BOOK DONATION NETWORK (BOOKDONET): A NETWORK TO DONATE & RECEIVE BOOKS

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Abstract

The article is an idea and approach to describe a perfect platform, "**BOOKDONET: a network to donate & receive books**" which may be designed to disseminate information about the books which are expected to be donated by various people and to find a place where these books could be used by the users who need them. The network will maintain databases of donated books which may include text books, reference books, recreational books, books on career guidance, competitive exam related books, etc. Many people including poor students, common person or institutions may be benefitted from this network. This effort will maximize the use of donated books and will help the needy people to get their books for free, if any of the donated books match their demand).

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1.   Introduction

Books are sources of information from very early time. Still they are considered as a medium to spread education to the people. Form our childhood; we have started learning with the help of the books. As library professionals, the authors have seen many instances where people are interested to donate books to the libraries but the libraries where they are contacting are unable to receive the books due to their acquisition policies or may be due to lack of space. Sometimes, many old books are sold at very less price to the persons who come home to receive used items. Many libraries also weed out books due to lack of space which are still in good condition. On the contrary, there are many instances, where people do not have money to procure books and many libraries also run out of budget and can't procure books. Many people are interested in reading but due to lack of money they cannot read. Many NGOs are existing which runs programmes like Donate –A-Book. But under the programme, they collect money and with the money books are procured. But there should be some mechanism which will make use of the available books rather than procuring new books as a part of helping needy people. The donated money may be then used somewhere else for the development. This effort may also help to find out sources of donor who wants to donate text books of their children after they pass out to some needy students.

This article is an effort to find out a way to find a suitable place i.e. an online platform where people who want to donate books can find places to donate and persons or libraries or any other institutions concerned who want to receive the donated books will be able to receive them.

2.   BOOK DONATION NETWORK (BOOKDONET): a network to donate & receive books

With the help of Information & Communication Technologies, it has become easy to reach the masses in very short time. Distance and time does not matter now to disseminate information and to communicate.

A network named "**BOOKDONET**" may be designed which will link the book donors with the receivers. The effort may help in reducing wastage of valuable books, finding ways for

maximum use, satisfying information need and reading pleasure of many needy people including children.

2.1   Objectives of the model BOOKDONET:

- To find out the people who wants to donate books,

- To create a data base of books available from donation and,

- To find out individuals/institutions (library, NGOs, orphanages, etc) who are interested in receiving those books.

2.2   Software Scope:

- This software will be able to provide facilities for users to view and search different books along with their donors.

- For administrators (staff members), it will facilitate them to manage the database (adding, modifying, cancelling and viewing).

- There will be separate interface for administrators, donors and recipients of books.

2.3   Beneficiaries:

- Poor children or any other people who are interested in study but cannot buy books.

- NGOs or any other institutions who are spreading education for free.

- People who want to donate books to the person who will use it effectively.

- Libraries which cannot purchase books due to insufficient budget.

- A library who wants to weed out some of its collection which are still in good physical condition.

2.4   Hardware & Software Requirements:

The BOOKDONET web-pages will be maintained by the administrative body of the BOOKDONET Network. Donors and recipients will be able to access the database through user ID and password. The following will be required mainly to develop and maintain BOOKDONET platform:

- Desktop / Laptop

(with 2GB RAM or higher, 1GB hard disk or higher)

- Server

A server computer is required to host the website on WWW to make it is available all the time for anyone trying to get access to it. A computer may be turned into a web server at a local place where the administrative office is located or a hosting package from a web hosting company may be purchased. In this case, the company will maintain the server computer, and administrative body will be able to access and make necessary changes on their website.

- High speed internet connection (Minimum 1Mbps)

- Any Web page development language and other designing tools:

a. PHP

PHP is an open source server scripting language for designing dynamic and interactive Web pages. It can be embedded into HTML.

b. HTML

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is the standard markup language for creating web pages and web applications. With Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and JavaScript it forms a triad of cornerstone technologies for the World Wide Web.

c. CSS

CSS is a language that describes the style of an HTML document. CSS describes how HTML elements should be displayed.

d. Java Script

JavaScript abbreviated as JS, is a high-level, dynamic, object-based, multi-paradigm, and interpreted programming language. JavaScript is run by most modern browsers. It supports object-oriented programming and procedural programming. It can be used to control web pages on the client side of the browser, server-side programs, and even mobile applications.

e. JQuery

It is a fast and concise JavaScript Library that simplifies HTML document traversing, event handling, animating, and Ajax interactions for rapid web development.

