AN INFORMATION PORTAL FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA: A CASE STUDY IN KAMPUNG JANDA BAIK, BENTONG, PAHANG

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AN INFORMATION PORTAL FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN MALAYSIA: A CASE STUDY IN KAMPUNG JANDA BAIK, BENTONG, PAHANG

A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Information Technology
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

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By

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ABSTRAK

Portal Maklumat digunakan dalam pelbagai sektor sebagai cara termudah untuk menyebarkan maklumat yang berguna kepada pengguna-pengguna portal tersebut. Kawasan luar bandar seperti Kampung Janda Baik di Daerah Bentong, Pahang memerlukan Portal Maklumat yang membolehkan ahli komuniti-komunitinya memperoleh dan mendapatkan maklumat yang berguna bagi meningkatkan taraf hidup mereka. Rekabentuk Portal Maklumat Luar Bandar untuk Kampung Janda Baik haruslah boleh diterima dan digunakan oleh semua lapisan masyarakat dalam komuniti tersebut. Beberapa analisis dilakukan untuk memilih ciri-ciri yang paling sesuai bagi Portal Maklumat Luar Bandar berdasarkan keperluan yang dikumpulkan daripada penduduk Kampung Janda Baik. Analisis-analisis yang telah dilakukan dalam projek ini memberikan banyak faedah dalam penggunaan aplikasi Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi untuk komuniti-komuniti di kawasan luar bandar.

ABSTRACT

Information portal is used in varies sector as the easiest way to spread useful information to the target users. Rural area like Kampung Janda Baik in Bentong District, Pahang needs an Information Portal for its community to retrieve and access beneficial information to increase their life standard. The design for the Rural Information Portals for Kampung Janda Baik must be acceptable and applicable for all levels of the community. Several analysis are conducted to select the most suitable features needed for the Rural Information Portal based on the requirements collected from Kampung Janda Baik. The analysis that have been conducted in this project has given much advantage of using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) application for the rural communities.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning							
DOA	Department of Agriculture							
FAMA	Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority							
FAQ	Frequent Answer and Question							
ICT	Information and Communication Technology							
IDRC	International Development Research Council							
INFRA	Institute for Rural Advancement							
IP	Information Portal							
KETENGAH	Terengganu Tengah Development Authority							
MIMOS	Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems							
PDA	Personal Digital Assistant							
RISDA	Rubber Industry Smallholders Development							
RP	Rural Information Portal							
UCC	Uganda Communication Commission							
UNIMAS	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak							

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) application has becoming more and more important in our daily life. With the Internet application, people can perform and accomplish many tasks just by sitting in front of the computer. As technology usually changes rapidly from day to day, nowadays, people can also access the Internet by using mobile devices like a handphone or a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). These kind of devices can be use to access various information, paying utility bills or even checking for traffic summons. Internet services are important to deliver information to all level of communities. The usage of the Internet application is not only limited in urban areas, because it has also been spreading to the rural areas.

The Malaysian government has taken initiative such as establishing Pusat Internet Desa (Village Internet Centre) in rural areas to give opportunities for the rural communities to get the latest information and also use other facilities, which is available on the Internet.

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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A3. Features of Information Portals (Common)...continue

FEATURES	i P1	IP2	IP3	IP4	IP5	IP6	IP7	IP8	IP9	IP10	IP11	IP12	SUM
Assistance with site use													
Support and guidance and immediate help / help pages	1	X	1	1	1	1	X	χ	X	X	X	X	5
A-Z content list / directory list	X	Х	Χ	Χ	1	χ	Χ	χ	χ	Χ	χ	χ	1
Site map	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	χ	χ	Χ	X	1	7
Feedback option	X	X	1	1	1	Χ	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	1	1	6
About	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Χ	χ	Χ	Χ	1	8
Contact Us	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.	Χ	Χ	1	X	9
Information guide	X	1	Χ	1	1	1	X	Χ	Χ	Χ	1	X	5
Privacy	1	Χ	χ	1	1	Χ	1	Χ	Χ	χ	χ	1	5
Copyright statement	1	T	Χ	1	1	1	1	Î	Χ	\hat{I}	1	1	10
Disclaimer	X	χ	Χ	Χ	1	1	χ	χ	1	X	Χ	χ	3
Last updated	Х	Χ	Χ	χ	χ	χ	1	χ	Χ	χ	χ	χ	1
Hit counter	Х	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	1	χ	1	χ	χ	χ	2
Accessibility		χ	χ	1	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	2

