Utilisation And Impact Of Mobile Technology In Library Services

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Abstract

Libraries have always adopted new technologies to assist in their objective of providing clients with effective and efficient services, as well as timely access to needed information. Now a days Mobile technologies and its application are playing an increasingly vital role in phone age people. Devices such as like smart phones, tablets, and e-book readers connect users to the world immediately, Advancements in networking technologies made it possible for mobile devices and application to be used in the field of education and Library services. It will be very easy access to information via mobile etc. It will also be effective and economic. Such technologies can have a great impact on learning by providing a rich, collaborative and conversational experience for Library. The development of mobile technology has resulted in shifting the academic environment from traditional to mobile learning settings. This paper describes mobile technology applications in library & Information services. Finally it conceives the future of mobile library technology.

Keywords: Mobile Technology, Electronic Resources, Mobile Services, Tablets, Smart Phone

1. Introduction

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have provided faster access to information and it is also challenging the libraries to rethink and remodel their services adopting the technological changes. Implementation and relevance of information and commination technologies have not only changed the way people access information, but has also given birth to the new channels of communication Invention of mobile phones is a vital achievement of technological developments.

Nowadays, libraries are functioning in a user cantered, technology based atmosphere, providing individualized value added services. The Internet and networking of libraries and information centres have facilitated information access 24x7 at one's fingertips. Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals are no more merely caretakers of books. They do the challenging, non-commercial business of satisfying information needs of users.

2. Mobile Technology and Libraries

Mobile devices are ubiquitous in today's society, and there's no evidence that that is going to change. Today's most of the library users have mobile phones for their personal uses as well as they also use the mobile phones for some other applications. In library, the Mobile Technology has now come up with "Libraries in Hand" trend. Libraries today are covering most of the technologies given by mobile industry like PDA's, Blackberry, iPod, Cell phones, and mobilizing library contents in a portable form suit able for small screen and delivering short services in the form of contents and information with

device's multiple searching features. Librarians will need to become proficient in using these devices to enable users to access the many where from any Places.

3. Present day Mobile Communication

There are wide range of mobile computing platforms in the market from smart phones to multimedia phones with different types, styles models, and with many inbuilt features and capabilities like cameras, touch screens, barcode scanning , wi-fi, Bluetooth, instant messaging, GIS/GPS, RFID, operating systems, varying additional storage space, etc. Revolutionary iPhones and smart phones can be used to run many software applications including internet access with faster connections speeds. Availability of automatic configuration of GPRS enabled mobile phones. Which help the subscribers to be online with few clicks emerging technologies like speech technology in mobile phones, has enabled disabled persons to use mobiles effectively.

4. Mobile Based Services in Libraries

Libraries cannot afford to ignore the growing popularity of mobile devices among the user community; mobile phone is no longer just a telephone device but a handheld information retrieval tool. The following are some commonly provided mobile based services in libraries.

SMS alert service: Through the text messaging library professionals should alert the user for new book notice, informing availability of reserved documents for collection, appraising about which/when books are overdue, library circulars, e-journals subscribed, change in timing, information about important events, etc. Such alert notifications can be generated automatically using integrated library management system/software.

Instant Messaging (IM) for Reference services: Mobiles devices can useful for instant answers like definitions, meanings and other information from digital libraries and web. While institution has it sow IM network, library can also use web-based free instant messaging services from Google, America online, Way2sms etc.

Suggest a purchase: Librarian can receive the suggestions from the users via mobile phones. In such cases users need not to visit the libraries and write the requirements in a register.

Library Instructions and Virtual Tours: The library users, who don't have time to attend on-site workshops, can get access to library tours on their mobile devices. Audio/virtual tours can be produced fairly quickly and it also can reduce staff time spent helping new users to orient themselves in the library and explaining the services provided by the library.

OPAC on Mobile Phones: Libraries can provide their catalogue on the mobile devices. Libraries can provide their catalogue on the mobile devices. Libraries are required interact with the software vendors to create mobile compatible WEBOPAC. For example OCLC's World Cat Mobile application pilot allows users to search for and find books and other materials available in their local libraries through a web application they can access from a PDA or a smart phone.

In-house-search: Library and institutions provide access to their owned databases and resources. User should just enter search terms and can see results that are designed specifically for mobile viewing.

Research consultations and instruction: It is a kind of customer can service. Library staff provides reference service to researchers through mobile phones. Research scholars may have a interaction with the library staff to get the consultation and get suggestions via mobile phones such as specific definitions and information contents.

Journal finder: Library Journal Finder provides access to full text journal, magazine, newspaper content as well as links to titles held in print. For example, American University library has providing option to search journals through mobile phones.

News and Events: Information on job openings, variety 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 knowledge. Short messages regarding the library events and news can be sent to the users personally.

Reference services: 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 side.

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

Wi-fi Internet Access: Mobile phones are available with 3G and 4G facility libraries can offer wi-fi facility to users. Through the wi-fi library users can access all electronic publications within library campuses.

