(54) Title: UNIFIED GLOBAL APPLICATION(S) PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR REAL-TIME SCHOOL OR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS/ENROLLMENT

(57) Abstract: A unified global application process for real-time school or college admissions or enrollment helping students to apply for institution seats at all levels of degrees including intermediate or +2 level. A single window system for complete process of recruiting a student to an institution, from students applying for different courses provided by various institutions (207), institutions viewing candidates applied for different courses in the institutions (214), short listing candidates meeting the criteria of the institution, to sending request for attending interview (216) and sending confirmation for admission to the candidates in the institution (217) are provided. All the processes can be viewed by both the students and institutions any time imparting the process happening in real time.

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[Continued on next page]
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Description

UNIFIED GLOBAL APPLICATION\(^\text{\textregistered}\) PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR REAL-TIME SCHOOL OR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS/ENROLMENT

[1] A system and method to help students to apply for institution seats at all levels of degrees including Intermediate (or +2) level is disclosed.

[2] Background of the invention

[3] As there has been an explosive growth in the number of colleges in all areas of education, choosing the right college and right degree program has become increasingly complex for prospective students. Students and their parents do not have all the information in one place to make a right decision when choosing a college. The obstacles such as travelling difficulties and getting time off to visit colleges in different parts of the state, have forced the parents and prospective students to choose a college in the locally available pool of colleges. They are not aware, for the most part, about better choices at lower cost that are available in other parts of the state.

[4] Even if the parents or the students could identify colleges not in their locality, probably out of state, it would be difficult for them to find out the details regarding institution like affiliation to the right authorities, infrastructure, fee structure, placement cell, hostel facilities etc. There are chances that the candidates join colleges not having proper facilities sometimes even proper affiliation and later understand the facts and ending up course midway.

[5] After identifying certain colleges, the conventional practise is to request every college of their selection for the brochure and application, mostly with prescribed fees. The colleges would then mail the brochures, catalogues and blank applications to the candidates. The candidates need to send back the filled forms along with all certificates and other documents in such number of copies as specified by the school/college. These traditional methods of applying for seats and recruitment may involve lot of communication, cost factor, extensive travelling etc. Another drawback of the system is the chances of missing communication or reaching communications after the preferred time span.

[6] The traditional method of admission procedure is a one way procedure, i.e, the student or parents has to communicate to the college for the brochure and the colleges cannot reach its prospective students. The students who are not aware of the college cannot apply for admission and the college cannot contact such students. A flaw in this method is that colleges that are away from major cities are not able to attract the students to fill all their seats. Very limited colleges have their own websites and there
is no common site for the colleges to provide their information.

[7] The present system aims to close this gap by bringing together the colleges and prospective students to one place and give them the functionality to make the recruitment process easier. This is a process with unlimited potential to expand beyond one city, state or country and can be used globally. The vision of the inventor is to enable every student in every country to apply to any college/school/university in any country across the globe.

[8] Summary of the invention

[9] Unified global application(s) processing system for real-time school or college admissions/ enrolement allows the complete process of recruiting a student to an institution, through a common application available to the both colleges and students.

[10] In this system the student can search for colleges based their preferences like courses provided, location, course fee and other costs involved, hostel facilities etc from his place of convenience. The student creates his profile, views profile and other information of institutions of his preferences and applies for seat to more than one recognised institutions and multiple courses in the same institution through this system. The student can login to the application any time and view every status of his application in the real time till the completion of enrolment process.

[11] The schools or colleges also creates the profile of the institution with this system and provide information like courses offered, seats available, course fee, infrastructure, lab facilities, faculty, facilities provided and other relevant details. The institutions execute complete processing of applications, from inviting candidate for the courses till sending final confirmation of admission through this system.

[12] An achievement of the invention is that it serves as a single window for both students applying for various courses and educational institutions offering different courses, from inviting application from students till final confirmation of admission in the institution.

[13] Another achievement of the invention is that candidates are enrolled into institutions having valid recognition.

[14] A further achievement of the invention is that the system serves as a single system for candidates across the globe for applying to one or more colleges across the globe.

[15] A still further achievement of the invention is that every update in the recruitment processes can be viewed by both students and institutions any time from his place of convenience making the processes happening in real time.

