Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research University of Diyala College of Engineering



Developing the Documentation System for the Construction Project by Using Building Information Modeling

A Thesis Submitted to the Council of College of Engineering University of Diyala in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Civil Engineering

By

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2022 A.D IRAO 1443 A.H

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا تَدَايَنْتُمْ بِدَيْنٍ إِلَى أَجُلِ مُسَمَّى فَاكْتُبُوهُ وَلْيَكْتُبْ بَيْنَكُمْ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُسَمَّى فَاكْتُبُوهُ وَلْيَكْتُبْ بَيْنَكُمْ كَاتِبٌ بِالْعَدْلِ... ﴾

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents,

For their endless love, support and encouragement

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Abstract

Developing the Documentation System for the Construction Project by Using Building Information Modeling

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Documentation is an important part in the construction process provides a contemporary record of actual events. Therefore, documentation errors are a significant problem during the construction stages. Errors contained in contract documents can also contribute to loss of profits, reduced productivity, cost and time overruns, as well as contractual disputes. Also, the nature of the construction work requires dealing with a huge of information and documents. The processes of documentation and information sharing have become management challenges. Project managers who still use paper documents have difficulty searching through a huge number of documents, especially when they are managing several projects. Modern technology, such as Building Information Modeling has alleviated this issue and allowed users to centralize the construction project documentation into a singular source.

This study aims to develop the documentation system in Iraqi construction projects by using Building Information Modeling to improve data documentation and improve construction document management.

The data was collected from a literature review and questionnaire to evaluate the documentation system in construction projects. The results indicated that the construction sector in Iraq lacks a database due to the lack of application of information technology, as well as accumulation of documents which makes it difficult to manage and access documents because of the huge

number of papers that could reach thousands, this causes waste of effort and time when searching for any document, as well as the cost due to consumption a large number of papers. Also, the study found that the documentation method in construction projects is a 2D system, which is paper documents, (CAD) drawings, or PDF files. This method doesn't give a full visualization of the building and doesn't discover the conflicts between the different disciplines.

To achieve the objectives of the study, the case study was documented using Revit software, and time schedule was linked with a 3D model in the NavisWork software to create a 4D model that simulates reality. Also, a comparison of quantities was made between actual and BIM for (foundations, columns, beams, slabs, staircase, floors, secondary ceiling, tiles, and stone), the percentages of difference between actual quantities and BIM are (1.614%, 1.7%, 2.4%, 0.29%, 4.15%, 0.52%, 0.32%, 2.13%, and 0.23%) respectively and these percentages are small and acceptable. Then, documents and a 3D model were uploaded to BIM360DOCS.

Finally, the researcher concluded that BIM is characterized by accuracy in documenting construction project information in a singular source, and gives a visualization of the building. Also, the accuracy of BIM quantification of materials compared with a traditional method as it is inefficient, time-consuming, and prone to error which has a negative impact on project performance. As a result, using questionnaire and according to the opinion of the experts and engineers, an evaluation was made for BIM 360 DOCS, and it was found that it increasing efficiency, improving quality, and reducing risk by making project information accessible to the project team when and where they need it.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Explanation
AEC	Architecture, Engineering and Construction
BIM	Building Information Modeling
CAD	Computer Aided Design
EDMS	Electronic Document Management System
EDS	Electronic Documentation System
XML	Extensible Markup Language
4D	Four Dimension
GIS	Geographic Information System
HBIM	Historical Building Information Modeling
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TLS	Terrestrial Laser Scanner
3D	Three Dimension
2D	Two Dimension

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 General

Documentation plays a crucial role in every construction project. The nature of a construction project involves the generation of a large amount of information. This information must be collected and saved not only to describe the unique nature of a construction project but also to preserve memory and serve as a reference or evidential material. According to construction industry sources, 70% of project documentation is papers based, and 50% of all construction projects include litigation. As a result, the project team gets preoccupied with creating a plethora of documentation in order to efficiently communicate and document the construction progress(Rajab, 2014)

The huge volume of items makes control challenging and reliance on filing cabinets full of paperwork and plans that can delay progress. Even electronic communication and storage systems can rarely be efficiently searched. This can make review and approval processes difficult to manage, particularly as working on outdated and poorly coordinated information is a major cause of errors, duplication, and rework.

