

Mobile Applications For Modern Librarianship

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Abstract

This Paper explores the role of mobile applications in modern librarianship, focusing on their significance, benefits, challenges and future prospects. It discusses how mobile technology has transformed library services, enhanced accessibility to information resources, and empowered librarians to engage with patrons in innovative ways.

Keywords: Mobile technology, Mobile applications, Modern Librarianship.

1. Introduction

In today's era of Information and Communication Technology, librarianship has transcended the traditional brick-and mortar library, extending its reach into the palm of our hands through mobile applications. These innovative tools are revolutionizing the way librarians engage with patrons, manage resources, and facilitate learning. Let's explore how mobile applications are shaping modern librarianship. Gone are the days when users had to physically visit to access its resources. Mobile applications now provide instant access to vast array of digital materials, including e-books, audio books, scholarly articles and databases. Services like Overdrive, Libby, and Hoopla allow users to borrow and download digital content directly to their smart phones or tablets, eliminating the constraints of physical location and opening up a world of knowledge at their fingertips.

Librarians are no longer bound to reference desks: they can now offer assistance wherever they are, thanks to mobile reference apps. Tools like Ask librarian and LibraryH3Ip enable librarian to respond to patron inquires in real-time via chat or email.

2. User Interface for Mobile Technology

A mobile UI (mobile user interface) is the graphical and usually touch-sensitive display on a mobile device, such as Smartphone or tablet that allows the user to interact with the device's applications, features, content and functions

There are seven main types of user interfaces are there:

- Graphical User Interface (GUI)
- Command Line user Interface (CLI)
- Menu-Drive User Interface
- Touch User Interface
- Voice User Interface (VUI)
- From Based User Interface
- Natural Language User Interface

3. Mobile Applications Formats

Mobile applications are generally available in two different formats

- Web based Mobile Apps
- Native Mobile Apps

3.1 Web Based Mobile App

Mobile web apps are web apps optimized for a good phone experience they are not mobile applications, but websites written in HTML/CSS and run by a browser. While they may be designed to resemble the feel of Smartphone apps, they don't have much in common. Examples are Netflix, Facebook, Canva and Instagram etc.

3.2 Native Mobile Apps

A native mobile app is a software that is developed specifically for the operating system (OS) of your phone and 98.7% of phones run on either Android or IOS. It will live on your device, storing the data it needs to operate and integrating with the native features of your phone. Examples are Community apps, Mobile Banking apps and Language learning or flashcard apps etc.

4. Mobile Applications for Libraries.

There are many mobile apps are available in various platforms, but this article explains about few library Apps.

4.1 My Library App

My Library App is exclusively free and add-free, this allows you to store your personal library and to perform a quick search within it. My Library App allows users to add a book to user library via its ISBN number, add a book to reader library manually, sort user library by titles, names categories, read, unread, export user library within an Excel file, import a library from a previously exported library and also manage patrons list.

4.2 Libby by Overdrive

Libby is completely free. It's free to install, and there are no subscription costs. No in-app purchases and no late fees. All you need is valid library card from your library. To start with Libby is a combination of the book reader and audio-book player. There are thousands of e-books and audio books, hand-selected by your library, available for reading. Explore the collection through

catalog guides, subjects, featured titles and curated lists. It is a delight to discover new books through Libby.

4.3 National Digital Library of India (NDLI) App

Ministry of Human Resource Development of India has initiated a new paradigm of National Digital Library under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology. National Digital Library of India's award-winning mobile application brings academic resources to multiple platforms. Designed for ease of navigation and simplicity in locating learning materials, NDLI makes knowledge available anywhere and everywhere. NDLI can be viewed in English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati, Malayalam, odia and Assamese. To access NSL App or Webpage for Information resources, a unique user generated ID is required to encrypting the data and this ID initiates the handshaking mechanism with the NDLI App for connection establishment. This mechanism is to ensure and enable security.

4.4. Read Era App

With this App reading books and viewing documents is possible for the users. This app is completely free and contains no ads. Open and read book files in EPUB, PDF, DOC, RTF, TXT, DJVU, FB2, MOBI and CHM formats. It can support chapters, bookmarks and page style. Automatically saves the current reading position. Automatic detection and display list of all supported documents on to the device screen. However DRM for EPUB and PDF formats is not supported.

4.5 Cloud Library

Cloud Library is a free app that lets you check out COM Library books from your phone in 3 easy steps. And also we can do more than just checkout of the books. User can see interactive receipts for your checked out books, can see a full history of books checked out since downloading the app, you can favorite, mark as read and sort or filter. User can view and cancel current hold items, renew currently borrowed materials and receive due date reminder notifications.

4.6 Boopsie App

Boopsie for libraries aggregates across the country and provides mobile access to Boopsie catalogues, library locations, hours, events, ePubs and other contents.

4.7 Apple Books

Apple Books is an e-book reading and store application by Apple Inc. for its IOS, iPadOS and macOS operating systems and devices. It was announced under the name i-Books. In conjunction with the iPad on January 27, 2010., and was released for the iPhone and iPod Touch in mid 2010.

4.8. EVERNOTE App

Evernote App is a cross platform app easy to use and specially designed for note taking, organizing and archiving the information resources. It helps users to remember everything across all of the

devices se. the other feature includes capture photos, create to-do lists, record voice reminders and also make these notes searchable at any place of the working environment. This is well organized App to save ideas and improve the productivity. Evernote App is developed by Evernote Corporation head quartered at Redwood city, California, USA

4.9 Biblio Board Library

BiblioBoard offers patrons unlimited, multi-user access and provides tools that empowered libraries to thrive as influential centers for creative community.

4.10 Google Translate App

Google Translate is the most widely used translation App across the World. It allows users to translate language easily and accurately. It can translate text, hand writing, photos, speech, phrases and web pages over a hundred languages. This App took the entire world in to one umbrella by connects the people, places and cultures to overcome the language barriers.

5. Advantages of Mobile Apps

- Provides users with 24/7 access to your library resources.
- Easy access for the user, clicking your app is far quicker and easier than accessing yours or a competitor's website even if they have bookmarked it.
- Several federated searches can be used while accessing the required information.
- Mobile Apps help the people to access information in a neatly packaged format.

6. Limitations

- Mobile Apps has certain limitations
- Hard to create
- Have to pay to make the app available
- Security
- Frequent updates are required

7. Conclusion

Mobile technology is double edged sword, it is very much useful to a soldier or to king in battle, but dangerous in layman. Mobile technology is such a weapon which has two edges. Understanding and updating the mobile technology is very much important in day today. Several mobile apps can be used by library and information science professionals for making personal relations, professional development and extending library services to the user community. Be conscious about ethical, legal issues related to daily updates.

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