

LIBRARIES ON CHANGE: FROM STACKS TO SMART GADGETS

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ABSTRACT

This article presents an analysis of current scenario in smart phone or mobile tools and applications for libraries which also includes the use of Internet in libraries and information centers for service providing by the implementation of Short Message Service, message Alerts and multimedia tools by using mobiles and smart GADGETS. Studies smart phone search providers and latest powerful apps for information seekers and library professionals. Evaluates the current practices of smart phone/mobile gadgets, providing an outline of tools, suppliers, and features, defining the numerous expertise these instrument support for flourishing use of library, aiming how library/information centers and our library professionals are acknowledging with amenities personalized for these smart gadgets and what more can be implement by libraries and information centers in upcoming years in the same zone.

Keywords: Mobile communication systems, Mobile Application, Mobile Devices, Smart Gadget, Electronic Resources, Information management.

INTRODUCTION

Since beginning of the very initial phases of human culture, information is considered as an essential means of communication and distribution of information from one person to other. Hence it turns out to be an inescapable part of all human happenings and growth.

Mobile technology now-a-days becoming the focal point of our age, one extremely important form of new age technology that is very vital to the communication is the cell phone. Before the discovery of the telephone, communication was sluggish and was restricted to Morse code or sending letters. Today, along with calling folks, there are several tools of communication like email, IM and text messaging, voice and video messaging etc.

Currently, libraries are also turning into Digital libraries or Smart Libraries. Various online amenities like online teaching & learning has been close by and offering unlimited opportunities to boost flexibility beyond time and place of study, in aspects of accessibility of info materials and resources. Individuals who have busy work schedule and whose jobs need them to always move or travel, for those individuals smart devices are blessing for their learning by using mobile technologies such as tablets, notes, mobile phones/smart phones, iPhones, PDAs, iPod and other smart devices with or without the connectivity of Internet.

Technology is an ever growing commodity. But then again mobile applications for info explorer also have full-grown up enormously with the advancement of technology. Each and every one as of Children to adults altogether is discovering their bit of data with the help of this wireless technology. Innumerable research and surveys on using smart devices signifies and came up with surprising consequences which indicates that in the present day folks are spending much more time on these handheld smart devices for texting ,accessing internet, chatting, sharing voice and video messages from their mobiles, e-mail and doing numerous communicating accomplishments with smart phones' countless features.

Mobile technology also has the ability to provide for services and functions that never existed before. One of the perceived benefits in the advertising and marketing fields in that because the cell phone is a personal device, as well as being location aware, it acts as a far more efficient way to contact specific categories of users. For public libraries, for example, localization is a big deal, and being able to focus their efforts on local users specifically, even providing them with customized services on their cell phones, is a huge opportunity.

Constantly, we are moving towards the new and different communication means, and mobile is not at all different in that way. It is essential for librarians to grip on to their role as information providers, pickers and dealers, it is needed to be capable to move on in the direction of reaching out to patrons through their preferred technique of communication. Today, our patrons are using a different way of communication and it is the responsibility of information professionals to provide the information they need in the form which is most convenient for them. Librarians supposed to change their way to offer services in a fresh and most trendy way to serve their patrons in a better and improved way.

MOBILE APPLICATION

Mobile Applications are must to use our mobile or smart devices. Without mobile applications they are not very useful for us and going to work fabulously. “A **mobile application**, most commonly referred to as an app, is type of **application** software designed to run on a **mobile** device, such as a smartphone or tablet computer. **Mobile applications** frequently serve to provide users with similar services to those accessed on PCs.”

Essentially, there are two types of mobile applications functioning in different forms. One is termed “**Standalone Applications**”, and the other is “**Device Specific**”. Web applications that run on web browsers. (Greenall 2010, 17).

Standalone Applications appear wonderful and interesting most of the time, and since they are designed just for the mobile devices, they can be distinctive and exclusive. Though, there are noticeable short comings also. First, users have to download and install this software, and time to time these applications need to be update as well so consumers have to take care of the same and pay attention to bring up to latest version of them in the future. Some applications are also on expenses. Users need to pay to download the same. Second, subsequently there are various mobile platforms are available in the marketplace at this instant; to prepare a software program that support all of the mobile devices and mobile OSs is certainly a very challenging work. Additionally, a standalone application might only work on one or a few mobile devices, but is not compatible with all or others.