[16] Brief Description of Drawings

[17] Figure 1 illustrates simple configuration of a client device connected to the server over the internet.

[18] Figure 2 shows the block diagram of functionalities of students, institution repre-
sentative and customer service representative with the system.

Figure 3 illustrates the student activity with the application in creating profile and applying to an institution.

Figure 4 illustrates the college activity with the application in processing the students' applications.

Figure 5 illustrates the application administrator representative functionality with the system.

Figure 6 illustrates the software architecture of the invention.

Detailed Description of Invention

The present system overcomes the lacunae of the traditional system of recruitment of students to different schools/colleges.

Although the present system will be discussed with reference to various illustrated examples, these examples should not be read to limit the broader spirit and scope of the present invention.

The terms 'real-time institution admission system', 'system' and 'application' are used interchangeably herein to refer to the invention Unified Global application(s) processing system for Real-time School or College Admission or Enrolment System. The terms 'school', 'college' and 'institution' are used to refer the educational institutions or universities to which admission is processed using this application.

Figure 1 illustrates simple configuration of a user device connected to the server over the internet. User devices 101 and 102, used by the users of the invention to access the invention, connect to the server 103 through internet 104. 105 is the database server where data about school/colleges, students, their documents, applications, images and every data item is stored. The devices 101 and 102 could be any device that connects to the internet like a personal computer, Laptop or IP enabled TV. These devices could connect directly or through some other network device to the internet. The network could be any network including LAN network, WiFi network, Peer to Peer network or other mechanisms of connecting and transmitting data and voice over internet.

Figure 2 is the simple block diagram describing the functionalities of students, institution representative and application administrator representative with the system. The functionalities are not limited to those mentioned in the diagram and are described in detail in the complete disclosure of the invention. The system serves as the interface between the students, institution representative and application administrator representative with the server. The student user 201 can register 202 with the system, login to the system 203, create and modify his profile 204, search and locate institution 205, view institution profile 206, apply to institution seat 207, view admission status/application status 208 and other information uploaded by the institution representative 209. The student user receives interview memo 210 and confirmation on admission or
rejection of the application 211 through the system. The institution representative 212 can register with the system, create and modify institution profile, enter information regarding the institution like courses offered, seats available, facilities provided, expenses etc 213, view students' profile 214, process application 215, send interview memo or intimate any change in interview date 216 and send final confirmation of admission 217 through the system. The application administrator representative's 218 functionality includes activating user account 219, verifying institution affiliation 220 and disable user account 221.

[29] Student activity in registering with the system, creating profile and finally applying to different institutions is illustrated in Figure 3. The student 301 accesses the real-time institution admission system 302 through his client device and registers 303 using a username and password. Every time the student accesses the application using the username and password. Users can register to use real-time institution admission system, but until they pay the subscription fee, their account will have limited access. Different payment options 304 like credit card, direct bank deposit, demand draft money order by mail etc will be available for him. He can choose any of the options and make payment. All the User activities will be tracked by the system. User session will be timed out after a period of inactivity. A registered student can access all the view-only functionality available on the application.

[30] The student login to the system 305, creates his profile 306 furnishing information like personal details, contact details, educational details, scholarship details, award details and experience details. The student can view his profile 307 any time and modify his profile 308 if required. The system also provides facility to upload the student's certificates and transcripts along with the profile 309.

[31] The student can search and locate institutions using location maps 310 and list colleges by course 311. He can then view the institution profile 312 and all other information uploaded by the institution representative including courses offered by the institution and number of seats. He can, if interested, then apply to the colleges 313. Before completing the process of applying for a seat in an institution, the application checks the profile of the student. Those students who have their complete profile on file can apply to an institution seat. If the Student has not entered the profile, then the user is redirected to enter complete profile. The student exits the system by logging off 314 from the application.