B1. Features of Rural Information Portais (Common)

FEATURES 1	RP1	RP2	RP3	RP4	RP5	RP6	RP7	RP8	RP9	R10	SUM
Utilities		1000									
Channels/Categories	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Browseable Hierarchical Directories	1	χ	1	Х	Χ	1	1	1	1	1	7
Email facilities	1	Х	1	1	Χ	1	1	1	1	1	8
Calculator	1	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	χ	Χ	χ	Χ	1
Calendar	Х	χ	1	χ	χ	Χ	χ	X	Χ	Χ	1
Currency Exchange Rates	Х	1	χ	χ	χ	Χ	χ	Χ	χ	χ	1
Access to Geographical Maps	Х	Χ	Χ	1	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ	1	χ	2
Personalisation (changing various aspects to suit oneself)											
Adjust font size	X	χ	X	X	Χ	Χ	X	1	X	χ	1
Resource Discovery				Yalki Markan							
Resource directory	Χ	X	Χ	χ	χ	1	1	Χ	1	χ	3
Single Sign-on Access Management	1	Χ	1	1	Χ	1	1	Χ	1	Χ	6
Search the local Web site (or in-house)	1	1	1	1	Χ	1	1	1	1	1	9
News/News Feeds											
In the News/Headlines	1	1	1	1	1	Χ	1	Χ	1	Χ	7
Subject-specific (portal's specialisation) news	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Recent news	1	1	Χ	1	1	Χ	1	1	1	1	8
General news	Х	Χ	χ	1	χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	1
Weather news	1	1	χ	χ	Χ	Χ	χ	χ	Χ	Χ	2
Job vacancy ads	X	χ	1	1	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	2
Information in the form of statistics	1	1	Χ	1	X	1	X	Χ	X	X	4
Production news	1	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	χ	Х	Χ	χ	Χ	2
Stock market prices	1	1	Х	Χ	Х	Х	χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	2
Events	1	Χ	1	1	1	1	1	Χ	1	1	8
Announcements	X	Χ	Х	1	X	1	X	X	1	Χ	3
Health / welfare	1	1	1	χ	Χ	Х	1	1	1	1	7
Agriculture	1	1	1	X	X	1	1	1	1	1	8

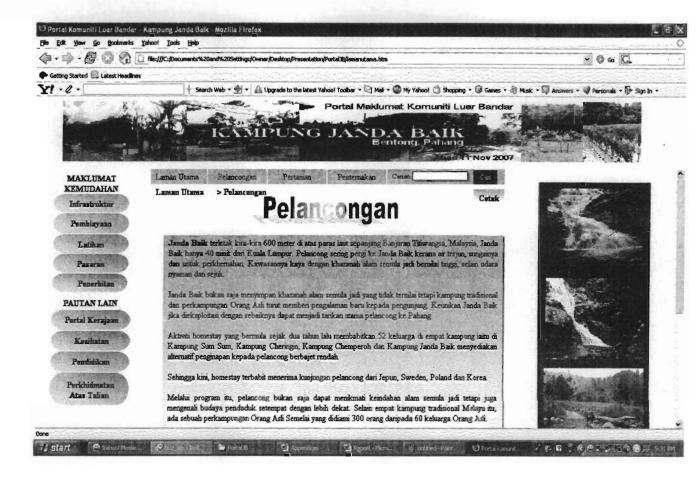
B2. Features of Rural Information Portals (Common)...continue

