONS CHALLEGENGES IN GHANAIN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Dr. Thomas Yobeah*

Appiah Sarpong**

Abstract: *Students seeking admissions into higher learning institutions in Ghana encounter so many challenges. It has become clear that sometimes a student seeking admission has to buy application forms for each institution that the candidate is applying for admission. Again, good students are sometimes denied of admission whiles the weak ones get admissions into higher institutions. This study asked the question: how can these challenges in admission process can be un-raved or eradicated to ensure that admissions given to candidates applying for admissions are based on merit but not on anything else? or how can buying of multiple forms by the same candidate be eliminated in admission process in Ghana.? In looking for ways of improving admission process in Ghana the study asked whether a more web-based admission system (WAS) can be implemented so as to un-ravel the admissions challenges in Ghanaian tertiary institutions and enhance the admission process. Evidence gathered from the analysis of a randomly-drawn sample size of 54 registrars reviewed that a web-based admission system (WAS) can help to unravel admission challenges in Ghanaian tertiary institutions.*

Keywords: *Admissions, Web-based admission system, tertiary institutions, unravel challenges.*

*Christian Service University, Department of Computer Science, Ghana

**Christian Service University, Department of Business, Ghana

INTRODUCTION

It has become obvious that many students seeking for admissions into higher institutions in Ghana face so many challenges in the admission process. During admission process a candidate seeking for admission sometimes buy more than one forms depending on the number of institutions that the candidate wish to apply. Again in Ghanaian admission system there is no evidence of course transfer from one institution to another. For example it is not possible for a candidate applying for course "A" in one university be transferred to another university for applying the same course in the case the first university is declined which the candidate has to buy new application forms for the next university to be considered the same course. Again, sometimes it becomes very sad that the same candidate applying for a course at the university buying more than one application forms for that same university. Moreover, some candidates applying for admissions into tertiary institution use fake certificate to apply which sometimes very difficult for the university to detect fake results at time of the application.

It is therefore against this that researcher wants to investigate into admission process whether construction of a web-based admission system that can be integrated with West African Examination Unit (WAEC) can help unravel some of the admission challenges in Ghanaian tertiary institution and again preventing candidates to buy multiple forms which sometimes create problems for another candidate for getting admission.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The World Wide Web (WWW) is growing at exceptional rate. The current web is largely based on the file system technology, which can deal well with the resources that are primarily static. However, with the unprecedented growth of resources, it is no longer adequate to rely on this conventional file technology for organizing, storing and accessing large amount of information on the web (Carriere & Kazman, 1997). The official description describes the World Wide Web as a "wide-area hypermedia information retrieval aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents". Using a popular software interface to the web called web browser, the web project has changed the way people view and create information—it has created the first global hypermedia network (Hughes, 1993). The current admission system for Ghanaian tertiary education is not computerized and therefore individual applicant wishes to be admitted into a degree program has to buy

application form. Critically examine the current situation for the admissions in Ghana it is observed that individual applicant spend a lot of money in buying a the application forms. This is because some applicant can buy more than one application within the same university to be considered at different departments and faculty for the same university. This create a lot of tension and much irregularities because sometimes the same applicant can get more than one offer of admission within the same university at different department which the applicant can only take one offer at a time causing other applicant not to get an admission offer at the university.

In Ghana, most of the universities are having online admission system which the applicant has to fill it and submit electronically. The problem with this individual university online system is that it doesn't have features of application transfer from one institution to another in the case of the decline of application. This means each university system is independent and therefore applicant has to apply to the individual universities which caused them a lot of money meanwhile the applicant will choose only one.