- Structured Query Language (SQL)

SQL is used to communicate with a database. According to ANSI (American National Standards Institute), it is the standard language for relational database management systems. SQL statements are used to perform tasks such as update data on a database, or retrieve data from a database. It will maintain the whole database of BOOKDONET network.

- Open office

It is useful to open documents in regional languages like Bengali, Hindi, etc.

- Google input Tools

It is useful to make entry in regional languages like Bengali, Hindi, etc.

- Unicode - for entry in regional languages

2.5 Features of Web Page:

The following information may be there on the web-pages to fulfil the objectives of the 'BOOKDONET':

- Information aboutadministrative body
- Contact us (administrative body)
- Information about BOOKDONET
- Registration / Login for donors and recipients
- Donors' page
- Recipient's page
- Book search facility
- List of New Additions
- Donor's & recipient's policies
- **RSS feed**

The web page may have RSS feed facility to inform the registered users about any new addition of books or donor.

- **Gratitude to Donors**

Donors may be given thank you from the recipients and donor's picture with thank you messages may be uploaded on web page as a sign to show gratitude to him/her.

- **Feedback**

There should be mechanism to provide feedback for the donor as well as for the recipients too.

- **BOOKDONET mobile app**

There may be link of BOOKDONET mobile app through which user will be able to access all facilities as he/she is able through BOOKDONET webpage.
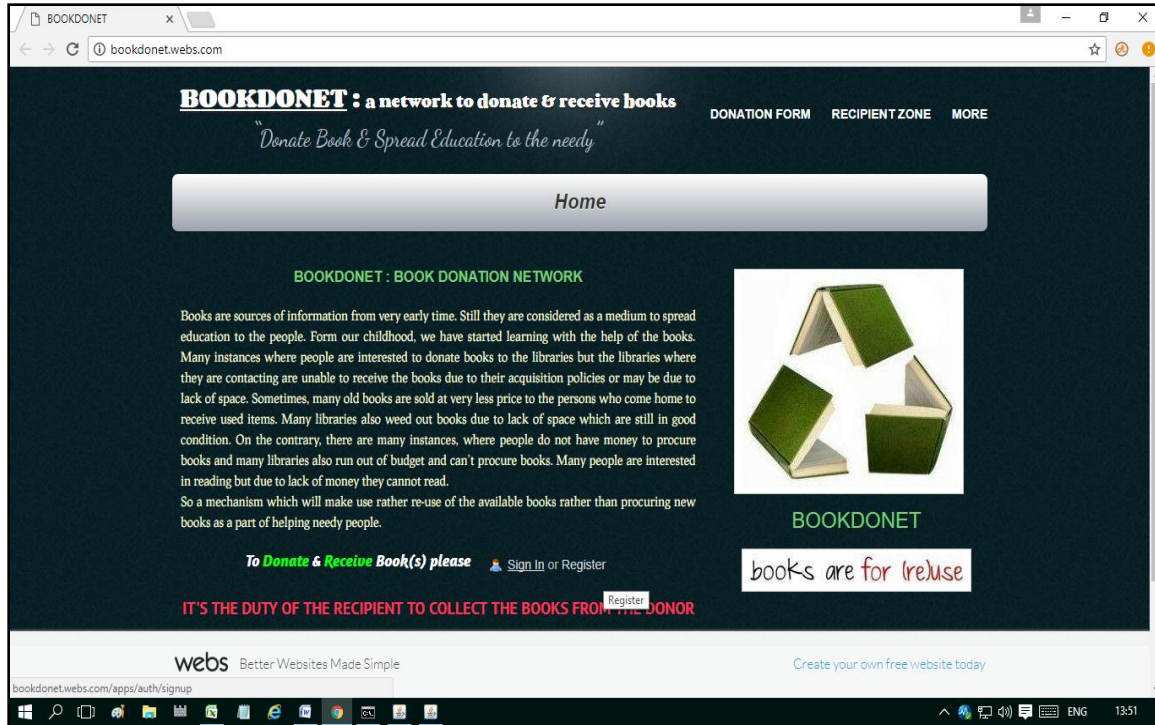
Figure 1: *Illustration of Home Page of BOOKDONET using "Webs"-free website builder.*

