Virtual Bookstore - Business and Technical Project

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**Project Overview**

**Introduction**

Many people may have a similar experience in that books they wanted to buy were already sold, or were not even imported. As space is limited and rent is high in Hong Kong, it is impossible for an infinite number of books to be stored in the bookstore. It seems that there is no solution to balance customers’ and owners’ interests. However, with the help of new printing technology — Print on demand, bookstore owners may pay less rent due to less displayable books, and customers may buy their desired books anytime.

Print on demand (POD) is a type of printing technology that allows a complete book to be printed and bound in a couple of minutes. Due to the advent of digital technology, digital printer now can publish a book similar to those books printed by traditional method. If this technology is applied in bookstores, spacing is not a problem in housing books anymore.

**Aims and Objectives**

In this project, we assumed that there is a bookstore, named “Virtual Bookstore”, applies POD technology. The books are in electronic form and are stored in a database. They can be printed out when there is an order. The aims of this project were:

1. Conduct a business plan for that bookstore, to plan and project five-year activities.
2. Build a system for that bookstore to help owner reducing operating expenses.
A user’s Web browser issues an HTTP request for a particular web page.

The Web server receives the request, retrieves the file and passes it to the PHP engine for processing.

The PHP engine begins parsing the script.

The Web server passes the HTML back to the browser.

The engine finishes running the script, which will involve formatting the query results nicely in HTML.

The MySQL server receives the database query and processes it, and sends the results.
1. User-friendly interface
We have built the user-friendly interface so that customers can have a comfortable environment to search and read the books.

2. Huge-sized Database
Searching the books and reading the books. We have built the system to handle the process of searching and browsing the books.

3. Business Plan
Payback period is 3.45 years, which is a satisfactory result. It can make HKD$12,346,880 within 5 years. It is an appreciable profit.