

Mobile Technology: A Vital Information Dissemination Tools in Academic Libraries

Presented By
Srikanta Sahu
Premananda Bhoi
Firodous Gazala

Introduction:

Libraries have adopted ICT and passed through developmental stages like automated house-keeping operations, providing faster access to its collection, and digitization to provide multiple accesses at users desktop. Libraries must not hesitate to adopt all possible new technologies like ICT, Wi-fi, mobile communications, and Library 2.0 and 3.0 to redesign, and transform its services so as to deliver information and its services to the more demanding users whenever, wherever and however they prefer.

Mobile devices are immediate to the user; they provide a channel for information and a way of interacting with others. They are superb at delivering different kinds of resources - streamed video and music, written and spoken literature, travel directions, games, sports scores, photos, and thousands more. Powerful mobile devices are becoming widespread - libraries cannot afford to ignore this medium if they are to keep in step with their patrons. There has never been a more relevant user-driven technology for libraries to adopt.

Present Scenario of Mobile Communication:

- ▶ smart phones to multimedia phones
- ▶ cameras, touch screens, bar code scanning
- ▶ Wi-Fi, bluetooth, instant messaging, GIS/GPS, RFID, operating systems

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The mobile phones with operating systems, capability to scan barcodes, text recognition may help libraries to interface with other applications to introduce users to online library transactions, database querying, relevant full-text information download and interactive sessions.

Prerequisites for Implementing Mobile-Based Library Services:

- ▶ Services
- ▶ Hardware and software
- ▶ Physical and virtual environment
- ▶ Different network operators
- ▶ Library OPAC, website, and databases
- ▶ Security and authentication

Skills Required :

- ▶ Hardware and software of mobile devices
- ▶ Create/tailor mobile-optimised content
- ▶ Familiarity with internet services
- ▶ Develop expertise in protecting privacy and security levels
- ▶ Skills related to searching and navigating through mobile devices
- ▶ Skills for interacting with users via smart phone applications
- ▶ Skills relating to training and user orientation

Mobile applications and Libraries :

- ▶ *Library Website*

- ▶ *Mobile OPAC (MOPAC)*

- ▶ *Mobile Collections*

 - E-books, Journal Databases (Ebscohost, LexisNexis, PubMed)

- ▶ *Other Databases*

 - BBC Audio books, arXivview, IEEE Explore, Social Science Research Network

Library & Information Services on Mobile Technology:

- ▶ SMS/Texting (Alert Services)
- ▶ Formal Education, Distance Learning and E-learning
- ▶ Instant Messaging for Reference Services

Google, America Online, Way2SMS, Text a Librarian, LibraryH3lp, MyInfoquest, and Shoutbomb

- ▶ E-resources with Mobile Interfaces
 - Plucker e-book viewer, Mobipocket, LibroVox
 - MMS, E-news, E-databases
- ▶ Mobile Optimized Library Webpages
- ▶ Library Instructions and Virtual Tours
- ▶ Online Library Catalogs
- ▶ QR Codes

Conclusion:

Mobile Technologies and Libraries aims to help librarians and libraries of all types step into the world of mobile interaction by offering practical advice and ideas on how they can make the plunge. It will tell us how to plan, implement, market, and measure the success of a mobile technology plan in our library as well as best practice in information retrieval and dissemination in 21st Century.

Thank You

for listening.....