

DEVELOPMENT OF A WEBSITE-BASED UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA ALUMNI APPLICATION

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Abstract

In a university, alumni have an important role in the subsequent education system, because their experience in utilizing education after graduating can provide input and new ideas for the university. Therefore, it is necessary to collect alumni data, especially for old generation alumni who do not yet have communication facilities between alumni, so media is needed to connect communication between alumni to exchange information and provide input and ideas to the institution. This research aims to develop an alumni website for use by alumni of Universitas Terbuka (UT) Medan, using a development model that takes into account the character of UT Medan, carried out through three stages, namely: (1) pre-development stage, (2) development stage, (3) model implementation stage. From the results of research on the development of the UT Medan alumni website, the following conclusions can be drawn: (1) The UT Medan alumni website does not contain alumni searches, but contains information that can be used by alumni such as educational information, job vacancies, scholarship information; (2) The UT Medan alumni website can establish indirect communication between alumni, especially the latest information on educational developments, job vacancies and scholarships, because there is a menu for exchanging information by users.

Keywords: Alumni, Communication, Information, Universitas Terbuka, Website.

1 INTRODUCTION

The success of the teaching and learning process in higher education does not only involve interaction between lecturers and students, but also includes many other supporting elements. Supporting elements in the implementation of education include aspects such as curriculum and learning materials, learning evaluation, administrative completeness, facilities and infrastructure, and other aspects, especially those that can be used as data for the completeness of accreditation administration.

Students as learning objects have a very important role in the success of education in a university. Students play an important role not only when they are still actively registered as

students, but also after the students have completed their education at the university or have become alumni.

The achievement of alumni quality in accordance with the objectives of each university can be seen from the results if the university conducts evaluations of the quality of the curriculum applied to its alumni. For this reason, each university is expected to always evaluate the curriculum applied in order to find out whether or not the goals expected of alumni have been achieved as provisions for them to pursue a career after graduating from the university. (Anggraini, RR & Kustijana, 2015) The impact of alumni identification with their alma mater can be measured by their engagement or attachment to the organization.

The only state university that implements a distance and open learning system is Universitas Terbuka (UT). The learning system adopted by UT has proven effective in increasing learning opportunities for all people in Indonesia. With the learning system in UT, equal opportunities and reach for all Indonesian citizens have been implemented well and effectively. This is certainly very good in improving the quality of education in Indonesia, especially in areas that are difficult to reach by other universities.

Alumni data, especially alumni jobs, are still not well recorded. In fact, this data is very much needed by prospective alumni to find better jobs. From the data collected manually, alumni of Universitas Terbuka Medan (UT Medan) who are spread throughout North Sumatra have obtained many better jobs when the alumni obtained a bachelor's degree from Universitas Terbuka (UT). Some alumni have even obtained jobs as decision makers. In addition, there are also alumni with a bachelor's degree from UT who have succeeded in obtaining a Master of Education scholarship at National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan.

Tracer study is a medium to obtain data needed for the development of a university. The implementation of tracer study at least includes the results of answers to questions about (a) Competitiveness of graduates which can be proven by the waiting time to get the first job, the success of alumni competing in the selection and the income obtained; (b) Relevance (suitability) of graduate education is shown through the job profile (type and place of work), relevance of work to educational background, the benefits of courses designed related to work, alumni input to improve graduate competence; (c) Stakeholder satisfaction, graduate competitiveness and graduate input to improve graduate competitiveness. Correlation between graduate extracurricular activities and graduate competitiveness. (Diana, 2017)

If all alumni data is collected neatly, it can certainly help alumni to communicate with each other, especially in getting jobs or further studies. Indirectly, the achievements of work obtained by alumni can raise the credibility of UT, especially UT Medan.

Based on this, the research team tried to design a web-based online application to summarize alumni data, especially employment data and scholarship-based further studies. The data will be loaded into a tracer study application.