HYPOTHESIS

The hypothesis of this research was that a web based admission system can be used to unravel admission challenges in Ghanaian tertiary institutions. This system will process the document submitted by the candidate and then check with West African Examination Council result which then give the candidate admission letter. A copy of the admission letter would be issued to the chosen university of the candidate.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Data for the study have been collected through a face–to face interview with some registrars across the various universities in Ghana on whether the implementation of a web based admission system can unravel some of the admission challenges in the admission process or not. A sample size of 54 lecturers has been used in the study. This sample size has been chosen based on the ability to reach the registrars at the university at time of the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The descriptive statistics of categorical and continuous data have been presented in tables 1-1 and 1-2 respectively. Table 1-1 displays the descriptive statistics of the categorical data. It shows that out of 54 registrars that were interviewed about whether a web based

admission system can reduce some of the irregularities in the admission process in Ghanaian tertiary institutions; 15 registrars are from University of Education, Winneba (UEW), 8 registrars from Christian Service University (CSU), 12 registrars from Garden City University (GCU), 9 registrars from Catholic University College (CUC) and 10 registrars from Baptist University College (BUC).

Institution	Institution Initials	NO. Of Registrars interviewed
University of Education winneba	**UEW**	**15**
Christian Service University	**CSU**	**8**
Garden City University College	**GCU**	**12**
Catholic University College	**CUC**	**9**
Baptist University College	**BUC**	**10**

Table 1-1: Registrars interviewed

Table 1-2 gives responses from the various registrars interviewed on whether a web based admission system can help reduce the irregularities in admission process at various tertiary institutions in Ghana.

	UEW	CSU	GCU	CUC	BUC
Yes	10	5	7	6	6
No	5	3	5	3	4

Table 1-2: Responses from Registrars interviewed

In testing of the hypothesis on whether a web based admission system can be used to unravel admission challenges in Ghanaian tertiary institutions a chi square was used. The following gives the details: Table 1-3 and Table 1-4 give the Data Contingency table and Expected values contingency table respectively.

Table 1-3: Data Contingency table

	UEW	CSU	GCU	CUC	BUC	TOTAL
Yes	10	5	7	6	6	32
No	5	3	5	3	4	21
TOTAL	15	8	12	9	10	54

Table 1-4: Expected Values Contingency Table

	UEW	CSU	GCU	CUC	BUC
Yes	9.44	5.04	7.56	5.67	6.30
No	5.56	2.96	4.44	3.33	3.70

Chi Square value Calculated (X^2) = 0.290

Since the Chi Square (X^2) 0.290 did not exceed critical value for 0.05 probability level (0.9905) the hypothesis can be accepted implementation of a web based admission system can help minimize some of irregularities in admission processes in Ghanaian tertiary institutions.

CONCLUSION

The study seeks to find evidence of improvement of admission process in Ghanaian tertiary institutions. It indicates that a problem of student buying multiple application forms for the same the same universities can be checked by the systems.

Finally, application for a candidate for admission would be transfer to the next available university offering been the chose by the applicant. It can be concluded that a web based admission system can help reduce some of the admission irregularities and therefore recommended for Ministry of education for higher learning, Ghana.

REFERENCES

[1] Alter, S. (2002): Information Systems, Pearson Education, Inc., New York.

[2] Al-Bastaki, Y. (2005). A framework for a WAP-based course registration system. Vol 44, Issue 3, p327-342, Elsevier Science Ltd. Oxford, UK.

[3] Ansoff, I. H. (1965). Corporate strategy. New York: McGraw Hill.

[4] Booch, G., Jacobson, I., & Rumbaugh, J. (1998). The Unified Software Development Process. Massachesetts, Addison-Wesley.

[5] Turban, E., Rainer, R. K., & Potter, R. E. (2005). Introduction to information technology. John Wiley & Sons, Inc

[6] Hoffer, J.A., Valacich, J.S., & George, J.M. (2004). *Essential of system analysis and design*, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

[7] Katz, R. (2003). Balancing Technology and Tradition: The example of course management systems. Educause.

[8] Whitten, J.L., Bentley, L.D., & Dittman, K.C. (2001). *Systems Analysis and Design Methods* (5th ed.), Boston: McGraw- Hill.

[9] Vaishnavi, V., & Kuechler, W. (2005). *Design research in Information Systems*. London: McGraw-Hill Press.