Case Study

Customer: King Faisal University

Project Name: Research Management & Tracking System

Project has been implemented during 2009
Upgraded during 2010

Background:

The support of scientific research is a very important part of King Faisal University mission, which drive the university to look for new techniques & technologies to utilize it into managing and tracking the periodic researches supported by the deanship of scientific research.

The deanship of scientific research was planning to automate all the research proposals submission procedures, including the submission process, reviewing process, final decisions process until the research proposal turns into a project, and then manage and track the projects until they finish.

Business Challenges:

The deanship of scientific research at King Faisal University supports many types of researches (Annual Scientific Researches, SABIC supported researches…etc) where each type has its own conditions, restrictions, and information.

The most important challenges faced by the deanship of scientific research were:

1. Different types of researches where each of them has its own conditions, restrictions, and information.
2. Plenty of people who are responsible of procedures which are executed during the submission phase, reviewing phase, final decision from deanship, and so on.
3. The importance of having the right information in timely manner to the person who is in charge on research.
4. The need of having one copy of the research at a given moment to all parties (participants).
5. The need of having an archive for all researches (old and new researches) that belong to the deanship.

The Solution:

Based on the requirements of deanship of scientific research, CLEVAR has developed a system (which is Research Management & Tracking System) to follow-up and manage the researches, and create an environment for communication between all parties to ensure flexible and simple data transfer among them.

The system was developed using the following technologies:

- JSP using Java Beans and Apache Tomcat Application Server.
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005.

The Research Tracking & Management System achieved strategic objectives for the deanship:

1. A system to manage and track whole researches that belong to the deanship of scientific research (Annual Scientific Researches, SABIC supported Researches; researches belong to higher education students…etc).
2. Facilitating the communication (such as email and SMS) among the deanship, reviewers, and researchers through the system, plus activating alert system to remind them of their due tasks.
3. Providing an easy way for managing users according to their privileges and roles.
4. Establishing an archive for old and new researches and displaying some of their data on the university portal.
5. Presenting advanced reports and statistics about deanship of scientific researches activities and achievements.

Results:

King Faisal University has launched the Research Management & Tracking System in 2009 as a sub-part of the university portal.

All the users (beneficiaries) liked the way the system works because it simplifies the process of submitting and reviewing the researches, and provides flexible communication channels among researchers, reviewers, and the deanship of scientific research. The system has become an important part of scientific research procedures inside the deanship; therefore, the deanship is working on extending the system and adding new additional features to bring out a new version in 2011.