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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM APPLIED TO MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT OF AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE

C.G. RAMACHANDRA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
SRINIVAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MANGALORE

DR. T. R. SRINIVAS
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL & PRODUCTION
S. J COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
MYSORE

ABSTRACT

Information systems play a crucial role in the management of any contemporary enterprise such as small or medium or large organization, profit making or a social service setup, a public or a private sector undertaking, a manufacturing or a service organization, a local or a global corporation and an upcoming or an established business house. The fast changing scene of liberalization, competition and globalization combined with a never before seen emphasizes on quality, timelessness, innovation, customer orientation and efficiency information across the globe. This work was carried out at mechanical engineering department of a reputed engineering college. In this work an attempt has been made to develop MIS for listing out the student names who have less than 75% attendance, maintaining the internal assessment marks of the students and the details of all the faculty members like who is handling which subject. The software is designed by using Oracle Server as backend and Visual Basic as front end. After entry of attendance of all the students in different subjects, the software calculates the percentage of attendance of all the students so that it is easy for us to see who have less than 75% attendance. Similarly after entry of internal assessment marks of all the students of different subjects, the software calculates the average of best two. It also gives the details of the faculty handling different subjects. This report can be transferred on to a hard copy. Hence by using this software, a lot of time can be saved and the mistakes which could happen by oversight can be eliminated.

KEYWORDS

Management, Information, System, Applied, Attendance, IA Marks.

1. INTRODUCTION

MIS is not new, only its computerization is new. Before computers, MIS techniques existed to supply managers with the information that would permit them to plan and control operations. The computer has added one or more dimensions such as speed, accuracy and increased volumes of data that permit the consideration of more alternatives in a decision. The current challenge in information processing is to use the capability of the computer to support knowledge work including managerial activities and decision-making. The wide variety of computer resources are used to perform transaction processing, provide processing for formal information and to report organization's management information system. The scope and purpose of MIS is better understood if each term is defined.

- Management has been defined as the processes or the activities that describe what managers do in the operation of their organization such as plan, organize, initiate and control operations.
- Information consists of data that have been collected, retrieved, processed or otherwise used for informative or inference purposes, argument or as a basis for forecasting or decision-making.
- System is a group of inter-related components working together towards a common goal by accepting inputs and producing outputs in an organized transformation process.

Thus, "Management Information System" (MIS) is an integrated user machine system for providing information to support operations, management and decision making functions in an organization. The system utilizes computer hardware and software, manual procedures, models or analysis, planning, control and decision making and database.

Management information can be categorized into three main areas such as

- a) Strategic Planning Information.
- b) Management Control Information or Tactical Planning Information.
- c) Operational Information.

a) Strategic Planning Information: Relates to top management tasks of deciding on objectives of the organization, on the levels and the kinds of resources required to attain the objective and on the policies that govern the acquisition, use and disposition of resources.

b) Management Control Information or Tactical Planning Information: Shed light on goal congruence, it helps managers to take those actions which are in the best interests of the organization; it enables managers to see that resources are being used efficiently and effectively in meeting the organizational goals.

c) Operational Information: Pertains to the day to day of the organization and helps assure that specific tasks are performed effectively and efficiently.

1.1 IMPORTANCE OF MIS

The study of MIS is important both to the computer science and management students. A student of management who undergoes a course in MIS will be equipped with the technical foundations of computing. As MIS is a synthesis of the essence of various topics in computer science, it helps the management students in developing information systems independently.

MIS also provides a balanced perspective into the exciting applications of computers in the broad area of business. Computers are making inroads into every activity of human endeavor. Thus, a basic knowledge of information system is almost becoming a generic skill needed by every professional. To the top management, MIS is a tool to gain insight into the overall health of the organization itself.

The recent information revolution has pushed information system to the center stage of modern management systems. Getting a competitive advantage, balancing market strengths, increasing market share, acquiring more attractive finances etc are all made possible in numerous ways by the introduction of information technology. Understanding the working and appreciating the impact of information systems on the contemporary and further business are prerequisites to the education of today's computer and management students.

2. ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The college started in the year 2006 being one of the top ten upcoming colleges in south karnataka region. The progress of the institution was so rapid that, today it is one of the premier institutions in the state offering 9 undergraduate, 8 post graduate and 4 doctorate degrees in many fields of engineering. the college has a intake of 1300 in first year and the total strength is more than 6000. The strength of this institution lies in its qualified and dedicated faculty, well equipped laboratory and workshops, well stocked library and excellent computer center.

