

Guidelines for Implementing iThesis System in Electronic Thesis Process of Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to identify the problem conditions and guidelines for applying the iThesis system for electronic thesis writing at the Graduate School of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The research population consisted of 30 advisors and graduate students, and a questionnaire was used as the research tool. The research found that the majority of respondents were female, representing 63.4 percent, aged between 41 and 50 years old, representing 83.33 percent, and single, representing 73.33 percent. Additionally, the respondents had an average monthly income of 25,000 - 35,000 baht, representing 60.0 percent. The students expressed a high level of satisfaction with the convenience of searching for information and the benefits to the organization.

Keywords : iThesis System/ Electronic Thesis

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, all departments emphasize the importance of developing a good information system to increase departmental efficiency and be able to compete with others. Various technologies related to the development of information systems, such as computer systems and telecommunication tools, have progressed rapidly, and educational institutions have greatly increased their curriculum in this field. The world today has truly stepped into the era of information systems. Within the next few years, good information systems will be required to help make life happy and work effectively.

iThesis is a dissertation management framework designed for graduate students under the Thai Library Network Development Project (ThaiLIS), which was established by the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC). The system provides a convenient platform for students to create and submit their thesis proposal, draft thesis, and complete thesis to advisors and course administrators. Additionally, the iThesis system facilitates the identification of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, through the use of a plagiarism detection program called "Akarawisut." This program has a community-based thesis database for verification and checks all versions of thesis proposal files, draft thesis, and complete thesis that students submit for approval.

Presently, thesis management for both master's and doctoral degrees at the Graduate School is paper-based, leading to wastage of resources and potential loss of documents. Therefore, the researcher proposes utilizing the iThesis system for dissertation management to reduce resource consumption, expedite the examination process, provide advisors with easy access to student work, and enable students to follow up on their work with advisors.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To identify problem conditions and guidelines for implementing the iThesis system in electronic thesis writing at the Graduate School of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In research on Guidelines for Implementing iThesis in the Electronic Thesis Process of the Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, the researcher has studied relevant documents and researches and presented the following topics.

1. iThesis system

The iThesis system, also known as the Integrated Thesis & Research Management System, was developed to facilitate thesis and research management, as well as to support students in their thesis preparation. The system offers various functions, including supporting the preparation of a thesis plan, aiding in the submission of thesis proposals, draft thesis, and the complete thesis to advisors, recording examination results, thesis information, and disseminating research results. Additionally, completed thesis files can be stored in the educational institution's library, also known as the Intellectual Repository, which enables libraries to create a repository of research data and deliver it to the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC) for recording in the country's thesis repository, the Thai Digital Collection.

It is worth noting that the title of theses in the doctoral level and Master's degree program A in each educational institution may differ. For instance, the thesis at the doctoral level in some universities is referred to as a dissertation, while some universities in the doctoral and Master's degree plan A use the term

thesis. Therefore, to ensure consistency and understanding of the system, this manual defines the term "Thesis" as a dissertation or dissertation at the doctoral level, while the term "Thesis" refers to the Master's degree plan A. Furthermore, the title of the thesis in Master's Degree Plan B varies in each educational institution. Some universities call it "thesis," while others refer to it as "independent study." To maintain consistency, this manual defines the term "thesis" as a thesis or independent research at the master's degree level, plan B. However, in some instances when referring to the general process, the word "thesis" may be used instead of "independent study."

The iThesis system provides a framework for writing, managing thesis proposals, draft thesis, and complete thesis, which can be conveniently delivered to advisors and graduate staff through the system. It also helps students recognize and avoid plagiarism by checking the similarity of the thesis through a plagiarism checker program named "Akarawisut." Moreover, if the educational institution requires the use of more than one program, the system must report results from those programs as well. The application is composed of two main parts, namely the web portal and the iThesis Add-in, which is an extension program installed on Microsoft Word. Both of these components work in conjunction with one another. For example, if data on a web portal form is modified, or the name of the examiner is changed, or data is altered in other sections on the Electronics form menu, thesis templates created by the add-in have a mechanism for editing to ensure that the information displayed in every section is consistent.

Web Portal

The web portal can be categorized into five distinct user groups: system administrators, graduate students, library staff, advisors, and students. Each user group has different usage requirements. This paper focuses on the use of the

web portal by advisors.