[32] Anytime before the complete admission process is over, the registered student can login to the system and view his application status or admission status 315. He can receive the interview memo 316 through the system and finally receive final admission offer 317 from the institution through the system. AU these processes are done through this single window application system.
An achievement of the application is that the candidates can search for an institution based on several aspects like courses offered, location of the college, course fee and other costs involved, facilities, faculties, infrastructure etc. The system starts with an interactive location map where different places will be labelled. The student can select all colleges in a particular place based on his preferences like 'Junior College, Pharmacy College, Nursing College, Engineering college' etc. All the colleges belonging to that category in the particular locality of his choice will be displayed to the student. Multiple selection criteria or search criteria will be provided for students to improve ease of use.

Selecting a particular institution, the candidate can view all the information uploaded by the institution representative including courses offered by the institution and number of seats. The student, if interested, can apply for the seat in the institution. This information will be intimated to the institution with the details like student profile, degree program applied to, date and time applied and a serial number. The serial number allotted to a particular candidate will help the institution sort the applicants in the order of time of application. The students will also have a way of tracking their applications with the serial number. The students can apply for multiple courses in the same institution and separate serial number will be allotted for each course he has applied for.

Another achievement of the invention is that multiple reports will be provided for students to see how many colleges they have applied for, how many are reviewed by colleges, how many colleges accepted their application or interested in the applicant, how many colleges have rejected the application of a particular student. The student can also receive request for more information or documents from the institution if required through the present invention.

A further achievement of the invention is that the users can view the list of colleges recently joined in the system and their available number of courses and seats. Testimonial from students can also be viewed by all registered users of the system.

Another feature of the present system is that it provides articles on degree programs and related career choices. The system gives clear description of courses, for example description of courses like Engineering in Food Processing, Engineering textiles, Bachelors of Nursing, as well as job descriptions. This would let students to know more about courses and related career choices.

Figure 4 illustrates the functionalities of the colleges with this application. The college representative accesses real-time institution admission application through his user device and registers using a username and password. The users have to pay a certain amount at the time of registration; until they pay the subscription fee the user will have limited access to the system. Different payment options will
be available for the college representative to make the payment. The application administration representative will verify the documents to confirm validity of institution licenses 405 before activating college account. Every time the user accesses the application using the username and password allotted to him.

[39] The college representative login to the system 406, creates profile of the college 407 furnishing information like, but not limited to, institution name, contact details, faculty information, management information etc. The system also provides facility to upload the institution images 410 with the profile, including logo of the college. The college representative can view profile 408 of the college any time and modify the profile 409. After creating the profile of the college, the representative enters information on college courses and facilities 411 provided by the college including history of the college, mission of the college, location of the college, different degree programs and name of courses, expenses for each course and number of seats available for each course. The representatives can view the profile of the students 412 applying for different courses in the college and can process applications 413 using the system.

[40] Confirmation for interview 414 with digital signature generated by the system can also be send using the system. Any change in the date of interview is also intimated to the candidate using this application. Final confirmation of admission 415 from the institution is also send to the students through the system. The representative exits the application logging off 416 from the application.

[41] As the students start applying to the colleges, the college representative can access real time institution admission system and can view the list of applicants and their profiles. The list of the applicants will be grouped by degree level and then by degree program. Colleges can select the applicants meeting their admission criteria and move them to Active Applicant List for further consideration.

[42] The application administrator representative administrates certain functionalities of the colleges and students with the application. Figure 5 illustrates the functionalities of application administrator representative with the system. Application administrator representative 501 login 502 to the system and view the institutions 503 and students registered 511 with the system. In the case of institutions registered with the system, the application administrator representative verifies the documents 504 of the institutions to confirm affiliation of the institution with proper authorities, for the authenticity of the application. Those institutions failing to have proper affiliation will be excluded from using the application. The administrator representative also verifies payment status 505 of the institution and activates the user accounts 506 after the users pay the subscription fee. Institutions have to provide a signed copy of college user agreement in addition to the subscription fee for activating the account. The system / application administrator representative will deactivate user accounts 507 due to non-
payment of subscription fee or not having proper affiliation or if they violate the user agreements in any way.

[43] In the case of students registering with the system, the representative view the profile of the students 512, send reminder to students in case any additional information is to be furnished 513, view payment status 514 and activate 516 or deactivate user accounts 515 accordingly. The administrator exits the application by logging off 510 from the system.

