



MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES

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Abstract

Digital technology is modifying immensely faster with their innovation application for the access of information. Mobiles now become investable part of life and new changing mobile technology is affecting every part of life so does the libraries. Mobile technology has connected library to its global readers within short period. Emerging mobile apps are proving very user friendly and making available to large context of resources of the libraries. Present paper discusses about mobile technology, its application in the library. The Need and advantageous of mobile technology in the library. It also presents the information about infrastructure required for mobile technology use in the library.

Keywords- *Mobile Technology, global readers, user friendly*

Introduction :-

In the past few decades, some technological changes have appeared gradually and their impact on higher education has been incremental. In other cases, over relatively short periods of time, technological changes, such as the introduction of Web browsers, have had a major, and some would say revolutionary, impact on higher education as well as the broader society. Which will it be for mobile devices? Will their impact be gradual and incremental or sudden and revolutionary? There is a case for both points of view. Since individuals have been using devices such as laptops and mobile phones for decades, one might argue that the impact of the use of mobile devices on people's behavior in general and on higher education in particular has been relatively gradual. On the other hand, as devices with compelling new features emerge and wireless connectivity is almost ubiquitously available, we may be on the verge of revolutionary phase of mobile device impact on higher education and libraries.

The Concept of Mobile Technology:-

Mobile technology refers to devices that are both transportable and offer instantaneous access to information (Coates et al., 2009). The technology includes, "iPods, MP3 player. Personal Digital Assistants, USB Drive, E-Book Reader, Smart Phone, Ultra-Mobile PC and Laptop / Tablet PC" (Adeeb and Hussain, 2009, p.48). Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and smart

phones are mobile devices that are agents of real-time communication (Chang et al., 2012). The hallmarks of mobile technology are its portability, flexibility, simplicity of use and its unique ability for integration with other technology systems (Alder and Fotheringham, 2012). Mobile devices are often referred to as ubiquitous and are utilized by people for many different activities (Kuzu, 2011).

Mobile Technology for Library Services :-

SMS alert services

Following are possible ways to send SMS from libraries, [Kumar & Chitra, 2008]

- Few Library automation softwares provide option to send SMS alerts for reserved items, due items to users. For example, Libsys 0.7
- Plug-ins integrated with library email system to enable email to SMS messaging. Outsourcing the contract to a vendor to send alert services
- Libraries might use SMS services in the following domains (M-Libraries, 2012).
- To send SMS to collect the requested books
- Reminding the user if, book is due in his/her account; informing user about the exact fine.
- Acknowledging the user about renewal of a book.
- OPAC service.
- Users may request the opening and closing hours of the library.

Research consultation and instruction :-

It is a kind of customer care service. Research scholars may have an interaction with the library staff to get the consultation and get suggestions via mobile phones.

Wi-Fi - Internet Access :-

- Mobile phones are available with 3G facility.
- Libraries can offer Wi-Fi facility to access electronic information sources.

Catalogue search

Library catalogue

Libraries can provide their catalogue on the mobile devices. Many universities have made a provision to search the library catalogue from the mobile device.

Journal finder

Library Journal Finder provides access to full text journal, magazine, and newspaper content as well as links to titles held in print. For instance, American University library has providing option to search journals through mobile phones. The URL for this service is http://www.ljbrary.american.edu/mobile/get_article.html.

Audio Tour

Libraries even can provide audio tour of a library. For example. University of Limerick library, Ireland provides audio guidelines to the library users (University of Limerick Library, 2012).

New Title Preview

Mobile gadgets can be used to disseminate the information about newly acquired documents which are of irrespective of forms.

Image Services

The Image Services in a library might offer a number of high quality, fee based photographic and document imaging services including digitized photographs, diagrams, maps, photos of places of national importance.

News and Events

Information on job openings, varieties of scholarly competition, library events such as orientations program, stock verification, book recall, lectures on special topic, news in relation to scholarly work, awards and so on can be given using mobile devices in order to update the user's knowledge Short messages regarding the library events and news can be sent to the users personally.

Reference service ,

Library users can ask librarians anything through the live chat and texting with mobiles. The reference services can be provided with the help of sending and receiving SMS. Immediate feedback is also possible from the user's side.

Mobile Databases :-

It's not only libraries that have seen the writing on the wall with regard to the mobile web, but academic software and database providers have started taking portability to heart. Many scholarly database management applications are providing search interfaces for mobile web users.

