

**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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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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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PDA s	- 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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