3. Modules:

Some Modules are to be maintained for proper functioning. Those may be:

3.1 Administration Module:

The webpage or the network may be run by library professionals on voluntary basis. Role of Administrative body will include:

- Maintenance of Webpage
- Delete users
- Organising awareness programmes
- Maintenance of donors' profile, receivers' profile, document profile, etc.
- Managing feedback and take actions as required
- Report generation

3.2   Donors' Module:

Donors' profile: Every new donor must get registered himself/herself and receive User ID & Password for getting access to the web page.

The donors' profile must have information like:

Personal Details:

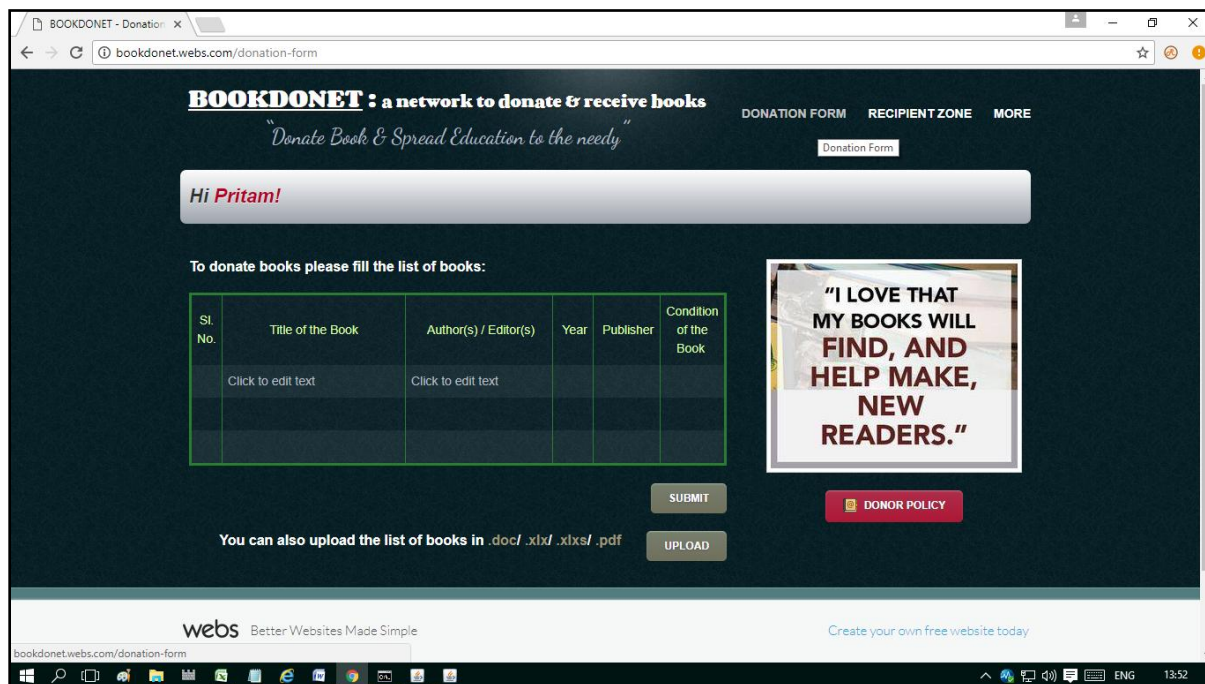| Individual Donor	Institutional Donor
• Name:	• Name of the Institution:
• Occupation:	• Institution type:
• E-mail ID (ID to access the website):	• E-mail ID (ID to access the website):
o (with feature of verifying e-mail address feature)	o (with feature of verifying e-mail address)
• Password (to access the website):	• Password (to access the website):
• Confirm Password:	• Confirm Password:
• Contact Number (optional):	• Contact Number (optional):
• Address:	• Address:
• City:	• City:
• State:	• State:
• Country:	• Country:
• PIN:	• PIN:

Other Information:

- • How many books are to be donated?
- • Books are in which language (s)?
- • Broad subject areas:
- • Upload details of books:
- ✓ Individual entry

✓   Batch upload details in excel with title, author, publisher, year, volume, part, language, etc.