2.1 INTRODUCTION TO MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The undergraduate program in mechanical engineering established in 2006 presently running with 3 sections of 60 students each. Two Post graduate program established in 2010 of 18 students each. The core curriculum consists of basic courses in the Thermal Engineering, Design Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering and Management Sciences. The advance courses are offered as electives in a wide range of latest areas. The highly qualified faculties are actively engaged in research activities.

2.2 REASONS TO APPLY MIS

- The maintaining of attendance all the students of the department..
- Calculation of average Internal Assessment Marks all the students of the department.
- Calculation of percentage of attendance of all the students of the department.
- To sort out the students names who have shortage of attendance.
- The details of the entire faculty in the department handling various subjects for different sections in UG and PG courses.

All the above points which are listed is a time consuming and tedious job to the faculty as well as for the Head of the Department to keep track of all the information about the department. Hence a need has been felt to overcome these difficulties by designing Management Information System package which helps to overcome these tedious job.

2.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the project are, to design and develop a Management Information System package for

- Maintaining and updating the student details.
- Maintaining the attendance statistics.
- Maintaining the internal assessment marks statistics.
- Maintaining the details of the entire faculty handling different subjects for UG and PG courses.

3. METHODOLOGY

The various steps and the methodology followed in the course of this project are explained below.

3.1 REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS

It involves the determination of what exactly the end user wants from the system. Before embarking upon the design and development of a MIS, quick study was made to ascertain whether such a system would be of any help to the department of the college. In this process a consultation was made with various staff members and head of the department of the college to study their requirements and need for the information. Hence by studying the existing system in the institution and identifying the various information required has initiated to develop MIS for the mechanical department of the college which helps the end users like staff members and head of the department in referring the details of the students through the software developed.

3.2 DATABASE DESIGN

A database is a collection of related data i.e. known facts that can be recorded and that has implicit meaning. Database has the following properties

- A database logically consists of collection of data with some inherent meaning.
- A database is designed, built and populated with data for a specific purpose. It has an intended group of users and some preconceived application in which these users are interested.
- A database may be generated and maintained manually or by machine. A computerized database can be created and maintained by database management system or application programs (written specifically for the task) or by a combination of the two.
- To successfully retrieve information from a database here, a combination of Microsoft access to create and maintain the database and a set of application programs written in visual basic to manipulate the database is chosen.
- Both the database and software is referred to as a database system. In the process of designing an efficient database system.

3.3 SOFTWARE SELECTION

An integrated set of computer programs for storing and retrieving data from a database is called a DBMS (Database Management System). It is the software used for management, maintenance and retrieval of data stored in a database. It collectively provides an organization with all the capabilities of a centrally managed system.

Visual Basic is a popular rapid application development tool (RAD) and a full fledged programming language used for developing windows application programs. It is widely used as a powerful front-en tool for writing client applications. The data is processed on a front end (client) but stored and served by the powerful back end (server). The backend is developed using Oracle server and the program is written in Visual Basic. The backend will consist of the various data about the students and also it has certain queries which retrieve data in a certain format and criteria. The frontend of the application written in Visual Basic consists of user interfaces and the controls, which help the user to retrieve, update or edit the required data.

In this work database system is designed to operate as follows

- Details of the students are entered in the student details form.
- Details of the faculty of the department are entered in the faculty details form.
- Maximum number of classes and the number of classes attended are entered in the attendance form which will have the details of students as entered in the student details form.
- A report will be generated which shows the details of the students having shortage of attendance.
- IA marks should be entered in the IA marks format which will have the details of the students as entered in the first form.
- Then the software will calculate the average of the best two tests and finally the report will be generated for the average marks.
- A report will be generated which shows the details of faculty handling the subjects for UG and PG courses.

4. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE COLLEGE

This package is designed and developed using Oracle Server and Visual basic. The high lights of the package are

- Each menu can be executed from main menu.
- For critical data input suitable validation of data is incorporated in program. Thus wrong data entry or duplication of data is kept under control.
- The deletion and data is kept fully under user's control.
- Messages are displayed to ease the use of package.