Documentation is the process of gathering documents from a company's works, then archiving and classifying information so that it is easy to find and use in the future (Rajab, 2014).

Currently, the traditional documentation method such as Computer-Aided Design (CAD) is more widely used in construction projects. New techniques like building information modeling-based assist in improving the quality of construction documentation. There are several major differences between the traditional-based documentation process (CAD) and the BIM-

based documentation process, including the fragmented nature of the software, a lack of collaboration and integration between the parties involved, a significant amount of missing data, and a lack of visualization capability(BARATI, 2013).

The conventional method of data storage is 2D, which is either paper, CAD or PDF files. When it comes to retrieving and updating the parameters of a facility or a piece of equipment, the storage method system is fragmented and inefficient. BIM is an efficient means of storing, exchanging, and upgrading data. (Khamees, 2018).

1.2 Justifications of the Study

There are many problems that lead to the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in the documentation process.

- 1. One of the main problems of construction projects is the loss of many contract documents therefore, the demand emerged for the documentation of projects by using BIM.
- 2. Lack of accessibility: Document accessibility is crucial for promoting efficiency, communication, and the prevention of delays. Project managers who still use paper documents have difficulty searching through a huge of documents, especially when they're managing a high number of projects. Modern technology, such as BIM technology, has alleviated this issue and allowed the users to centralize the construction project documentation in a singular source.
- 3. The difficulty of evaluating the practice of document management in the construction sector

<u>Chapter One</u> <u>Introduction</u>

1.3 Aims and Objectives of the study

This research aims to develop the documentation system for the construction project through use of Building Information Modeling (BIM). The objectives are as follows:

- 1. The objective of this study will be to research the possibility of introducing documentation into engineering management programs.
- 2. The research objective is as follows:
- A. Prevent wasted efforts, cost, and time.
- B. Prevent the emergence of physical errors, shortages, and any manifestation of corruption illegal, whether intended or unintended.
- C. Precision, organization, and optimal use of resources and time.
- 3. Documentation of case study in Revit software.
- 4.Created the 4D BIM model in Naviswork software to document the schedule of project.
- 5. Comparison of the quantification between the traditional method and BIM.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to the following:

- Spatial limitations: This study focuses on the projects of the Middle Technical University in the Iraqi construction sector (Institute of Technical Administration) and implemented by the Technical Education Foundation / Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- 2. Temporal limitations: Limited-time period (2020-2021).

<u>Chapter One</u> <u>Introduction</u>

1.5 Methodology of the Study

Methodology of the research is mainly divided in to two parts: Theoretical aspects and practical aspects, as shown in figure (1.1):

A. Theoretical Aspects

Reviewing the literature on the subject of documentation in construction projects, its types, importance, and methods of documentation used, as well as the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) technology in the documentation.

B. Practical Aspects

The practical part of the research includes:

- 1. Design of questionnaire: the questionnaire method was used to evaluate the documentation system in construction projects. As it includes questions that were distributed to respondents who work in the construction sector to give their opinion on the documentation system currently used in construction projects and to know their wish for developing the documentation system in the construction sector.
- 2. Analysis results of the questionnaire, Statistical analysis by using (SPSS) version (25) program.
- 3. The project data, which are two-dimensional AutoCAD files and paper documents, were collected through interviews with engineers in the Technical Education Foundation.
- 4. Creating a 3D model using Autodesk Revit 2020.
- 5. To make a four-dimensional time simulation of the model, the 3D model exported from Revit to the Navis Works Manage 2020 software, which is one of the most important BIM tools, as it links the project

schedule time with the 3D model to create a four-dimensional model and create a temporal simulation of the building.

- 6. In light of this, the quantities of materials are deduced through Navisworks Manage 2020.
- 7. Documentation of the construction project documents and 3D model using BIM 360 Docs.
- 8. Conducting a questionnaire for evaluating the documentation and document management in BIM 360 DOCS
- 9. Finally, reaching conclusions and recommendations.