2 METHODOLOGY

This research is a development research. Development research to produce a website for alumni of Universitas Terbuka Medan (UT Medan). Research and development in this case are used as a procedure to develop a website in accordance with the character of UT Medan. Based on the research procedure, it is expected that a product can be produced in the form of a website for UT Medan.

The development model in this research refers to the Research and Development (R & D) cycle model (Borg, WR & Gall, 1983) which includes preliminary study activities (preliminary investigation), design creation (design), realizing the design (construction), conducting tests, evaluations and revisions, and implementation.

This research development can be broadly mapped into three, namely: (1) pre-development stage, (2) development stage, and (3) model implementation stage. Pre-development stage of the alumni website PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor)-based for UT Medan includes preliminary study activities including reviewing relevant theories, literature, and research results and conducting field observations. The model development stage includes activities to determine and create alumni website designs php based for UT Medan. Alumni website implementation stage PHP-based for UT Medan includes validation, testing, evaluation and revision, and presentation of the final product/final model.

3 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Pre-development stage

In the pre-development stage, the research team has collected data on several study groups (pokjar) that are considered to be able to represent the pokjar around the pokjar. In this pre-development stage, the pokjar that were used as samples were Sibolga / Central Tapanuli, Pematang Siantar / Simalungun, and Batubara / Asahan.

Table 1. Alumni Questionnaire Results Regarding Needs on the UT Medan Alumni Website

	Respondents	job vacancy	Advanced Study Scholarship	Alumni Biodata
Sibolga/Central Tapanuli	40	40	12	40
Pematang Siantar/ Simalungun	40	40	20	40
Batubara/Asahan	40	40	16	40
Total	120	120	48	120

3.2 Development Stage

Based on the results of data collection at the pre-development stage, the design and creation of the application is carried out at the development stage. The initial step in the development stage is the creation of a new Information System Flow (ISF) based on the existing old ISF. After the analysis is complete, the researcher gets a clear picture of what needs to be done. In the new flow system, the three stakeholders (alumni, study group managers UT Medan) are interrelated. In the new flow system, the researcher creates a computerized system and there is also a database to store data in a computerized manner.

The analysis of the procedures developed on the UT Medan alumni website is as follows:

1. Universitas Terbuka (UT) Medan, Pokjar, Manager, Alumni provide information through the alumni website operator.
2. Alumni website operators share information (job vacancies, further study scholarships, alumni data) on the website page.
3. Alumni and study group managers access information.

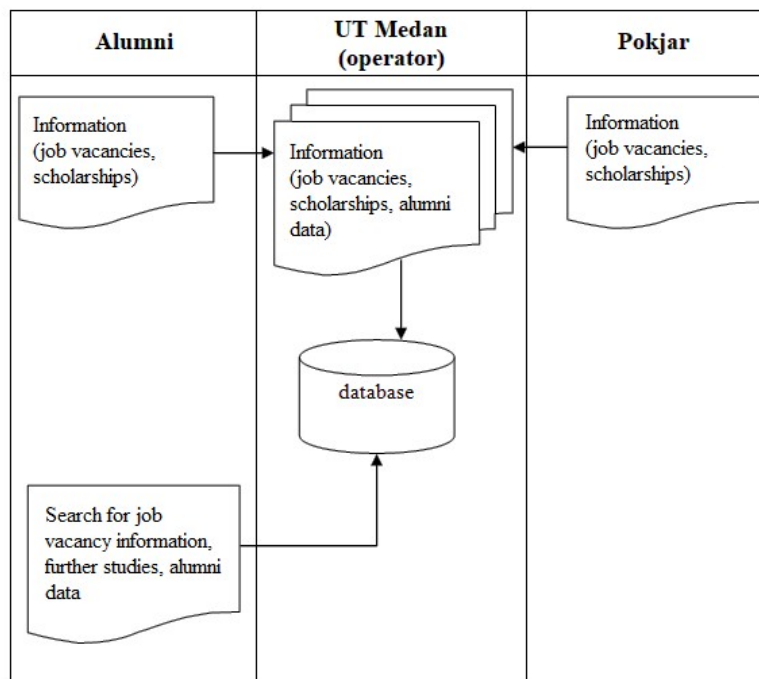


Figure 1. New Information System Flow

From the storyboard that has been validated by experts, a PHP-based web design was developed. The results of the web-based alumni website for UT Medan are as follows:

