

MAP MASHUP APPLICATION AND FACILITATED VOLUNTEERED WEB-BASED INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN AKWA IBOM STATE

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents a third party Google Maps mashup application and a web-based volunteered information system that are interfaced and used to capture, process and map user-generated spatial and non-spatial business directory information in Akwa-Ibom state. Also, point precision geocoding tools are provided by the system to enable users to generate point precision spatial data about their business establishments. The user-generated information in the system is moderated by a facilitator. The system enables the host or facilitator organisation to use software as service architecture to render the web-based business directory listing and mapping services for the users. In this wise, users must register on the system before they can upload their user generated contents into the system. The system facilitator moderates the contents uploaded and provides necessary feedbacks to the registered users either on request or as the system administration policies demand. The system is expected to bring innovative solution to the paper-based offline business directory that is currently used in Akwa Ibom state. It will also enhance global web presence and accessibility for the teeming business entities in Akwa Ibom state.

Keywords: Business Directory, Facilitated Information System, Volunteered Information System, Geographic Information system, GPS, Geocoding, Point Precision Geocoding, Map Mashup.