Device Specific Applications are also encloses both benefits and drawbacks. By and large, the contents and interfaces they offer are suitable for mobile devices and also compatible for different devices at the same time. Generally, consumers just have to type in a URL that start with http://m. or http://mobile. Or end with /mobile, /wireless, or /iPhone. But subsequently these kind of

applications are designed to beaten some of the in-built deficiencies of mobile devices, the data structures are not the same as those on the computer-based web-sites, and it could be a tough job for the creators to restructure the pre-existing web matters and data structure. Ultimately, it rests on users that they are looking for what type of applications and what approaches first if they determined to search with their mobile devices, and it's wonderful as we can catch the both kinds of applications for library use equally and with the exception of certain reference tools, maximum of them are available at free of cost and won't charge.

MOBILE DEVICES

Once we discuss about mobile devices or portable devices, the main gadget that approaches our attention is undoubtedly mobile phones. However with the ever growing new technologies in this day and age, mobile phones are not only means of communication. At this moment mobile phones are turning to the smartphones with various additional utilities beside talking and texting. In comparison to "dumb phones", a smartphone can perform countless actions along with searching and surfing the web, booking tickets, watching videos and movies, reading books or magazines, listening music, travel guide, maps, sharing audio and video messages and so many other accomplishments we can achieve by using smartphones. Equally, that could be done with a computer. Simultaneously, there are various other smart gadgets with wireless reliability along with private digital assistants, such as tablets and so forth, with which consumers cannot make phone calls, but then again are also treated as mobile devices as well since the functions and utilities they have. Generally, according to Greenall, a mobile device is "any battery-powered, portable device with a small screen that can connect to the Internet using wireless protocols." In order to "exclude notepad computers and to highlight the smaller, prototypical smartphone devices such as iPhones, Android handsets, Blackberries, Nokia N series, and, potentially, the next-generation eBook readers and devices such as Apple's iPad" (Greenall 2010).

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY VERSUS LIBRARIES

By the support of Mobile Technology a brand new trend has now arisen i.e. "Libraries in Hand". The use and users of the Libraries can be enhanced in a much better way if serve their users by implementation of rising proficiencies of mobile technology. The recent mobile technology can encourage and increase the current library services by contribution of mobile access to their OPAC and website; by providing very active mobile reference services wrapped with convenient

and easy and quick access; and by offering mobile access to their information resources like E-journals, E-books, audio, video and multimedia content.

Now-a-days librarians are moving towards to regulate how these devices are affecting right to use of information and make sure that the same are interconnecting with users and offering web content in the maximum suitable and efficient manner. Information professionals should have to experiment, attempt and give their determinations to boost the open marketplace and demand of mobile use and access for the easy connection between information and user of information on any time and at anywhere, just on a bit of click through the mobile devices and GADGETS.

E-books

The robust internet surfing experiences of Today's generation demands mobile devices and also expanded requirement and trend for online mobile content and the open access of free e-books to enjoy reading. To meet the current demand of the new generation users Google has practiced with the chief originators and publishers to bring book chapters, pages and volumes beyond the bookstand and provided this onto the smart GADGETS and other smart mobile devices.

Some of the major book retailers and multiple third-party developers offer free (and in some third-party cases, premium paid) e-reader applications for the Mac and PC computers as well as for Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone, Windows Phone and Palm OS devices to allow the reading of e-books and other documents independently of dedicated e-book devices. Examples are apps for the [Amazon Kindle](#), [Barnes & Noble Nook](#), [Kobo eReader](#), and [Sony Reader](#).

To form an optimistic, encouraging and valuable understanding for smart phone internet browsers, the most recent mobile websites offer a very compressed, straightforward and uncomplicated version of the publisher's assistance with the purpose to make room for small screen displays with a very short messages and guidelines on how to access content.

