

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 General Introduction

The management and booking of tickets and cabins manually is a difficult and complex task for forest circuits in Sri Lanka. The possibility to choose between different dates and times, the combination of different cabins with different types for various age groups of local people and foreigners shows the necessity of a good online booking system to make this task as easy as possible.

Online booking systems are more quickly, easily accessed at any time and much more convenient than the manual system. They reduce human error and repetition by automatically populating some fields with information. On line systems reduce entering duplicate information on several documents and a lag in time between when a request is made and when the effect of that result is seen. Electronic files can easily be found through a reference number or a query of records. Therefore there is also less opportunity for files or records to be lost, damaged or destroyed.

1.2 Problem domain

Awareness among the people about the valuable ecosystems is essential for the conservation of the species in Sri Lanka. Local people as well as foreigners, all over the world, visit these ecosystems for recreation and educational purposes

At present, a manual booking system is functioning in the forest Department of Sri Lanka. No online booking system for the visiting places of recreational and educational values is implemented in the country. The manual booking system functioning in the forest Department is an inconvenient and time-consuming task for users in rural and suburban areas in Sri Lanka as well as foreigners. Requests can not be made through telephone or by letters. They need to come to Colombo for each booking.

1.3 Proposed solution

An automated system is proposed to solve the above problem faced by the Forest Department of Sri Lanka. The system runs on Windows environment with Apache web server, and MYSQL database server.

1.4 Objectives

- To study the issues in the Forest Department of Sri Lanka.
- To study the use of web based technology to solve the problems in the present booking system
- To design and Develop a web based prototype solution
 - To create a website to visit two MAB reserves.
 - To design a database for the website.
 - To provide on line facilities to check the status of the availability and accommodation, and to view booking details and price.
 - To provide on line facilities to submit users comments.
 - To provide on line facilities for keeping a guestbook.
 - To provide facilities to make payments electronically.
- To evaluate the prototype.
- To prepare a final documentation
- To give an idea of the importance of MAB reserves.

1.5 Structure of the thesis

The rest of the thesis has been structured as follows. The chapters in this thesis comprise a general introduction, contents and a summary.

Chapter 2 describes the background with the lack of automated handling in the current booking system of the Forest Department.

Chapter 3 states the theoretical foundation of the booking system. It describes the web technology, and an approach to solve the problem in the Forest Department of Sri Lanka. It elaborates the inputs, outputs, processes, users and the features of the proposed system.

Chapter 4 reports system requirements, and the analysis and design for the solution of the problem. The top level of the approach is presented with five modules as registration, administration, check availability, bookings and payments. Next the role of each module

is described. Modules were selected by studying the activities involved in the system and the task involved.

Chapter 4 presents the implementation of the system. The implementation of registration, check availability, bookings and payments modules which are mentioned in the design phase is described considering user interface and data layer.

Chapter 5 discusses the testing and evaluation strategy, the results of evaluation of the user interface of the booking system and some test results.

Chapter 6 concludes the thesis with expected achievements and some further work.



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