Mobile Technology and Library Services

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ABSTRACT

Library and technology both are growing organisms. Technology impacts on the need of library users and utilize of services. It is challenging task to libraries to satisfy their users need and now it is time to rethink and remodel library services by adopting new technology. Application of mobile phones to afford library and information services are important step in this direction. The improvement of mobile technology has resulted in shifting the academic settings from outdated to mobile learning settings. This Paper discuss on the mobile technology, Mobile library services, and its advantages and limitations.

KEYWORDS: Mobile Technology, Mobile Library Services, SMS notification services, etc.

INTRODUCTION

With the advancement of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and the inception of mobile technology in recent years, there is a change in the way people communicate and access information. Technological improvements such as cell phones, low cost connectivity and faster data transmission are among the most important factors which have led to the growing use of mobile devices. Mobile technology has made communication and information right to use very useful and timely to users from the comfort of their own homes and offices, and from anywhere they are while on the move with their mobile phone units or PDAs (personal digital assistants). Mobile technology is technology that drives where the user drives. It consists of portable two-way communications devices, computing devices and the interacting technology that attaches them. Currently, mobile technology is characterized by internet-enabled devices like smartphones, tablets and watches. These are the latest in a development that includes two-way pagers, notebook computers, mobile telephones (flip phones), GPS-navigation devices and more. The communications linkages that join these devices are loosely termed wireless technologies. They enable mobile devices to share expression, data and applications (mobile apps).

Libraries are social organizations, that connecting people with people and people with information. They are progressively no longer just physical places. As most library users having a mobile phone, and growing numbers of these being smart phones, it is time for libraries to take advantage of mobile technology. Mobile Technology will help both learner and experienced librarians to stay related in an increasingly mobile society. They need to be aware

of technological changes, peer forward, and make for the future of library mobile interaction. Librarians must be matching with this trend and incorporate themselves into the mobile kingdom if they wish to deliver heightened user services.

Mobile Technology

"Mobile Technology is defined as handheld information technology devices or items that include hardware devices, software and communication." Mobile Technology is the technology used for mobile communication. Mobile technology has improved speedily over the past few years. Since the start of this era, a standard mobile device has gone from being no more than a simple two way paper to being a mobile phone GPS navigation device, an entrenched web browser and quick messaging client, and a handheld gaming console

Examples of Mobile IT devices include:

- Smart Phones
- PDAs
- Wireless debit/credit card payment terminals.
- Tablets.
- Bluetooth- Connects mobile devices wirelessly.
- "Third generation", international system for mobile communication and General packet radio service data services-data networking services.
- Dial-up services-data networking services using modems and telephone lines.

Mobile Library Services : In the Teaching and learning mobile technology can be very proficiently used. As the asset of libraries is in supporting self-directed and autonomous learning, libraries could play a gradually significant role in this mode of learning libraries could provide access to resources. Library services through mobile as below.

SMS alert services: Existing e-mail alert services like bringing new books to the notice of users for suggestion, intimation of arrival of indented documents by users, informing availability of reserved documents by users, informing availability of reserved documents for collection, appraising about which/when books are overdue, library circulars-journals subscribed, change in timings, information about important events, etc., can be upgraded by sending through SMS/text-alert services to meet the information needs of 'netgens'.

Instant Messaging for Reference services: Mobile devices can useful for instant answers like definitions, meanings and other information from digital libraries and web. While institution has its own IM network, library can also use web-based free instant messaging services from Google, American online, and Way2sms etc.

OPAC on Mobile Phones: Libraries provide access to a variety of its resources and databases. The users can just enter search items and see results that are designed specifically for mobile viewing. This service includes OPAC, integrated search and original document search.

In-house search: Library and organizations offer access to their preserved databases and resources. User should just enter search terms and can see results that are designed especially for mobile viewing.

Formal Education, Distance Learning & E-learning: Students are very handy in using their mobile phones and various mobile applications. Academic libraries can harness the advantages to lead implementation of library services through mobile devices to support distance learning, formal education, and research activities in elearning environment by making the information resources universal. Libraries should redesign their services keeping social networking sites in mind, which are severely used by younger generation for interaction, communication, and information sharing. Library services should also blend with teaching & research practice of colleges/universities, scientific community or other patrons whom they serve.

News and Events: Information on job openings, verities of scholarly competition, library events such as orientations program, stock verification, book recall, lectures on special topic, news in relation to intellectual work, rewards and so on can be given using mobile devices in order to update the user knowledge. Short messages concerning the library events and news can be sent to the users individually.

SMS Reference service: If the library receives a high volume of queries that require brief responses, such as dictionary definitions, facts or service information then Librarians can provide instant answers, and links to articles/references in real time.

Mobile databases: PubMed for handhelds is a mobile web portal for the National Library of Medicine.

Catalogue search and journal finder:

 • Library catalogue: Libraries can offer their catalogue on the mobile devices. Very simple search interface can be provided here. Library users can search for e-resources too. When the user provides keyword and clicks on search button the brief bibliographic record of the desire documents will appear on the mobile screen. Library users are provided with user ID and password to access the full text information.

• Journal Finder: Library Journal Finder offers access to full text journal, magazine, and newspaper content and links to titles held in print.

Mobile-based Library Lending Service: As in banking & financial sectors, libraries can formulate guidelines for using mobiles for circulation of reading materials and maintenance of users account. The SirsiDynix Company has developed a handheld circulation instrument called 'PocketCirc', which permits libraries to access the unicorn library management system on a PDA device. This wireless key enables staff to support users in the stacks; checkout materials while off site, such as at communal or site events, and update record items while walking around the library. Mobile phones make ILL/document delivery services faster and cut down the time to request/visit different libraries and complement the geographically remote user.

Advantages of mobile in library services

- Time saving
- It is a personalized service
- It is user friendly
- Limitless access
- User Participation
- Location Awareness
- Ability to access information
- Students have access to campus information
- Mobile makes the content ubiquitous.
- Mobile enables to connect to patrons via a new medium.

Limitations

There are some limitations or barriers in providing library services:

- Digital rights management
- Limited memory of mobile devices
- Usually expensive and resource intensive
- Content ownership and licensing
- Reach of an external vendor into the digital collections and technologies – sustained access will be an extremely important issue for libraries if they adopt mobile Library technology and services that offer content from providers' external of the library.
- Privacy - because of the risk that patron usage information can be used and exploited those who commit identity theft.
- Lack of appropriate mobile-friendly academic content to meet learners' needs.
- Increasing staff reductions and other cutbacks.
- The lack of technological skill between staff members.

CONCLUSION

Mobile technology is the essential tool for today's life and we can use to provide library services to users and through mobile user can easily access the e-book. In future we can use Mobile phone-a-Librarian is part of Ask A Librarian service that provide the information for users to get quick help in finding information on library services and resources. Mobile phones are expected tools for information communication. The dissemination of managed information is a common feature in an educated society. Libraries specially use several tools and techniques to circulate the information to the users. For this purpose the use of technology is very important. Mobile technology has become advantage to the libraries. A library may reach the remote users efficiently by adopting of mobile technology in its services.

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