Development Lifestyle Of Thai Buddhist Knowledge Mobile Application

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Abstract

The purpose of the development of the Thai Buddhist lifestyles application based on the Android operating system is to develop a database system for the lifestyle of Thai Buddhist to serve as a channel for disseminating information about Buddhist ceremony so that most people in the country can appreciate the difference of the two Thai Buddhist dominations. The sources of information were obtained by the student at The Education Center of Buddhist on Sunday of Rajadhiwaswihara temple (Dhammayut domination) and from senior monks while the developer had undergone the ordination at Nimanoradi temple (Maha Nikaya domination). It can be concluded that when a new media technologies was made available to the people, it can stir great interests and help gain easy access to Religions information since the system can be adapted to users easily due to the fact that the data is stored and available on the users devices. This is also beneficial to the students who used the program and the youth can use such technology to reach the creativity and benefits. The results were satisfactory as follows: Means for teachers and students were 4.05 and 3.97 respectively, and standard deviation for specialists and users were 0.563 and 0.644 respectively.

Keywords: Thai Buddhist, Android Operating System, Dhammayut domination and Maha Nikaya domination.

1. Introduction

Although the primary religion of Thailand is Buddhism, which is practiced by nearly 95% of Thailand’s population (World Population Statistics, 2013), rarely Thai Buddhists practice Buddhist practices and rituals correctly. Also, Buddhism consists of a variety of rituals and practices, which are significant elements of human life. Rituals assist to create Thai community and mutual support. With the continuing impact of Western modernization

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and Technology, Buddhist education has been gradually diminishing especially in youth people. After examining several web sites so as to study the topic of rituals and practices in Buddhism of Thailand, the results found that most web sites presented the story of the Buddha or prayer, without describing the meaning or processes. In Thailand, there are two major monastic orders: Nikaya and Dhammayuttika Nikaya. The Mana Nikaya is by far the larger and traces its lineage directly to the Lankan establishment of the Sangha during the Sukhothai period and the Dhammayuttika was established in 1833 by H.R.H. Prince Mongkut, who later ascended the throne, as a smaller Nikaya dedicated to a more strict observance of the Vinaya. Both Nikayas come under the direction of the Supreme Sangha Council and the Supreme Patriarch. Subsequent internal reforms have greatly reduced the differences between them (Dhammathai, 2013). However, most people are hardly aware of the differences between the two Nikaya. With the rapid growth of information technology, mobile technology is one of the easiest and fastest efficient tools to support and help in this era. Additional, it encourages the user to learn and communicate automatically; therefore, it is worthwhile to provide education in the rituals and practices of the two Nikaya for people by using mobile application technology as the channel for dissemination of the rituals and practices of the two Nikaya, because the users can access this application at any place and any time. This research aims to develop a Thai Buddhist lifestyle application based on the Android operating system which will be useful to users. Moreover, it is also beneficial for disseminating information about Buddhist ceremonies also. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents related works used in this work; Section 3 presents the experimental setup; Section 4 shows the results of this experiment; Finally, in Section 5 concludes the paper with future research.

2. Related works

A literature search shows that most of the related research has been deployed mobile technology to develop the Thai Buddhist lifestyle application based on the Android operating system by following this: much of research works were conducted Android operating system to provide management of patient health records and medical images (Pearnok, 2007; Doukas, Pliakas & Maglogiannis, 2010) also to design for mobile learning environment (Sharples, 2000; Sharples, Taylor & Vavoula, 2007; Lally, Sharples, Bertram, Masters, Norton, & Tracy, 2012).

3. System framework

In this section, we present how to set up and develop this system. The framework of this system shows the overview of system consisted of 2 parts: Mobile application and Web Based Application. To develop the project, user requirements were studied and collected. The characteristics of the Thai Buddhist lifestyles mobile application are compatible with the Android Operating System and the Web Browser on the Internet.

4. The results of this system

In this project, we separated the result by the research purposes into 2 parts: developing the mobile application in Thai Buddhist lifestyles of based on Android Operating System and testing and evaluating the system. When testing and evaluating the qualities of the system, Black box Testing and Questionnaires by specialists and students were used to test this project. To evaluate the quality assessment system, Mean (x) and standard deviation (SD) were used to evaluate the abilities of the project. Black Box testing was used to determine the error of the project as following: functional requirement test, Function test, Usability test, Performance test and Security test. Functional Requirement Test evaluated the ability of the system in needs of the users and Functional Test was assessed to evaluate the accuracy of the system. Usability Test tested the suitability of the system. Performance Test was used check the processing speed of the system. Finally, Security Test evaluated the security of the system. Table 1. shows the results of Black box testing.
The results of data analysis by using Questionnaires to evaluate user satisfaction found that specialists and students, who studied at The Education Center of Buddhist on Sunday of Rajadhiwaswihara Temple (Dhammayut domination) and Nimanorradi Temple (Maha Nikaya domination), were satisfied by the performances of the system as follows: Means for teachers and students were 4.05 and 3.97 respectively, and standard deviation for specialists and users were 0.563 and 0.644 respectively.

5. Conclusion and future works

In this paper, we presented the preliminary results showing promising progress in this prototypes model for the ongoing improvement of the Thai Buddhist lifestyles application based on Android operating system and this model can be beneficial to disseminate information about Buddhist ceremonies so that user can be aware of the differences of the two major Nikaya in Thailand. However, in terms of future experiments, we are looking forward to research about other new media techniques to enhance this project.

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