<u>Chapter One</u> <u>Introduction</u>

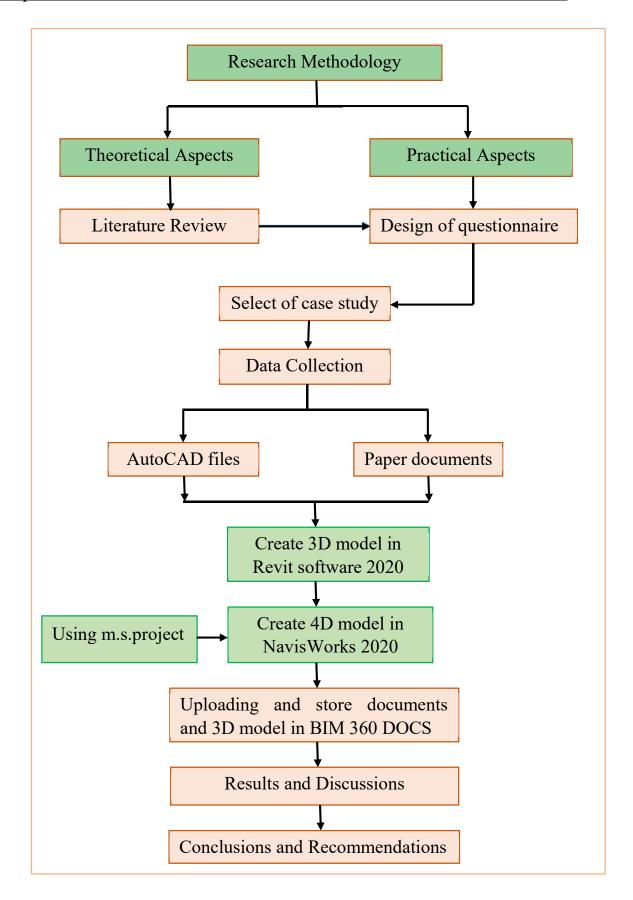


Figure (1-1): Research Methodology (Researcher).

1.6 Structure of the Study

The thesis is divided into six chapters: a brief explanation of each chapter is below.

Chapter One: Introduction

It clarifies the background of the research, research problem and justifications, research aim and objectives, research limitation and scope, explanation of the research methodology as well as explain previous Studies.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

This chapter introduces the concept of the construction industry and types of construction projects, the history of documentation, definitions of documentation, types of documentation, advantages and disadvantages of each type, documentation and the construction industry, methods of documentation, and building information modeling (BIM). Also, BIM vs. CAD (Computer-Aided Design), the advantages of BIM applications, BIM and documentation, BIM and documentation of heritage buildings, and lastly ensuring better information management are illustrated.

Chapter Three: Documentation System in Iraq

This chapter reviews the questionnaire method to evaluate the documentation system in construction projects. As it includes questions that were distributed to respondents who work in the construction sector to give their opinion on the documentation system currently used in construction projects and to know their suggestions for developing the documentation system in the construction sector.

Chapter Four: Practical Aspects and Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the use of Revit software according to BIM to document the building and documentation of schedule in Navisworks then uploading and storing of different documents in BIM 360 DOCS.

Chapter Five: Results and Discussions

This chapter includes two topics:

The First topic is the comparison of the quantities between the actual quantity and BIM quantity, i.e., the quantities calculated by naviswork according to BIM and the quantities calculated by traditional methods (actual).

The second topic in this chapter: Evaluation of documentation and document management in BIM 360 DOCS application.

Chapter Six: Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter illustrates the major conclusions and important recommendations in addition to suggested future studies.

1.7 Previous Studies

The previous studies are summarized in the Table (1-1).

