

USE OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS

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Abstract: In modern era Information accomplishments are powered by the technical revolutions. Application of ICTs in libraries & Information centers is predictable due to information explosion. Similarly, library patrons too request for advanced service area and aid. In this Information age where ICT is evolving as an important medium of communication and of getting benefits of several online services. It is important to use mobile technology in library and information resource centers to provide better services to their use groups. Due to the accessibility of mobile phones with each person and the comfort of reach, It has become a powerful technology that a library can use for the purpose to deliver day to day services to their patrons. This paper highlights the services offered by the libraries and information centers in which the mobile phones can be used effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: Mobile Websites, SMS Alert Service, OPAC, Mobile Technology

1.0 Introduction:

Mobile Communications are renovating how individuals explore, obtain and communicate with info in regular and day to day activities. In last some years, smart phone owners became greater than before in statistics and has hit the roof, and the widespread use of smart devices such as tablets, kindles, e-book readers, audio books etc. has been gradually on the upswing. These smart devices offer easy and handy access to the world of Information in just a bit of click, beyond restrictions of topic, discipline and group.

In this development the mobile phones are playing a crucial role in information communication. At present, Mobile phones are not just a way of communication but much more than that: we can check e-mail, explore the web, audio and video chat, texting and play games. Even smart devices like iPad, iPod, tablets and notes touch can bring social media (e.g. Face book, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+ etc), productivity tools, and entertainment factually into the palm of our hand. State of the art technologies make smart phones as an accomplice of its consumers which fulfill the recreation to educational intentions.

Lots of mobile applications are obtainable at free of cost and we can download them from the help of Google Play store, App Catalog, Apps store, Nokia store, iOS, Windows store and from so many other Websites and Platforms. We can download the required applications **without any charge** from the various websites of the smart phone companies. Advanced smart devices are using numerous applications, basically termed as application (app), for example e-book readers, music apps, games, direction maps, word processing, marketing tools, translation tools, glossaries and thesaurus, health apps, shopping apps and so on. These app are really very supportive to the smart phones users in numerous ways ultimately, smart mobile phones will be playing an additional noteworthy role in education as well.

2.0 What is Mobile Web ?

“The **mobile Web** refers to the use of browser- based Internet services from handheld mobile devices, such as smart phones or feature phones, through a mobile or other wireless network”. (Wikipedia).

There are plenty of really fascinating amenities we can approach through the smart phones. Mobile Technology has now come up with “**Libraries in Hand**” trend. By the way of using mobile Web, individuals can download e-books, audio books, can watch educational videos and lecture of the different educational institutes. The features and functions of computer, mobile phones and media player all come together hooked on a particular devices, as companies target to offer a fascinating participation and offers aimed at the customer. This advancement of portable

smart devices, linked with latest high speed wireless data networks, makes browsing the mobile Internet surfing additionally more exciting experience.

Moreover, the Web practiced when broadband right to use turn out to be extensively within reach, the mobile Web is revolving and fetching extremely beneficial to the every single consumers day by day. Whereas mass embracing is still in its early stage, the background is emerging rapidly. Here and now is the phase to get on - board and on – the – move with mobile applications and the mobile Web.

3.0 Mobile Technology and Library Services:

Libraries can offer an extensive range of mobile services to concerned consumers:

3.1 SMS Alert Services:

With the help of SMS alert service libraries can continuously be in touch with the user group. Alerts services simplifies the libraries to transfer alert communications on occasion to the reforms library guidelines and protocols, new arrivals, new services designed, overdue stuffs, and academics at everyday breaks. Patrons will be capable to prefer happenings or amenities extended by the library for which they request to be updated.

Communication info with the contact mobile number is compulsory for the delivery of these alert services. Mobile alert services let know the patrons about the affair of library emergencies; for instance recall notices, cancellation of reserved items etc.