5.   Mobile Apps

Mobile apps are software applications which are designed to run on smart phones, tablet computers and other mobile devices. For using a mobile app you need a smart phone/mobile device with internet connectivity.
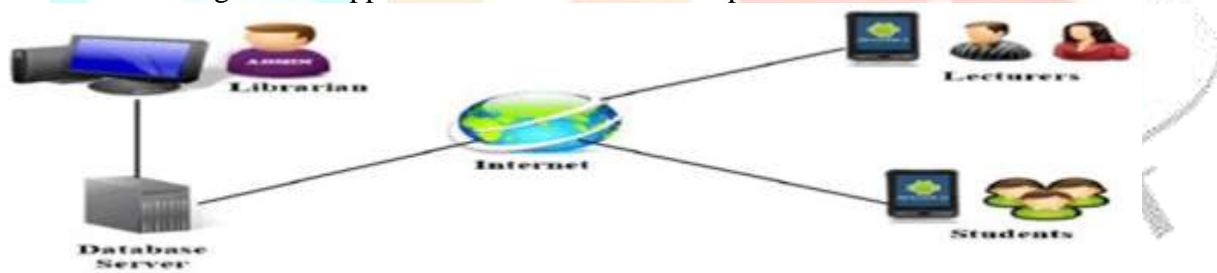
The android Microsoft, Apple and BlackBerry mobile operating systems have app stores online where one can download, and install apps. One can use an app store that works with operating system of the mobile. The most popular operating system stores names are Apple's App store.

6.   Mobile Apps for Librarians

Modern libraries have kept up with technological advancements and have integrated computers, the internet, and other important tools as a normal part of this dynamic hub where paper media meets electronic, various apps for mobiles have been available in the market. In fact many people view the library as the central information centre of city, and in order to retain this title, librarian now find themselves faced with the need to utilize smart phones and tablet apps to complete their tasks and perform jobs more quickly and efficiently.

According to Henning Nichols (2015) mobile apps for libraries and library professionals can be broadly grouped in the following five categories.

• 	Events, programs, and instruction
• 	Content creation and publishing
• 	Building collection and doing reference
• 	Reviewing mobile apps • Professional development.

Librarian - Mobile Based Services

There are various applications on the market for librarians, each with their own uses, and although not all are helpful in the library, but some do serve a literary purpose. Some mobile apps which are widely used in libraries and information retrieval are listed below.

iBooks– iBooks is an iTunes app that includes access to the iBookstore for a wide variety or reading materials.

Free Books – The Free Books app provides 23,469 classic titles for your selection, and allows for highlighting, notes, dictionary support, and bookmarks, which make it as asset for any library.

Good Reader – The newest Good Reader application is called good Reader 4 and it's more of an academic tool than some of the other e-reading apps on this list. It allows you to access scholarly articles and other documents and save them to your mobile device for later viewing.

Kindle – The Kindle is by far the most globally popular e-reader and e-reading app on the market, and was created by Amazon. Due to its connections with Amazon it has a huge selection of books to choose from in a multitude of categories.

Nook – similar to the Kindle, the Nook is featured by Barnes and Noble, and has many new releases for sale as well as a small selection of free reading materials.

Kobo – Kobo is an e-reader company that was established in Toronto, Canada, and is the second most used e-reader in the world after the Kindle. It's most commonly used in Canada, and hosts a large assortment of books.

Bookviser – This application was specifically designed for Windows-based mobile devices and is used by over 7000,000 windows phones owners to browse and read their favourite books.

Audiobooks – Not everybody can enjoy a book on the go, or has the time to sit and scan a page; luckily, the Audio books application offers free books that you can listento for multitasking and hands free enjoyment of books.

Readu - This application reads EPUB and TXT files and allows downloading books from other places and sites, as well as translating text, Freda+ - Freda+ is a customize le reading application that allows for changes in front and colour, and accepts text formats like EPUB, HTML, TXT, and FB2.

7. Mobile applications – Future Education

Modern technology development has favoured the dependency of mobile applications for any use. For students information's should be available at finger tips and this will greatly reduce the time need to be spent in the libraries. Recently, many solution providers has been raising in the markets that provides better ideas and solutions for implementing mobile applications in the educations to make learning much easier.

8. Advantages of Mobile Technology Services in Libraries

User-friendly Aid: It is a User-friendly does not require any orientation, SMS, web browsing, e- mail is used effortlessly to communicate. Most of those features are preinstalled on mobile devices or option from data plan packages.

Personalized Services: Personalized service helps users to interact with library staff to seek specific information or reference away from library.

Ability to access Information: Information access from anywhere at any time will be great help for users who cannot visit library in person and provides a constant link to require information resources.

Time saving: Users need not record information about resources while browsing and searching library resources or wait at library transaction counter to renew/reserve books and hence the time of the user is saved

User participation: Libraries can enrich OPAC by allowing users to incorporate user created content like notes or images uploaded by users.

9. Disadvantages of Mobile Technology in Libraries
➢ Insufficient contents
➢ High Price
➢ Inconvenient input and output interface
➢ Limited consumption of power
➢ Compared to wired Internet service, mobile has relatively slow transmission speed.

Conclusion

In the modern era, several organisations such as libraries, documentations, centres are highly involved in the process of information communication and dissemination. Mobile phone are essential tool for everyone information communication purpose. Human being, information society, depends to use mobile phone to communicate thoughts, facts, conversations, in brief, information. Libraries especially use several tools and techniques to circulate the information to the user community.

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