Table (1.1): Review of previous studies

NO	Researcher	The work
	and country	
1	(Hergunsel	Title: Benefits of Building Information Modeling for
1	, ,	
	2011)	Construction Managers and BIM based Scheduling
	(I Inited	The aim of this study is to understand the benefits of
	(United	BIM for construction managers and examine BIM-
	States)	based scheduling. The research identified the uses of
		Building Information Modeling for preconstruction,
		construction, and post-construction phases. Then, the
		project examined the uses and benefits of BIM in the
		construction of a research facility. Then, a prototype
		4D Building Information Model was created. The
		BIM-based schedule was integrated into the 4D
		model. The results show that the Revit model
		demonstrates the benefits of parametric modeling in
		comparison to two-dimensional (CAD). The
		parametric model denied overlapping of the elements.
		There were no errors, omissions, or conflicts of
		information at different views. Moreover, the role of
		the Navisworks application as an effective tool for
		integrating project documentation was highlighted.

2	(Lee Worrell	Title: Building Information Modeling (BIM): The
	2015)	Untapped Potential for Preservation Documentation
	(United	and Management.
	States)	The purpose of this research is to study the possibility
		of using BIM in constructing a three-dimensional
		user interface for tracking and storing historic and
		managerial documentation. The Nathaniel Russell
		House, held by the Historic Charleston Foundation
		(HCF) in Charleston, South Carolina, was used as the
		case study for this research. A 3D model constructed
		in Autodesk Revit shows the Russell House's
		structural evolutions through time. The 3D model
		created in Revit is input into Autodesk NavisWorks
		to link micro-information. The researcher found that
		BIM is the untapped potential resource needed in the
		preservation field for documentation and
		management needs, and it is also an interactive,
		digital filing cabinet.
3	(Baik, et al.,	Title: Integration of Jeddah Historical BIM and 3D
	2015)	GIS for Documentation and Restoration of Historical
	,	Monument.
	(Saudi	
	Arabia)	In this study, the research reviewed the process of
		integrating 3D (BIM) with 3D (GIS) to provide
		semantically rich models. The development of such
		models is important and beneficial for the
		documentation and preservation of historical

buildings. A Terrestrial Laser Scanner (TLS) and Close-Range Photogrammetry were used to scan this building. The 3D JHBIM was then designed on the Revit Platform. This model was integrated into a 3D GIS system through Autodesk InfraWorks. The results showed that integration will give decisionmakers information about the building and surrounding environment that are relevant for preservation and restoration activities. (Themistoc-Title: 3D Documentation and BIM Modeling of leous, et al., Culture Heritage Structures using UAVS: The Case of the Foinikaria church. 2016) (Greece) The purpose of this research is to study the possibility of using unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and BIM technology to document the heritage building, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was used to take images of the heritage building. The images were processed by using Structure in Motion techniques to generate an accurate digital 3D model. (BIM) was then used to generate drawings of the church and also produce a 3D model and CAD drawings of the structure that will be used for future restoration and/or expansion works. The study found that using UAV provides a relatively quick, and cost-effective manner of documenting cultural heritage sites compared with traditional survey methods and <u>Chapter One</u> <u>Introduction</u>

		generating digital 3D models using novel techniques
		and innovative methods.
5	(Alaa S.	Title: Revitalization of Completed Structures Using
	Khamees	Building Information Modeling.
	, 2018)	In this study, the researcher aims to study the
	Iraq	possibility of adopting building information modeling technology in documentation due to loss of project
		documents, and change orders. The results extracted
		from this study showed the accuracy of BIM
		technology to give distinguished results in the field of
		treating completed buildings through rehabilitation
		and development of previously completed
		engineering facilities. The accuracy of quantities was
		between actual and BIM (93.5%) for the first case
		study and (96.9%) for the second case study, and it
		was concluded that the BIM technique provides better
		management for databases within the Revit software
		to fit with any project.

Current study (2021)

This research aims to study the benefits of BIM to improve documentation system of educational buildings in Iraq. the researcher used Autodesk Revit software to document design phase , the 3D model was linked to create 4D model in Naviswork software, finally upload and storage various of documents to the cloud (BIM 360 Docs)

1.8 Summary

This chapter shows a brief background on documentation in construction projects, description of the research problem and its justifications, clarifying the aim and objectives of the research, research limits and scope, the structure of the thesis, research methodology, and finally a review of previous studies was discussed.