[44] The application administrator representative will also check if the college has entered all information regarding the courses and seats available while registering with the system. After the admission process has initialised, the application administrator representative will check if the college representative has updated the number of seats available at least once in a day. The college representative will be acknowledged if he has not updated the seats available and intimated to update. If the current availability of seats are not updated by the college, it will be shown to the students that it is not latest info from the college.

[45] Figure 6 illustrates software architecture of the invention. 601, 602 and 603 represent user devices used by the users of the invention to access the invention. 606 represents application server where all programs which facilitate each functionalities of the invention is maintained. User devices connect to the application server 606 through internet 604. A firewall 605 is also maintained in the server for secured data exchange. 607 is the database server where data about school/colleges, students, their documents, applications, images and every data item is stored. 608 represents data ware house system for running reports for decision making purposes and also sending annual reports to colleges. 609 is the data retention/archival system for retention of data for several years.
Claims

L A process for unified global application processing system for real time school/college admission wherein students seeking admission for a particular degree course
i) register with the real time school/college admission system;
ii) search for institutions offering courses of his choice in a particular locality,
iii) identify institutions based on several factors including but not limited to courses offered, location of the college, costs involved, faculties and infrastructure
iv) create student's profile with the system
v) upload records of qualifications
vi) view profile of institutions identified and
vii) apply for a seat through the system
2. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students applied for a seat in the institution view and modify their profile any time before actual admission process commences.
3. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students apply for one or more courses in the same institution.
4. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students receive request for more information or documents from the institution if required.
5. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students applied for a seat in the institution view interview call or conditional offer initiated by the institution.
6. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students applied for a seat in the institution view the admission status any time during admission process.
7. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students applied for a seat in the institution receive confirmation report of admission or notification of rejection of his application through the system.
8. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students view list of institutions joined recently with the system and apply for seat in such institutions.
9. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students view reports and articles on various courses and corresponding career choices provided by the system.
10. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 1 wherein the students receive report on list of colleges they have applied for, list of colleges that have reviewed their application, list of colleges that have accepted their application or interested in the applicant, list of colleges that have rejected the application.

11. A process for unified global application(s) processing system for real-time school or college admissions/ enrolment wherein institution representatives
   i) register with the real time school/college admission system;
   ii) create institution profile with the system
   iii) enter college degree program information including but not limited to courses offered, facilities provided, campus details, faculties, fee structure, expenses incurred till course completion, degree level, degree name, duration, institution seat information and seat availability information
   iv) invite application from students for the courses provided by the institution
   v) view profile of the candidates applied for seat in the institution
   vi) track application based on status of application
   vii) call for interview those candidates meeting their admission criteria or send conditional offers to candidates
   viii) send confirmation report of admission to the candidate or notification of rejection of his application through the system.

12. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 6 wherein the institutions view and modify college profile any time.

13. A process for real time school/college admission system as said in claim 6 wherein the institutions update course seat availability during the admission process.

14. A process for unified global application(s) processing system for real-time school or college admissions/ enrolment wherein customer service representative
   i) login to the system;
   ii) enable user accounts as per the request from the users and payment of subscription fee
   iii) disable user accounts failing to pay the subscription fee

15. A process for real time school/college admission as said in claim 9 wherein the customer service representative verifies affiliation of the institutions registering with the system with appropriate authorities and disabling user account on failure of proper affiliation.

16. A process for real time school/college admission as said in claim 9 wherein the customer service representative verifies information regarding institution registering with the system, courses and seats available for admission in the in-
stitution.

17. A process for real time school/college admission as said in claim 9 wherein the customer service representative verifies updating of seats available for admission at least one time in a day and inform institution representative failing to update.

18. A process for unified global application(s) processing system for real-time school or college admissions/ enrolment wherein students and colleges across the globe are unified and carry out semester or yearly enrolment and admission process into institutions.
FIG. 2
FIG. 3
FIG. 4
**A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

**IPC**: G06Q 10/00 (2006.01); G06Q 30/00 (2006.01)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

**IPC**: G06Q10, G06Q30

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, WPI

**C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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* Special categories of cited documents
  * “A” document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

28 August 2008 (28.08.2008)

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*Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C*  

*See patent family annex*
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