3.2 Reference Service :

These services can be delivered by the ervice of delivering SMS. Instantaneous response is also attainable from the patron's end. The reference services can be delivered in the working hours of library. Library patrons can request librarians whatever they are looking for over the live conversation through chat and texting with mobiles.

3.3 Library catalogue:

Libraries can offer their online catalogue on the smart phones. Very clear, easy, simple and understandable searching interface can be provided at this point. Library patrons can look for electronic sources too over their smart phones. Once the patrons runs keyword and hit it off on search bar the concise bibliographic record of the desired documents/information resources will display on the screen of mobile.

For this purpose library patrons are provided with unique User Name (UN) and password (PW) to access the full text information.

3.4 News and events:

Outmoded libraries keep notification panels to make available updated information to their patrons. Notifications panels enclose information such as, career opportunities, various academic competitions, library and other events such as induction program, stock verification, book recall, and lectures on deferent themes, news related to scholarly works, honors, and awards and so on.

Nowadays libraries can make efficient use of mobile devices with the purpose of to bring up to date the patron's knowledge about the above mentioned events and news. SMSs about the library happening and newsflash can be sent to the patrons individually.

3.5 Journal finder:

Library journal Finder offers the right to use to full – text journals, news papers and magazines along with the links to titles held in print. Users can get articles on a topic or subject area of interest just by entering the keywords and run the search.

3.6 Fundamentals to Application of Mobile Service in Libraries & Information Centers : Wi-Fi for mobile phones :

A **protected and well- established** and well- established Wi-Fi network should be entrenched in the campus. The control of the same can be handed over to the experienced library staff. Library users can get MAC address (Media Access Control Address) to right to use the Wi-Fi of the campus, which acts as a unique identifier assigned to a network interface.

3.7 Bulk SMS Software :

Bulk SMS have transformed the mass communication over mobile phones. Masses can be reached within less than 10 seconds by using the bulk SMS. It is a cost effective way of information communication to the huge groups. A number of companies offer bulk SMS service.

SMS Chilly, My SMS mantra, Solutionsinfini, boomadcom, mvaayoo and countless are the bulk SMS service providers existing in India.

3.8 Mobile Websites:

Because of the compact display and less storage space, mobile phones take ample time to load the well designed web pages. Consequently, it is necessary to a library to design distinct website for mobile users. Library websites for mobile users should use certain tools such as, site layout tools, custom domain name, Interactive interface, Community features, library locator tools, maps, driving directions, image collections, videos, custom content and even OPAC for mobile users, community; And the website should be technologically advanced and cost effective.

3.9 Examples of Mobile Library Websites :

1. Adelphi University Libraries Mobile (AU2GO). Offers library hours, library staff contact information, a link to the library's blog " bibliography" and more.
Access: <http://it.adelphi.edu/catalog/au2go/>
2. Albertsons Library, Boise State University. Simple text navigation offers various ways to find the library and its contents. An interesting feature is the inclusion of a "find in Our Building" category, which lists call number locations and popular locations such as study rooms and computers, each linked to an animated floor map. Access: <http://library.biosestate.edu>
3. University of California Riverside Libraries. Glossary icons designate many useful categories, including research guides, Library workshops, and links to the libraries social media profiles.
Access:<http://m.library.ucr.edu>.
4. Virginia Tech University Libraries. A simple but effective layout offers important information, such as library hours, contact information, catalog search, and library maps. Access:<http://m.lib.vt.edu/>

4.0 Conclusion:

In modern age mobile phone are inescapable tools for information communication. Now-a-days almost each and every human being in a society use mobile phone to interconnect opinions, views, thoughts, facts, conversations, in common, information. The spreading of processed information is a common factor in a civilized world. This short review indicates that more than a few organizations such as libraries, documentations/Information centers immersed in this progression. Simultaneously, libraries should be promoted. For this purpose the use of technology is very important. Mobile technology has turn out to be a boon for the modern libraries. A library may reach the remote patrons effectually by implementing the mobile technology in its services.

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