1. Home Menu Page

This page is the main menu when the user logs in to the web address <https://medan.ut.ac.id/alumni/>

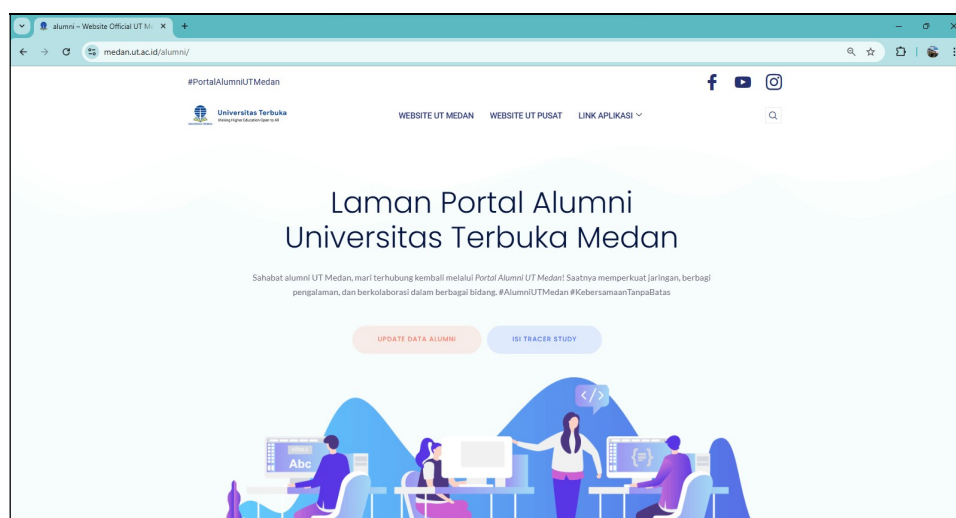


Figure 2. Home Menu Page

On the front view of <https://medan.ut.ac.id/alumni/> there is a display of the Medan Open University Alumni Portal page with two digital button displays to direct directly to "Update Alumni Data" and "Contents of Tracer Study".

2. Registration Page

On this page, a registration menu is presented for users (alumni). To be able to enter a deeper menu, users must register "UT Medan Alumni Data Update" first.