✓   Any other file format (doc, docx, pdf, .jpeg)

•   Physical condition of books:

•   Remarks:

Before successful registration donor must accept the terms and conditions of the webpage/network.

Donor must be able to:

•   Edit his profile

•   Change password as and when required automatically

•   Add/Delete/Modify list of books to be donated

Figure 2: *Illustration of Donation form of BOOKDONET using "Webs"-free website builder.*

DONATION FORM

3.3   Recipients' Module:

Recipients' profile: Every new recipient must get registered himself/herself and receive User ID & Password for getting access to the web page.

The recipients' profile must have information like:

Personal Details:

Individual recipient	Institutional Recipient
• Name: • Image (upload) : • Occupation: • E-mail ID (ID to access the website): o (with feature of verifying e-mail address feature) • Password (to access the website): • Confirm Password: • Contact Number(optional): • Address: • City: • State: • Country: • PIN:	• Name of the Institution: • Institution type: • E-mail ID (ID to access the website): o (with feature of verifying e-mail address) • Password (to access the website): • Confirm Password: • Contact Number: • Address: • City: • State: • Country: • PIN:

Other Information to show his/her areas of concern:

• Books are being wanted for which language (s)?

• Broad subject areas of interest:

• Remarks:

• Message to the donor/Gratitude to Donor**:**

Before successful registration donor must accept the terms and conditions of the webpage/network.

Recipient must be able to:

- Edit his profile

- Change password as and when required automatically

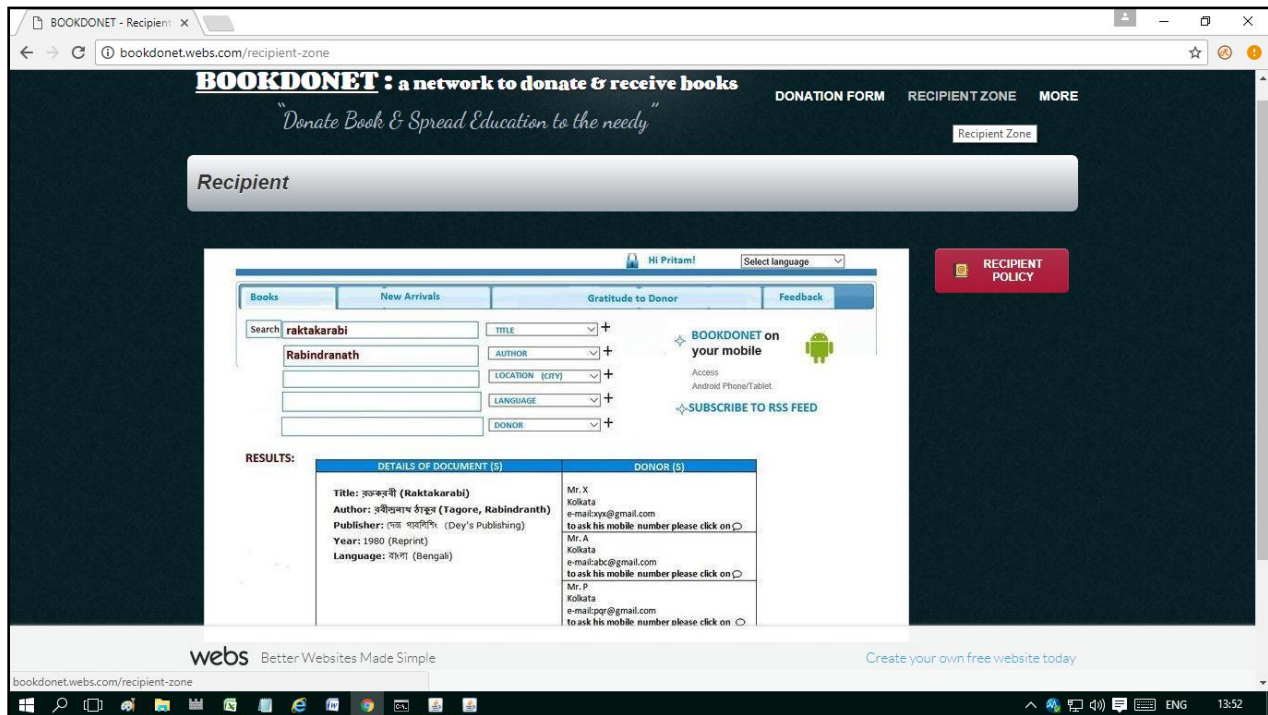- Search documents, find donor, ask for donor's contact number.