The web portal designed for faculty advisor users is a function that facilitates the management of student information, allowing faculty advisors and examination committees to track the progression status of their students' theses. This platform enables advisors to take care of their students' needs comprehensively and efficiently. Additionally, the portal can be connected to the approval form in the system, enhancing its usability and convenience.

iThesis Add-in

The ITIS system incorporates a feature that operates within the Microsoft Word program, necessitating the installation of a small program referred to as the Add-in. This program is available in two versions:

- Version 306, suitable for installation on 32-bit operating system computers.
- x64 version, suitable for installation on 64-bit operating system computers.

To install the add-in, it is imperative to select the version that matches the computer's operating system. Additionally, the add-in must be installed on Microsoft Word version 2010 or higher, which is compatible exclusively with the Windows operating system. The iThesis Add-in provides users with various essential tools for developing thesis paper templates and saving files to the system. The user groups that make use of the iThesis Add-in include students, advisors, and graduate school staff.

Email:

The iThesis system will automatically send emails to users who are involved in the primary work process of the system, namely the main advisors, co-advisors, graduate staff, and students, who can be divided into three categories. These categories are as follows:

- Email requests for approval, containing a hyperlink to the approval form of the iThesis system. Alternatively, the request can be reviewed and approved by logging into the web portal.

- Email notifications of the results of approval, which inform the recipient of the status of the thesis approval.

- Email notifications of authorization to use the system.

EndNote:

EndNote, developed by Thomson Reuters, is a software that facilitates the collection of citations and bibliographic information relevant to a user's thesis. The program offers a variety of citation formats, including APA16 and Numbers, which users may select based on the requirements of their institution, faculty, or field of study. EndNote's primary users are students.

Zotero:

Zotero is open-source software that enables users to manage citations and import bibliographic entries automatically. It also allows for the storage of searchable information from various databases by collecting bibliographies or citations in multiple formats, including PDF files, images, folders, web pages, links, and other file types found through general online sources. Zotero is a valuable resource for managing bibliographic information and research documents.

RESEARCH METHODS

1. Population and sample: The study population consisted of 30 advisors and graduate students.

2. Instrument: The researcher used an open-ended questionnaire as a tool to collect data. To ensure the quality of the questionnaire, the researcher tested its content validity and reliability.

3. Data collection: The researcher distributed the questionnaire to a randomly selected sample, ensuring that each participant received clear instructions and an explanation of the study objectives before answering the questionnaire. The researcher collected the completed questionnaires over a period of approximately one month, and then organized the data for analysis.

4. Data analysis: The collected data was analyzed using computer software, which calculated the percentage, mean, and standard deviation statistics.

RESULTS

The present study investigates the guidelines for implementing iThesis in the electronic thesis process at the Graduate School of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The researcher presents the following data analysis results:

Firstly, regarding the personal factors of the respondents, the majority of the participants were female, representing 63.40 percent, and male, representing, with the most prevalent age range being 41-50 years old, representing 83.33 percent of the respondents. The subsequent most common age range was 31-40 years old, accounting for 10.00 percent each. The majority of the respondents reported being single, representing 73.33 percent followed by those who were married, accounting for 26.67 percent. The most frequent monthly income range was 25,001-35,000 baht, representing 60.00 percent followed by the income range of 35,001-45,000 baht, accounting for 20.00 percent.

Secondly, the respondents evaluated the usability of the iThesis system, categorizing each aspect from most to least important. The convenience in finding information and the usefulness of the system to the organization received

high average level ratings ($\bar{x} = 4.20$), as did the convenience of the system compared to the old system ($\bar{x} = 4.06$), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Assessment of Satisfaction

Assessment Items	Level of Demand	
	\bar{x}	Level
Ease of use	3.73	Moderate
Topic layout style	3.34	Medium
Accuracy and reliability of data	3.80	Much
Ease of searching for information	4.20	Very
Speed of the program	3.86	Very
Convenience of the system compared to the original system	4.06	High
Benefits to the organization	4.20	High

DISCUSSION

Upon conducting this research, it was discovered that user satisfaction with the system can be categorized as follows: the convenience of information retrieval and organizational benefits exhibited a high average level ($\bar{x} = 4.20$), while the convenience of the system in comparison to its predecessor exhibited a similar high average level ($\bar{x} = 4.06$). These outcomes align with the findings [5], who analyzed the analysis of impact factor on the user's satisfaction towards the sexual harassment recording systems, PHIS, at the Police General Hospital. Their study revealed that overall satisfaction with the utilization of the PHIS program for sexual assault victim data collection was elevated. In particular, users regarded the process of "specifying a user account and password to verify access to the program" as highly satisfactory, followed by the "easy-to-use

screen design," which fostered an increase in work efficiency, and the "user-friendly language" utilized within the program, which also garnered high ratings.

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