

Mobile technology in the Library World: A Study

Vinod Gupta

Librarian, DAV College, Kotkhai, H. P. (India)

vg1974.gupta@gmail.com

Abstract: Research and development in every sphere of human activity has led to bulk information. With the advancement in ICT technology, the scenario of information management and its access across the world has changed. Mobile technology has speeded up the information transfer and access in no time. The present paper is an attempt to study the mobile application in the library world. Wide range of mobile library applications is available now. These applications have made easy for libraries to deliver their services to their clientele sitting in remote or far off distance, within no time. Users just by clicking on library Apps can search their relevant information. These includes SMS services , MMS services , OPAC search, Online reference services, online search for databases, Library Notification and instruction services and many other library services deemed necessary by libraries to achieve its goal.

Keywords: Mobile Applications, Library Applications, Library services.

I. INTRODUCTION

Research and developments in almost all sphere of human activity has led to bulk generation of information worldwide. In order to control this bulk information, the library services are digitalised and are provided in the format as desired by its patrons. The use of ICT, digitalization of library services in the present time has speeded up the transfer of information across the world within no time. Mobile technology is no exception to it. According to International Communication Union statistics 2014 almost 7 billion Mobile-Cellular subscriptions are there worldwide and more than half are there in the Asian Pacific region. In Developing countries the mobile cellular penetration would reach 90% as compared to the 12% in Developed countries. Internet user penetration has reached 40% globally .Number of internet user have reached 3 billion. 2/3 of world's internet user is from the Developing countries. The International Telecommunication Union has also predicted that the web access from Mobile will exceed access from Desktop computers within next three years. These statistics shows that

the use of Mobile Technology is growing at extraordinary pace across the world. With the advancement in mobile technology where mobile phones are no more just as ordinary phones and has taken the shape of smart phones or iphones. People across world can access Email, search for web, play multimedia and can connect to data networks anywhere, anytime, in any part of the world.

With the advancement in mobile technology and the digitalization of libraries, the libraries should explore mobile devices as a medium to connect with their clientele across the world. Developing mobile applications will allow the clients to access data at any time from the library and they can even have access to databases by sitting at home. If the basic services of libraries could be available on the mobile devices, then these services could be available to any user, at any time and at any place.

The Mobile services are:

1. Voice services
2. SMS (Short Message Service) and
3. MMS (Multimedia Services)
4. Location services .It is Global Positioning System for the mobile communication. (GPRS System)
5. Video call: 3G terminals allow a call/video call in short time. One can monitor and can have access to video of his/her office employees by sitting abroad.

II. MOBILE APPLICATION IN THE LIBRARY WORLD

Mobile communication has become small computers with excellent operating systems and good storage capacity. Now it is possible to develop Applications for libraries services. The library services that are available today are:

1. Services provided by library such as Email, SMS services, alert services.
2. Development of online profile.
3. Privacy protection Technology.
4. New form of interaction with the users. Etc.

The adoption of mobile technology alters the traditional relationship between libraries and their clientele... it has led to drastic change in our way of communication , business engagements ,teaching

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,learning ,entertaining and coping with consumers decisions. Mobile Phone today has brought internet to our daily life, where one can access whatever he desire .Libraries can better serve their clientele by adopting the advancement in mobile technologies. They can promote and expand their existing library services by allowing mobile access to their websites and OPAC, by providing online mobile reference service, by providing mobile access to Journals, videos, multimedia content, e Books/E journals and other library collections. Mobile devices/services ensure flexibility to its clientele to explore the advantages of library services. This technology offers new platform for the teaching and the learning world in enhancing their skills. It has helped libraries in extending their outreach to the large world community.

III. TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECT

1. Mobile site development tool: libraries can make their own mobile sites but there are also different services available that translates their website into a mobile friendly interface. e.g. Mobile friendly Library website - This site provide steps, how to make a library website more satisfying experience for clients with Mobile devices. MIT Mobile Web Open Source Project.
 2. Mobile Site Testing: In order to ensure that mobile site looks better and works well on small screens Buy a bunch of e-bays and sign them up for wireless access and well bring up website on them. Validation and Emulator also works. E.g. Mobi Ready.com-validates and emulates.
 3. Mobile Interfaces: These are Library websites (with or without OPAC) which are specially designed for mobile devices. E.g. American University Library offers such service. University of Liverpool Library (U.K) provides Mobile OPAC service.
 4. Mobile Applications: These are mobile applications specially designed to provide mobile library services. E.g. Seattle Public Library Application is available on Android, Blackberry, and Windows Mobile. New York Law School is available on major mobile formats.
 5. SMS services: Libraries are using SMS services on mobile. e.g.
 - a. It sends SMS if required document is available.
 - b. It sends SMS reminder if Document is due.
 - c. Requesting a list of loan via SMS.
 - d. Renewing Books via SMS.
 - e. Notice regarding outstanding fine through SMS.
 - f. Checking for availability of Books.
 - g. SMS Reference Service: Reference service at libraries today is becoming increasingly virtual, as more and more researchers are working remotely. "Ask a librarian" service offers mobile patrons to search their query from any place in the world. Helsinki University of Technology Library is sending various SMS messages to its users. Swiss National Library is using SMS service.
 - h. Library SMS Notifications: It includes text messages informing about quick News, reminders, important events etc.
6. Mobile collections: These include audiobooks, Vedio, Ebooks, audio language courses, streaming music, films etc. that can be used on mobile devices. These can be either downloaded from library website on user's own mobile or library lends mobile devices with collections already available on them. E.g. New York Public library offers eBooks and audio books through overdrive service. Duke University Library offers digitalized image collections through Duke Mobile iPhone Application.
 7. Mobile Instructions: It covers applications on mobile devices for library instructions. These instructions can be text based, audio or video. User who does not have time to attend workshops can get most of their library resources by accessing the classes or tuition on their mobile devices. E.g. National Library of Medicine has made it possible for their students to research remotely through PubMed fro handhelds. Washington State University Library "How to..." help with library resource and Tools instructional podcasts.
 8. Mobile Tour of the Library: Audio tours can either be downloaded on client's mobile devices or already existing audio tours on mobile devices can be lending by the libraries to its clients. It can be made available in different languages. E.g. Oxford Brooke University library (U.K) audio Tour can be downloaded or it can be borrowed as Mp3 player at the enquiry desk.
 9. QR (Quick response Code) (2D) Codes: These are codes that contain authentic information regarding an entity. Mobile with QR code reader software can scan an image of QR 2D code and helps the browser to launch or redirects the programmed URL. E.g. Biblioteca Reactor Gabriel Ferrate Universitat Polilenica

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de Catalunya (BRGF) uses QR codes to provide additional information on promotional posters and web pages, to provide user name and password to the users who subscribes to CLIC area service.

10. Mobile Library Circulation: Sirsi Dynix Company has developed a mobile circulation tool known as PocketCirc which enables librarians to access Unicom Library Management system on PDA devices. It enables staff to assist patrons on stacks, Check out material while offsite. It is used because it is compatible to more mobile phones; it diversifies the audience, enables to connect patrons in new medium and is way to the future.

11. Mobile Web 2.0 and 3.0 Applications. : These applications are available for social networking in the library community.

IV. ROLE OF LIBRARY IN MOBILE AGE

The library has to define its role in present era of Mobile Technology Applications .It has to examine its role in

- (1) Licensing its collection/sources for mobile devices.
- (2) Hosting or pointing to institutional contents intended for mobile devices e.g. podcasts.
- (3) Presenting new formats and new contents.
- (4) Providing instruction on devices themselves
- (5) Preventing unauthorised access to its contents.
- (6) Studying the user behaviour to develop its applications as per their need.
- (7) Digitalisation of their collections.
- (8) Keeping eye in future developments in mobile technology.

V. CONCLUSION

The advancements in mobile technology have changed the world scenario of information access across the world. Mobile technology has made it possible for the people to access internet anywhere and at any time. Wide range of applications is available on mobile devices to ease search on internet. Libraries too are not far behind in making use of these mobile devices to render its services. Keeping in view the information seeking behaviour of its clientele and developments in mobile applications in the library field, large number of libraries are now creating mobile version of their websites for their clientele. They are providing different mobile services to their users such as SMS services, MMS services , Library

Notifications services , Online document delivery services, online reference services, Email services ,online OPAC search, Access to specialised database centre and many other services as libraries deem necessary to achieve its goal. In order to fulfil their goal, the libraries have to examine their role in delivery of their services keeping in view the latest advancements in mobile technology and study of information seeking behaviour of their clientele .Mobile technology has changed the concept of library service from stationary to mobile.

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