The package consists of 6 Menus

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Student Details Menu. | 2. Faculty Details Menu. |
| 3. Attendance Menu. | 4. IA Marks Menu. |
| 5. Reports Menu. | 6. Subject Details Menu. |

MAIN MENU	
STUDENT DETAILS	FACULTY DETAILS
ATTENDANCE	IA MARKS
REPORTS	SUBJECT DETAILS
EXIT	

4.1 STUDENTS DETAILS MENU

This menu allows the user to enter the details of students such as Course, Name, Register Number, Semester, Section etc, which is shown below:

STUDENT DETAILS MENU	
NAME:	<input type="text"/>
COURSE:	<input type="text"/>
REGISTER.NO:	<input type="text"/>
SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>
SECTION:	<input type="text"/>
SAVE	MODIFY
DELETE	EXIT

4.2 FACULTY DETAILS MENU

This menu allows the user to enter the details of Faculty such as Name, Employee ID, Qualification, Designation etc, which is shown below:

FACULTY DETAILS MENU	
NAME:	<input type="text"/>
EMPLOYEE ID:	<input type="text"/>
QUALIFICATION:	<input type="text"/>
DESIGNATION:	<input type="text"/>
SAVE	MODIFY
DELETE	EXIT

4.3 ATTENDANCE MENU

This menu allows the user to enter the attendance details of students for different subjects such as maximum number of classes held and the number of classes attended by the student. The software will calculate the percentage of attendance in that subject, which is shown below:

ATTENDANCE MENU			
NAME:	<input type="text"/>	COURSE:	<input type="text"/>
REGISTER.NO:	<input type="text"/>		
SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>		
SECTION:	<input type="text"/>		
SUBJECT:	<input type="text"/>		
MAX:	<input type="text"/>	ATTENDED:	<input type="text"/>
		%AGE:	<input type="text"/>
SAVE		MODIFY	DELETE
		EXIT	

4.4 IA MARKS MENU

This menu allows the user to enter the IA marks details of students such as maximum marks and the marks obtained by the student for different subject in number of tests. The software will calculate the average of the test marks in that subject, which is shown below:

IA MARKS MENU			
NAME:	<input type="text"/>	COURSE:	<input type="text"/>
REGISTER.NO:	<input type="text"/>	SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>
SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>		
SUBJECT:	<input type="text"/>	TEST:	<input type="text"/>
MAX:	<input type="text"/>	OBTAINED:	<input type="text"/>
		AVG:	<input type="text"/>
SAVE		MODIFY	DELETE
		EXIT	

4.5 SUBJECT DETAILS MENU

This menu allows the user to enter the details of subjects that student has to study in their respective semester such as Course, Semester, Section, Subjects he has to study and faculty handling the different subjects, which is shown below:

SUBJECT DETAILS MENU	
COURSE:	<input type="text"/>
SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>
SECTION:	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT:	<input type="text"/>
FACULTY:	<input type="text"/>
SAVE	MODIFY
DELETE	EXIT

4.6 REPORTS MENU

This menu allows the user to view or to print the details of students such as attendance percentage and IA marks in different subjects of their respective semester, which is shown below

REPORTS MENU				
COURSE:	<input type="text"/>	SEMESTER:	<input type="text"/>	
SECTION:	<input type="text"/>	SUBJECT:	<input type="text"/>	
ATTENDANCE:	RANGE:	<input type="text"/>	TO	<input type="text"/>
IA MARKS:	RANGE:	<input type="text"/>	TO	<input type="text"/>
VIEW	PRINT	MODIFY	DELETE	EXIT

To implement the MIS to any department in the institution, it is necessary to study the existing system used for the purpose. Any suitable database management system is used to design the Management Information System as per the requirement. The development of the system starts after deciding the needs of the end user and keeping in view the overall objectives of the system. Once the Management Information System is developed based on the requirement, it is implemented along with the existing system for some period of time. After completely familiar with this system, the old system is stopped and new system is continued by the institution. The success of the developed Management Information System depends on the users how best they will use the system, learn the system, adopt the system and switchover from the existing system to the new system.

5. CONCLUSION

It helps the department heads to keep on hand information about the student's attendance, internal assessment marks and details of all the faculty of the department. Any updating and modification can also be done easily. The details of the students can be entered in student details form once and the same data can be used for entering attendance and IA marks for each subject in respective forms. After the entry of attendance for all the students in all the subject, the software calculates the percentage of attendance and generates a report which will have register number and percentage of attendance of those students who have less than 75% attendance. The report can be transferred on to a hard copy.

When the IA marks of all the students are entered for all subjects and all three tests, the software calculates the average of best two and generates a report which will have register number, the average marks of all the students in all the subjects. This can be transferred on to a hard copy. Hence by using this software, a lot of time can be saved and the mistakes which could happen by oversight can be eliminated.

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