FEATURES	RP1	RP2	RP3	RP4	RP5	RP6	RP7	RP8	RP9	R10	SUM
Community Communication											
Message boards / Mailing list	X	Х	1	Х	X	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	900
Forum	X	1	1	1	X	1	1	1	1	χ	7
Ask an expert / Consulting	1	Χ	1	Χ	X	1	Χ	Χ	1	χ	4
Publications		Χ	1	1	1	1	1	1	T	χ	8
Subject-specific (portal's specialisation)											
ePrint archive	X	Χ	Χ	χ	X	1	1.	1	1	χ	4
FAQs	1	Χ	Χ	1	Χ	1	χ	χ	χ	χ	3
Grants & Funding sources / subsidies	1	X	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	1	χ	2
Glossary of subject terms	X	X	1	Χ	χ	χ	Х	χ	χ	χ	1
Links to related Web sites	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Advertising											
Adverts - general	X	1	Χ	1	Χ	X	X	Χ	X	Χ	2
Education-based											
Learning / Education	1	1	1	1	Χ	Χ	χ	1	χ	1	6
Leisure											
Online Shopping	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	χ	1
Miscellaneous services											
Online payment	1	Χ	χ	Χ	χ	χ	χ	Χ	X	X	1
Online Services	1	χ	Χ	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	X	Χ	2
RSS feed	X	X	Χ	χ	χ	Χ	1	Χ	1	Χ	2
Download facilities	X	Χ	1	Χ	χ	1	1	Χ	X	X	3
Other language (more than one language)	1	1	1	X	χ	Χ	f	X	X	X	4
Date,day,time	X	1	Х	1	1	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	4
Polling	X	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	1
Submit articles / share knowledge	X	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	χ	1

B3. Features of Rural Information Portals (Common)...continue

FEATURES	RP1	RP2	RP3	RP4	RP5	RP6	RP7	RP8	RP9	R10	SUM
Assistance with site use											
Support and guidance and immediate help / help pages	X	χ	1	X	X	χ	X	1	X	X	2
A-Z content list / directory list	1	Χ	X	Х	χ	χ	X	X	X	Χ	1
Site map	1	χ	1	Χ	X	X	1	1	1	1	6
Feedback option	1	X	1	1.	Χ	Î	Χ	1	X	X	5
About	Î	1	X	X	X	1	χ	1	1	1	6
Contact Us	ĵ.	X	1	1	Χ	1	1	1	1	χ	7_
Information guide	X	X	Χ	Χ	χ	Χ	X	χ	1	χ	1
Privacy		X	χ	X	X	X	Χ	1.	1	1	4
Copyright statement	1	1	χ	1	χ	1	1	1	1.	1	8
Disclaimer	X	χ	Χ	χ	χ	Χ	Х	1	1	Χ	2
Last updated	Х	1	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	1	1	χ	3
Hit counter	Х	1	χ	χ	Х	χ	Х	Χ	χ	Χ	1
Accessibility	. /	Χ	Χ	χ	Χ	χ	χ	Χ	1	Χ	2

C. Interface of 'Pelancongan' ('Tourism')



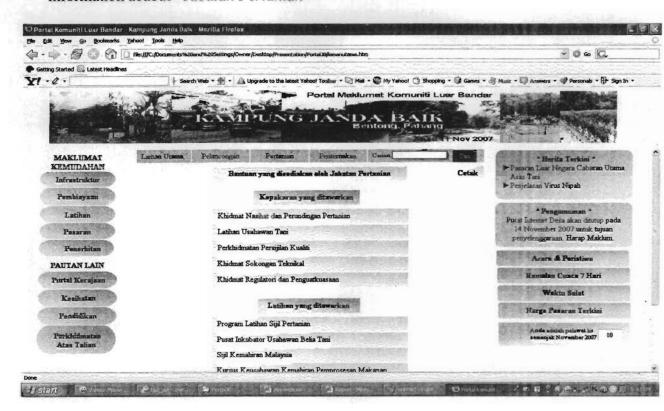
D. Interface of 'Pertanian' ('Agriculture')



E. Interface of 'Carian' ('Search'). Example: Searching on "Jabatan Pertanian"



F. Interface of result on searching on "Jabatan Pertanian". This interface shows all information abaout "Jabatan Pertanian"



G. Interface of complete information from one of the result appear on searching "Jabatan Pertanian". It provides information of contact persons that responsible on that topic.