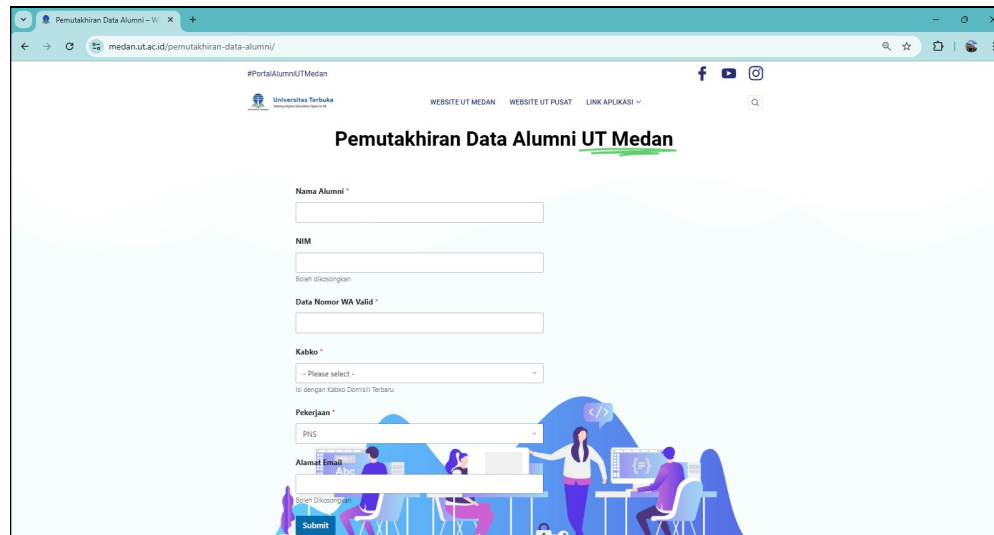


Figure 3. Registration Page

In the "UT Medan Alumni Data Updating" display, alumni are expected to be able to fill in Alumni biodata including (Name, ID Number, occupation, contact telephone number, email address, etc) so alumni data previously stored as a student at UT can be updated.

3. Login Menu

In the login menu, users (alumni) input data in the form of username and password to be able to enter the application.

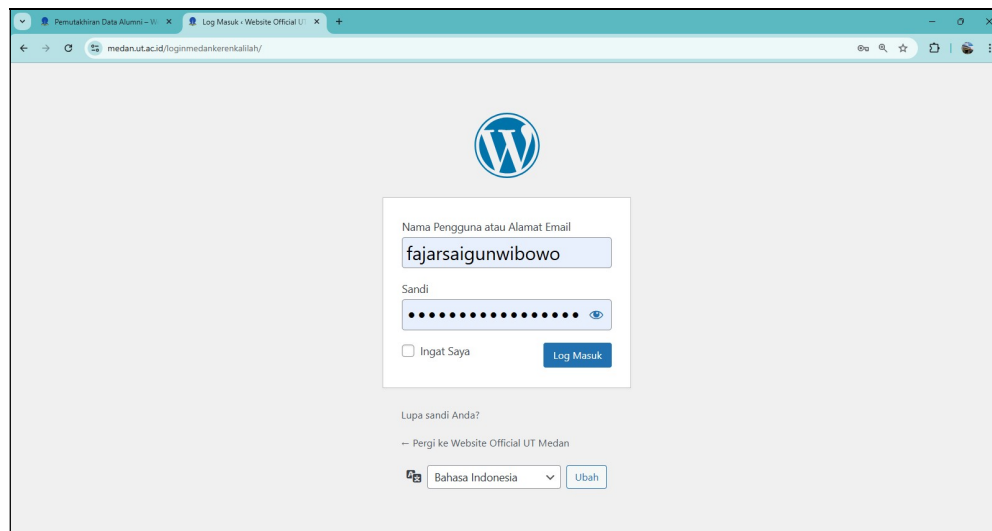


Figure 4. Login Menu Page

After registering and verifying data via email, alumni can log in via the email account and password that they previously registered.

4. Main Menu Page

On this page, users will be presented with a main menu containing menus including job vacancies, alumni information, and scholarships.

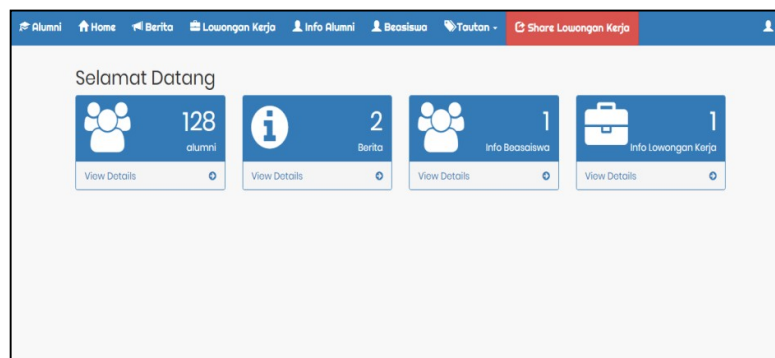


Figure 5. Main Menu Page

5. Job Vacancy Information Page

On this page, users will be presented with job vacancy information uploaded by the admin, but can also receive input from other alumni.