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Figure 3: *Illustration of Recipient Zone of BOOKDONET using "Webs"-free website builder*

RECEPIENT ZONE

3.4   Document Module:

Document profile: It must contain bibliographic details of along with information of donor or list of people who are interested o receive.

Bibliographic information includes:

- Document ID (automatically generated)

- title,

- author

- publisher

- year

- volume

- part

- language

- ISBN

- physical condition, etc

Other information includes:

- Donor ID, Details of donor with contact and

- Lists of interested persons/institutions to receive them with their recipients'' ID, e-mail ID/contact

Database of books may be maintained by the library professionals on the basis of documents uploaded by the donors.

There must be a search engine which will search as well as retrieve the document details as per title, author, publisher, year of publication, language, location (area of donor), etc.

4.   Donation & receipt policies:

Some policies are to be required to maintain the smooth functioning of the BOOKDONET platform. Some of them may be the following:

- It should be mentioned that the website is a non-commercial effort to make the best use of valuable information resources which are supposed to be donated. It is to help the needy for their academic and leisure recreation purpose.

- In no case, website owner or network administrators or administrative bodies of the web-site are to be made responsible for any discrepancies. Donors and recipients are advised to make proper investigation on their own before donation or receipt.

- No books will be collected from the donor or distributed to the interested persons by the administrative body. It is the sole responsibility of the interested person to contact the donor through his e-mail and collect the books as per donor's terms and convenience.

- Donor after donation of books in no case will be allowed to take them back.

- In no case, donors are allowed to ask for money to donate the books.

- Utility and physical condition of the books must be judged by the recipients themselves before taking them from the donors.

- Donor may be allowed to know or inspect the usage of donated books if required (twice in a year) if he/she wants to.

- Donated books may be discarded after at least two years after receipt or if the physical condition becomes poor. In that case, donor must be informed about the weed out action before weeding out.

- In certain cases, donor may apply his/her own terms and recipient may accept if satisfied. This network will not act as any platform for justice or solution to any problem arises between the donor and the recipients.

- In no case, received books may be commercially uitilised or re-saled by the recipients. If such action is detected by the donor, he/she can take legal action on his/her own against the recipient. Administrative body will not remain involved in any case.

Search options:
- Donor search: by name, city, state, country
- Book search: by author, title, publisher, year, language, ISBN, physical condition, etc.
- Advanced Search: with combined search options

Points of concern:
- Mechanisms should be there to check misuse or commercial use or resale of the donated books

- Donor's mind may change and he/she may claim money from the recipient at the time of donation. To reduce the chance of this, there must be initiative to thank the donor for donating the books for free from the recipients' end which may also be given in BOOKDONET web-site as a sign of gratitude.

- Donated books may again be donated by the recipient for self –acclamation

Conclusion:
The BOOKDONET network will be very helpful to serve the reader community who are unable to read books due to lack of money. This network will help to increase reading habit. Though we

say, reading habit is decreasing day by day, there are still many people who like to read but cannot, due to poverty. This network will be very much beneficial for them. The use of books will also increase rather throwing them in the dustbin or selling them to the vendors at a cost of waste products. We must realise that by donating books, we may donate education to our nation.

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