



A STUDY OF M (MOBILE) TECHNOLOGY TOOL FOR LIBRARIES.

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Abstract

The present paper focused on the compile and explains the mobile services developed in the world over libraries. The paper with prime objectives is (i) To discuss the need to Use Mobile Phones to provide library services. (ii) To understand the strategies through M (mobile) technology tool for libraries. M-Mobile technology is very useful for libraries searching new and innovative technological channels to communicate and deliver their service.

Keywords: *M (mobile) technology, Library tool*



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Introduction:

Libraries have passed through different transition phases. It have preserved text on Papyrus leaves, after invention of printing technology books, periodicals were the collection of Library. With the advent of technology, means to store information have changed from time to time. In this era libraries have to store information in CDs, hard discs, pen drives etc. The form of information have also changed from text to images, audios, videos etc. To keep pace with patrons libraries are undergoing technological changes every now and then. The electronic age have posed challenges to libraries. The huge data available in databases, e-books, e-journals, videos have forced libraries to adopt technology to cater the needs of patrons. The Internet and global mobile technology have made it possible for libraries to reach communities in ways that were not possible before. Mobile technology is “IT” technology & is trend of generating innovations for library services. Great shift is achieved due to this, for librarians and libraries. Librarians are preparing for the future & implementation has slashed travel budget of the community.

Now a day's academic community users' smart phone drastically rising, so the demand for mobile library services is becoming stronger and more diversified. The rapid increase in the internet and mobile penetration helping library professionals to keep innovating newer ways of effectively reaching their targeted users and create relevant favorable relationship with them. Especially, in the university libraries because of teenage users, the demand for mobile based library services that facilitate the library educational

resources and services provided is indispensable. The widespread mobile technology is emerging the need to integrate mobile library resources (e-resources, digital content.)

M (Mobile) Technology and Library services:

The users need information but do not have sufficient time to visit libraries. Rather they expect the libraries to reach them. In changing information environment, librarians need to think about the range of services and methods to outreach the users to way out for managing change. Libraries in other countries of the world are successfully providing library services through mobile phones. User can move or be moved freely and easily & the ability to move between different levels in society or employment. Mobile services are considered here as more than the access to the information and the library from a mobile device - but as also encompassing those services that facilitate access to information resources from anywhere or any device, and, moreover, those that exploit the capabilities of these devices to facilitate access to information to the users. Academic librarians can leverage this usage of mobile devices to effectively deliver products and services to students and faculty

Strategies through Mobile Services:

Mobile Web site- can be accessed and used from portable devices which are able to connect to the internet and to display contents through a browser. A mobile web, in contraposition with a traditional one, is characterized by: content simplification, tending to show only essential content due to the small screens of mobile devices; graphic design, avoiding pictures and graphics; and real-time publication of content -the user gets data about the availability of resources which can help him/her to make decisions regarding their information needs.

General information - Here, patrons can find general information on library- including address, operating hours, maps and telephone numbers of the Library's main services.

Directory - The Directory includes a list of names and information about the staff working - name, profile, e-mail address and phone number. From this list users can call directly to any phone number or incorporate as a contact in their phone lists by simply clicking.

Mobile OPAC -Users can link to the mobile version of the catalog of the library.

Laptops-Library can offers a laptop loan service that users can borrow for a maximum period hours, extendable in the case of no pending reservations.

Group study rooms - The Library rooms for group study that can be reserved in advance. Users can make a reservation through the main web site and then ask for access to the room

at the counter of the corresponding floor showing their university ID card. Program for videogames consider as a powerful tool both for the professors and the students. This opens the door to a more social use of the library which has room for recreation.

Mobile information resources - users can find subscribed newspapers and other e-resources like subscribed information resources from digital library.

Survey feature –Survey scan be published on homepage in order to better ascertain users' opinions regarding library issues, and corresponding section of mobile web site, users can participate in those polls and track its results, in the same way they can through their computer.

Ask a librarian - Any user can complete a form and send questions, opinions and suggestions via mobile web site. In the case of suggestions, if an answer is desired, the user can choose to have the response sent via email message or an SMS from the library. In addition, to improve our local service, a chat reference service

Help - consists of brief and simple explanations about the mobile web site and the sections and information the user can find there.

Mobile OPAC- allow the users to search the catalog from their cell phone or PDA as they would do on any computer, facilitating access to all available information on it.

Data extraction - the whole content of the catalog can be extracted daily and downloaded into a MySQL database.

Search- The mobile catalog and from here users can launch their searches.

Electronic book readers lending service- delivering e-books through web site

SMS notifications-considered and it was decided to complement services with text messaging when requested.

QR codes- is a system to store information within a dot matrix or two-dimensional bar code

Conclusion

Academic libraries today immersed in a new context where commercial and communicational interaction is held more and more through mobile devices. Every moment new feature are to the technology and the advantage is for the users can interact with library professionals, faculty and colleagues without restriction of time and place. They can actually access library resources and services at the place and time that they need it, Library users can directly download the notes, course reserve e-books, research articles and other materials in to the mobile phones / devices. User needs can be delivered on demand. Mobile libraries help

to raise self-esteem and self-confidence of library users. Limitation of devices capacities such as small screens, memory size and computing power, lack of common operating system and application programs like browsers. Wireless networks may down with a large no. of users when using it.

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