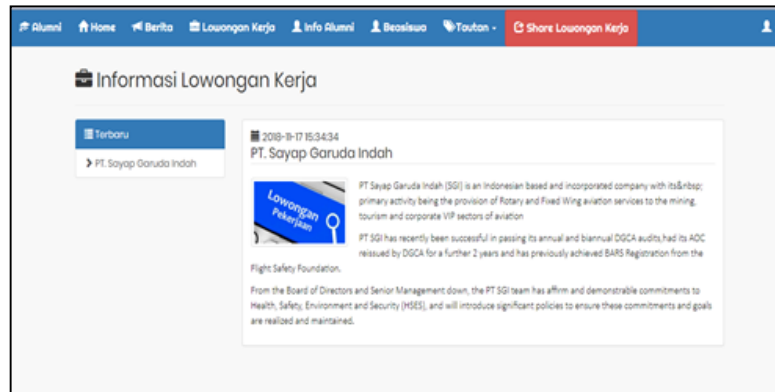


Figure 6. Job Vacancy Information Page

6. Scholarship Info Page

This page provides scholarship information that can be accessed by alumni.

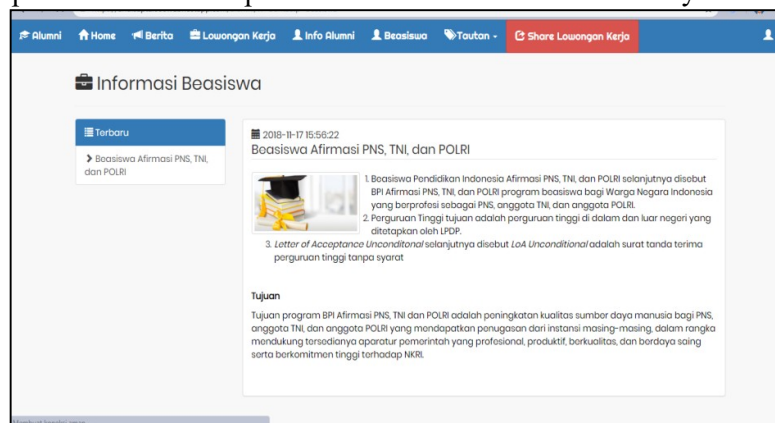


Figure 7. Schoolarship Information Page

7. Share Info Page

On this page, alumni can obtain summary information on alumni data per Faculty of the Open University and per district in North Sumatra Province every year. Information displayed by admin. Information that is suitable to be shared on the alumni page will be posted by the admin every semester. This page will also display the latest information sent by alumni, but the information provided will be filtered by the admin. Information that is worth sharing will be posted by the admin.

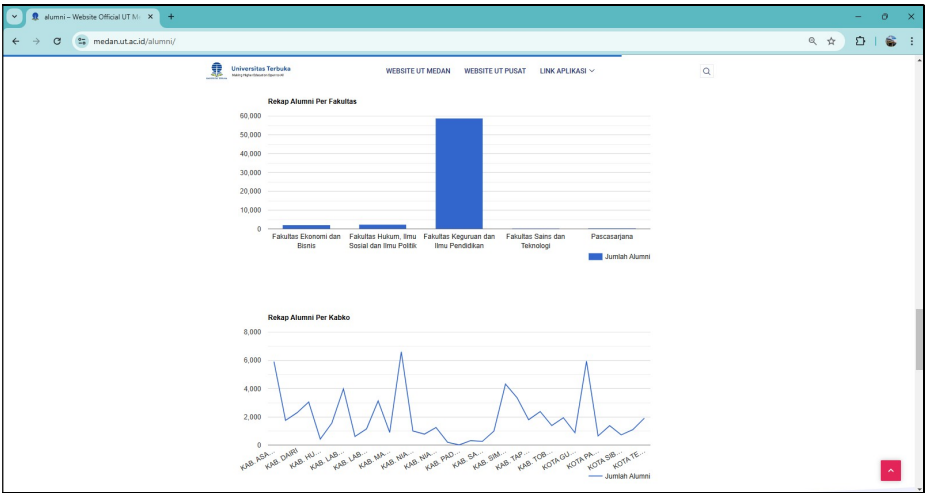


Figure 8. Share Info Page

8. Admin Page

alumni website for UT Medan has a different address for admins. For admins to login using the address <https://medan.ut.ac.id/alumni//admin-alumni>.