Google users can save downloadable e-books on their PDA's, smart phones (or mobile e-book reading devices) and on Blackberries, along with the traditional PC's and laptops which would either be free & advertiser supported, or available via 'on-demand' micro payments.

Databases

Library provides some access to its users. You almost certainly don't have the ability to alter the look and feel of the database for mobile users, though. Some database vendors are providing mobile-specific interfaces for their products. The list is still reasonably small compared to the number of database vendors libraries deal with, but we should expect that this trend will continue

to move through other vendors. Some database like Factiva (<http://mobile.beta.factiva.com>), Westlaw (<http://west.thomson.com/software/wireless/default.aspx>), PubMed (<http://pubmedhh.nlm.nih.gov/nlm/pubmed/index.html>), Hoover's (www.hooversmobile.com)

SMS/Texting – Library's instant Access

Many libraries use SMS as a part of their reference service. Some use a dedicated commercial SMS service like those offered by Altarama and Upside Wireless or by actually purchasing a dedicated cellular phone for reference use. Others use a very popular hack that allows SMS messages to be done with AOL Instant Messenger (AIM). In the case of the AIM interface, you can leverage SMS reference in to your existing IM or chat reference service, usually with very little difficulty.

In addition to using SMS for reference services, many libraries have instituted SMS notifications regarding materials. Notification that a request has been filled, reminders of when materials are due, and other library system-related communications can be sent via SMS.

Mobile Reference

Some libraries use mobile phones as of on- the- go reference device, being able to surf the Web, look up quick reference questions, search the catalog and more all from a single portable device. Having a device like iPhone from which you can provide reference service effectively even in roaming with the help of Instant messaging services.

POSSIBILITIES OF MOBILE APPLICATION IN THE LIBRARIES IN FORTHCOMING YEARS

As the ever-growing technology is changing each and every day and we can expect many more changes in coming years in the field of mobile technology and similarly its affect and application to the libraries would also be visible. Very soon the day will be coming when we start using the mobile phones to read barcode and RFID tags in the library and OPAC will evolve GIS sensitivity and it will be capable of performing and to connect with patrons through their smartphones/mobiles for fines, due date alerts, holds etc. In next coming years we can expect that library patrons will be using brand new technology to having enormous contents of non-synchronous voice messaging with interweaved analysis and conversation by using Voice-mail technology. These technologies will also be very helpful for library staff in providing enormous

library and ready-reference services to their user group. The increasing use of V-mail and V-Blogs will certainly affect the practice of mobiles in forthcoming time and in the same manner libraries will also get move with this habit. In the upcoming years users would do various things on a smartphone/GADGETS or related mobile devices that they currently do on a PCs and laptops. Mobile web 2.0 application for social networking for library user group should be understood that allows debates, blogs, wikis and additional sorts advantageous for entirely library evolution. There are some concerns which may be appear due to availability of web material 24*7 on just a bit of click e.g. confidentiality, Privacy and copyright issues should be stuff of apprehension in imminent year and risks of loss of this web content would increase. Damage in the computer and likewise mobile searches by all the individuals without any verification, authentication and credentials, as it is going to be the fastest growing application in the next five years even today it is already a major feature of Apple iPhones user. The librarian has to appreciate fully the proficiencies and capacities of the mobile technology and its practice in libraries in close future by providing the excellent services meet with the requirements of the user.

CONCLUSION

There are countless web applications for example e-mail, Face book, Google, YouTube and many more have gone mobile, in that way highlighting their widespread application. Following the same trends, libraries should also move towards the change from the stacks to smart GADGETS. It will be taking some effort to move from outmoded to mobile library or m-library. For the growth and development of M-library there is requirement of teamwork, association and partnership between academic, industry, organizations and government. In the present set-up, mobile libraries have the capacity to boom and we will eyewitness a set of circumstances in which the mobile will certainly be used as a device to blow out knowledge, learning and education in each and every corner of the country and beyond but the role of librarians in the same regard is extremely important. They have to develop their skills and need to keep themselves up to date with the knowledge of latest technology.

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