

Impact of I-Pad Technologies in Library Services

Dr. M. Surulinathi¹, R. Duraipandi² and N. Rajalakshmi²

¹Assistant Professor, ²Research Scholars

Department of Library & Information Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli

Abstract

Library and Information Centres are always be an indispensable feature of higher education, providing the study materials students need and the place to peruse them. But the future is digital, and iPads are a great way to bridge the gap between traditional libraries and the developing world of e-reading. Moreover support to borrowers will search the features and applications of the I-Pad, along with selected popular E-books, E-Journals, Bibliographic Databases, ETD and documents subscribed and open Access Resources by Library. This paper highlights the application of I-Pad in Library Services in digital Era.

Keywords: iPads, e-Reading, e-Books, e-Journals

Introduction

More libraries than ever before are offering access to e-books and e-readers for checkout to their patrons, but the usefulness of tablet devices such as the iPad extends beyond the e-reader. There are countless other uses for I-pad in libraries. Libraries and their computing and technology staff around the world are realizing new ways to use iPads each day and, in turn, are improving their productivity and maximizing their staff's often limited time and budget.

Information technology librarians, web librarians, library computing services staff, and any other library staff who are largely involved in developing and maintaining the library or institution's web presence will find in-house iPads very helpful when accessing the i-books and protocols. With the rise of tablet and mobile devices in our society, patrons have come to expect a certain experience from websites. As a result, more libraries are designing or redesigning their websites, blogs, and even library catalogs to be mobile-first and responsive, so that patrons using any type of device other than a standard desktop computer will have an experience that makes sense and not one that results in frustration. This article will explore several alternative uses for the iPad in libraries today.

Application of I-Pad

Videoconferencing Technology

Libraries are also using iPads as a videoconferencing solution. An example of this comes from the University of Georgia School of Law's Alexander Campbell King Law Library, which has been using iPads and FaceTime to allow for law school classes and clinics to host off-campus guest speakers who do not have access to other videoconferencing technology.



In a pinch, if the off-campus guest speaker has an iPad, videoconferencing has never been easier. On the school's end, the technology librarian simply uses the library's iPad and an adapter to project the image of the guest speaker on to a classroom projection screen. With the iPad situated at the front of the classroom, the speaker can view the entire class through the iPad on his end. If your

classroom is equipped for audio, it is also just as simple to connect the iPad's audio to your classroom or auditorium's system, usually using a one-eighth' audio cable. For those unfamiliar with iPads, Face- Time is an app that comes preinstalled on the device. However, there are some cons to using iPads in this way. One con that may make this solution less than ideal is if the presenter has PowerPoint or other presentation materials.

Presentation or Exhibition Tool

Librarians, library staff, and their patrons may also find iPads to be a very helpful tool for presentations. As stated previously, iPads can be connected to other computers and projection screens using a simple adapter. If your instructional presentation is about technology or is specifically about the iPad itself, it would impress your audience all the more while giving an ideal demonstration tool on hand to use the iPad as a part of their presentation's setup.



Many libraries are also using iPads as an exhibition tool for more interactive library displays, self-guided library orientations, and even as a digital picture frame component for more traditional library displays. iPads is devices as an exhibition tool in library, keep in mind the value of the device; make sure you also have a solution for keeping the device secure and stationary in exhibition environment, so that patrons are not tempted to wander off with the device.

Roving Reference Tool

Another alternative use for iPads in libraries is as a roving reference tool. Whether you are a librarian working in a small and likely understaffed library

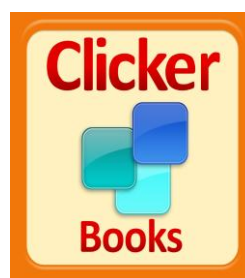
or an academic librarian seeking to engage students who seem to be having trouble locating something in the stacks, an iPad can help untether you and the patron from standard computer stations and reference desks.



This might allow you to locate items and resources more quickly, be they physical or electronic. A responsive library catalog interface and preloading the device with apps that are available for your library's electronic resources can help you to be even more successful when using the iPad for roving reference.

Classroom Clicker Solution

Libraries supporting school or college classrooms and teachers are very familiar with clicker technologies. iPads, as well as other mobile devices, are now being used by some institutions in place of traditional clicker devices. Via Response provides one such solution with the concept of any-device clickers.



The software works across all standard mobile devices, including laptops, smartphones, and tablets. One pro with this type of solution is that the students supply their own devices rather than the library or school purchasing enough clickers for multiple classrooms. Cons with this solution include the obvious issue with certain students potentially not owning any of the supported devices; however, that con could easily be countered by the library or institution having a certain number of devices on reserve for regular patron checkout to help offset the issue.

Conclusion

iPads can also assist in making the development of some web-based features easier and more affordable; this can be the case with virtual tours. The former go-to method of delivering quality virtual tours on websites used to be Flash; however, iPads and iPhones do not support Flash, which has quickly made the format obsolete when it comes to mobile-first web design.

Libraries are often a source of technology advice and instruction for all types of patrons. Therefore, it is helpful for library staff to have devices such as the iPad available, so that they can better assist patrons who may have device specific questions. Since libraries are often an important resource for their community's technology questions and needs, librarians and library staff everywhere should not be reluctant in embracing this technology sooner rather than later.

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