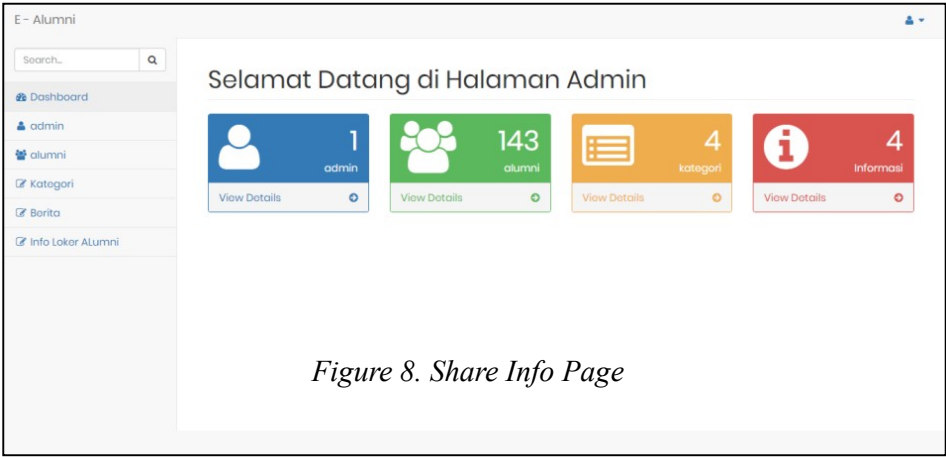


Figure 8. Share Info Page

3.3 Model Implementation Stage

After the web design and domain are complete, continue with *publishing*. The next stage is to test the application on selected alumni samples. Alumni who are randomly selected are from Pokjar Asahan. From the results of input from alumni regarding the alumni website PHP-based for UT Medan obtained the following input:

1. Web pages should not be filled with large images so they can be opened quickly, especially using a smartphone
2. This application is very good, especially in establishing indirect communication between alumni, especially regarding job vacancy and scholarship information.
3. There is a chat menu
4. This application is expected to be sustainable

3.4 Discussion

The development of a php-based alumni website at UT Medan is not much different from several alumni websites from other campuses, but there are several differences that are an added value of this UT Medan alumni website. (Rafi'i, I., & Aprilianto, 2016) , (Saputra, IW, 2012) , (Rahardja, U., Tiara, K., Wulandari, 2016) , the alumni website is open, meaning that all users can enter the website page and access information without having to log in first. The alumni website at UT Medan is designed to be closed, this is done so that access to information can only be used by alumni. This has the advantage that the information contained in the website is more confidential, both alumni data and information shared on the website.

The added value of the UT Medan alumni website developed in this study is that users (alumni) can provide information to the portal even though they have to go through the admin filter. This has an impact on the information that can be provided and received by users, so that communication can be better established among alumni.

The existence of the UT Medan alumni website also still has shortcomings that need to be developed in subsequent research. The basic thing that is an obstacle is the socialization of the website itself. As is known, Universitas Terbuka has students who are spread throughout the region, so conveying information, especially to alumni, is quite troublesome.

Another improvement needed in this website is the search for alumni in the database by the user. Conventional alumni data menus such as email, telephone number, home address are

sometimes still not perfect in tracking the alumni needed. It would be good if in the future development of this website GPS (Global Positioning System) is applied.

4 CONCLUSION

From the results of research and discussion on the development of a PHP- based alumni website for UT Medan, the following conclusions can be obtained:

1. PHP- based alumni website for UT Medan does not contain alumni searches, but contains information that can be used by alumni such as job vacancy information and scholarship information.
2. PHP- based alumni website for UT Medan can establish communication between alumni, especially in job vacancy and scholarship information, because it contains a menu for sharing information by users.

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