

**Guidelines in Designing the e-Publishing Environment
for Handheld Devices:
A Study on eInfoC Website**

**This thesis is presented to the Faculty of Information Technology
in fulfillment of the requirements for
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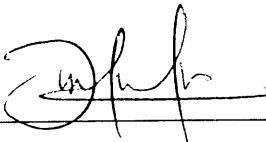
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FOR HANDHELD DEVICES: A STUDY ON eINFOC WEBSITE**

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ABSTRACT

The dramatic increase in the use and availability of handheld devices such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) in the last few years has resulted in the ability to access information anytime and anywhere. Despite the proliferation of these devices, their usage for accessing the web today is still largely constraint by their small screen display and we are lacking of the standard design guidelines for designing the e-publishing environment on such devices. This paper aims to study the guidelines provided by previous researchers and try to verify the prototype which was built based on the guidelines by interviewing the experts involved in website development, the eInfoC developer, and the user of handheld devices. Finally, the eInfoC website will be designed in a mobile page version.

ABSTRAK

Peningkatan yang mendadak dalam penggunaan alat-alat *handheld* seperti Pembantu Digital Persendirian (PDAs) dalam tempoh beberapa tahun ini telah menghasilkan kebolehan untuk mencapai maklumat pada bila-bila masa dan di mana sahaja. Walaupun penyebaran peralatan ini semakin meluas, namun penggunaannya dalam mencapai web masih terbatas oleh paparan skrin yang kecil dan kita tidak mempunyai garis panduan yang piawai dalam merekabentuk laman terbitan elektronik (e-publishing environment) keatas alat-alat tersebut. Sasaran kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji garis panduan yang disediakan oleh pengkaji-pengkaji terdahulu dan mengesahkan prototaip yang dihasilkan berdasarkan garis panduan tersebut dengan menjalankan sesi temuramah keatas pakar-pakar yang terdiri daripada individu-individu yang terlibat dalam pembangunan laman web, pembangun laman web eInfoC, dan pengguna alat-alat *handheld*. Akhir sekali, laman web eInfoC akan di rekabentuk dalam versi laman *mobile*.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERMISSION TO USE	i
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	x
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction of the Study.....	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	4
1.3 Objectives	4
1.4 Scope of the Study	5
1.5 Research Significant.....	6
1.6 Organization of the Thesis.....	6
CHAPTER 2 : LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1 Handheld Devices (PDAs)	7
2.2 Characteristics of Handheld Devices (PDAs)	9
2.2.1 Display.....	9
2.2.2 Processing capacity	11
2.2.3 Control and Input devices.....	12
2.2.4 Usage	12

2.3	Issues in Designing websites page for Handheld Devices	12
2.4	Handheld Web	14
2.5	Previous work on screen size effects.....	15
2.5.1	Reading and comprehension.....	15
2.5.2	User interaction	17
2.5.3	Web page scrolling	19
2.6	e-Publishing Environment.....	20
2.7	WWW Design Guidelines	20
2.7.1	Software and Hardware	21
2.7.2	Content and Organization.....	21
2.7.3	Aesthetics and Layout	22
CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....		24
3.1	Introduction	24
3.2	Methodology.....	25
3.2.1	Requirement Analysis	27
3.2.2	Conceptualization	29
3.2.3	Prototyping and Verification	29
3.2.4	Design.....	30
3.2.5	Implementation.....	30
3.2.6	Maintenance and Evolution.....	30
3.3	Summary.....	30
CHAPTER 4 : REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS		32
4.1	Introduction	32
4.2	Guidelines provided by previous researchers.....	32
4.3	Guidelines gathered from the experts review	41
4.4	Summary.....	44

CHAPTER 5 : DESIGN.....	46
5.1 Interface Design.....	46
5.2 Summary.....	54
CHAPTER 6 : CONCLUSIONS.....	55
6.1 Conclusion.....	55
6.2 Scope and Limitations	56
6.2 Recommendation and Future Research	57
REFERENCES	58
APPENDICES.....	62
APPENDIX A.....	62

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1: The lifecycle of a Web application proposed by Fraternali (1999)	25
Figure 3.2: The sequence flows of the Methodology process.....	26
Figure 5.1: Current eInfoC website (on desktop PC)	47
Figure 5.2 (a,b): Current eInfoC website (on Pocket PC Emulator).....	48
Figure 5.3 (a,b,c): About eInfoC	49
Figure 5.4 (a,b,c,d): Browse product by category	51
Figure 5.5 (a,b): Log in page for user	52
Figure 5.6 (a,b,c): Announcement.....	53
Figure 5.7 (a,b): View softwares provided	53

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: The Existing Guidelines	39
Table 4.2: Expert Review on Existing Guidelines	40

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PDAs	- Personal Digital Assistants
e-publishing	- electronic publishing
UUM	- Universiti Utara Malaysia
eInfoc	- electronic Information Centre
dpi	- dots per inch
PC	- Personal Computer

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction of the Study

Handheld devices such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are personal computing appliances, which can be carried around and used anytime and anywhere. Such devices can be used for varieties of functions. For example, to manage work or study schedules, to record and to store data. They also offer features such as diary, address book and note-taking facilities. The devices could accompany people throughout their lives and be used to input data and access information whenever it is necessary; people's like students undertaking distance education programmed and businessmen gain a lot of benefits using the handheld devices since the devices help them to make more effective use of time while they are away from home or office environment.

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