Mobile document supply :-

The mobile environment and technology present new opportunities for sending document requests and scanned images and monitoring the use of collections as well as the automation of administrative operations. It can support electronic funds transfer, supply chain management, e-marketing, online marketing, online transaction processing, electronic data interchange, and automated inventory management systems

Formal Education, Distance Learning and E-learning :-

Students are very versatile in using their mobile phones and various mobile applications. Academic libraries can harness the advantage to lead implementation of library services through mobile devices to support distance learning, formal education, and research activities in e-learning environment by making the information resources ubiquitous. Library services should also blend with teaching and research practice of colleges/universities, scientific community or other patrons whom they serve

E-resources with Mobile Interfaces :-

Some publishers are already delivering e-books (both text and audio) that are accessible via mobile phones. It offers access to a variety of databases and digital resources such as e-Books, e-Journals, Web databases, dissertations, audio books, streaming music, films, images and article databases which can be used on mobile. These collections can either be downloaded from the library websites on user's own

mobile devices or libraries lend mobile devices with the collections already on them. A large collection of audio books both free-and subscription based services are available for download and also transferable to mobile devices.

Libraries can make use of multimedia messaging service (MMS) on mobile devices to share photos, videos, and audio. Most of the e-book publishers provide 24x7 access to the library subscriptions from any internet terminal within the campus, as well on mobile devices, such as iPods, Android devices, and Kindle. QR Codes on Mobiles QR code stands for 'quick response', and basically two-dimensional bar codes that can contain any alphanumeric text and often used to store URLs, text, etc., known as 'mobile tagging'. Data can be translated into a QR code by any QR generator, many of which are available as free download. Users simply enter the data to be translated, and the generator produces the code, which can then be displayed electronically or in printed format. Decoding the information can be done with any mobile camera phone that has a QR reader, which is freely available online for most devices.

Libraries and the Mobile Web

Mobile websites are made especially for the small screen. They appear as scaled-back versions of their desktop counterparts, mostly with a numbered menu system for quick access to content. Web pages that do not have mobile versions appear as if they have been squeezed onto the tiny screen, with overlapping menus and links. A website can also be 'transcended', or formatting can be applied to make it more readily viewable on a phone. There are seven **reasons why library should go mobile:**

There are three times as many mobile phones in the world as personal computers.

- Mobile makes your content ubiquitous.
- Mobile diversifies your audience.
- Mobile enables you to offer new service types, i.e. location types.
- Mobile enables you to connect to patrons via a new medium.
- Mobile is the way of the future.
- It's easier to access Mobile Devices Used in Libraries:
- PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant)
- Smart Phones
- Cell Phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- Tablets Pre-requisites to Application of Mobile Service in Libraries

Mobile websites

> Bulk SMS software

Bulk SMS have revolutionized the mass communication through mobile phones. Masses can be reached within 10 seconds with the bulk SMS. SMSChilly, MySMSmantra, Solutionsinfini, boomadcom, mvaayoo and many are the bulk SMS service providers available in India. Bulk MMS software

Bulk MMS software allows you to send pictures, sounds clips, video clips and around 5,000 characters of text. Wi-Fi for mobile phones

Secured Wi-Fi network should be established in the campus. The control of the same can be handed over to the skilled library staff. Library users can get MAC address (Media Access Control Address) to access the Wi-Fi of the campus, which acts as a unique identifier assigned to a network interface. Future Potential of Mobile Applications in Libraries More and more changes are expected within four to five years in the field of mobile technology and its application to libraries. The technology is now available to use phones to read barcodes or RFIDs (radio frequency identifications) in the library, and OPACs are developing GIS (geographical information system) sensitivity and the ability to communicate with users through their mobiles for reservations, fines, late notices, alerts, etc. Mobile Web 2.0 and 3.0 applications for social networking for the library community are available, thus enabling discussions, blogs, wikis and other features beneficial for all library developments. Some issues that the library may wish to examine in house are the library's role in Licensing information products for mobile devices. Hosting or pointing to institutional content intended for mobile devices, e.g. podcasts. Preserving new content types and formats. Providing

instruction on the devices themselves, not just access to content. Providing space for new equipment and work styles.

Library OPAC system is now mobilized by facility of text message to check the availability and the details of books. Publishers are sending extract from books out via SMS. Websites are now giving the option of sending content to IM addresses and via SMS.

Conclusion:

India may well be one of the leading countries in the adoption of m-learning in coming years, owing to the number of young users or 'Gen y' involved in multimedia mobile usage. The shift from 'd-learning' to 'e-learning' and now from 'e-learning' to 'm-learning' will be the next big wave, which will revolutionize education in India. M-Learning will bring about a paradigm shift from the traditional methods of education delivery, and integrate ICT as an essential component in everyday learning. Web applications such as Google, Face book, and YouTube have gone mobile, thereby underlining their popular appeal. Following the same trends, it is also possible to develop an m-library presence with relatively little effort. Adopting mobile technology in Indian libraries now becomes indispensable part for the library administration. Mobile technology will really bridge the gap between readers and upcoming information via library. It will also enhance the capacity of resources and skills of library and library personnel's. In the current scenario, mobile technology has potential to reach the information towards remote person with single tap for connecting with the world of Knowledge.

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