

Device-independent and User-tailored Delivery of Mobile Library Service Content within a Multi-agent Environment: Some Irish Perspectives/Developments

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With the advent of the smart phone and the explosion in the market for mobile applications (apps), a great opportunity has emerged for the facilitation of library service content delivery to the ever more diverse range of users and mobile devices. While a great many individuals utilize either iPhone or Android-based smart phones, which facilitate the delivery of these apps to the user, a vast majority of the public are still left out of this particular loop. In enabling a much wider cohort of library users to access these services, the 'app store' concept has enormous potential for the enhanced delivery of learning and informational content. Also, where these app stores are accessible only to certain classes of device, this system enables any individual, utilising a Java-enabled devices to receive relevant service content tailored to their preferences. This paper builds on previous research detailing the support for the expansion of existing library information services into the mobile domain. The potential of these new architectures encompassing mobility and the facilitation of an increasingly personalized and contextualized information environment for library users is investigated here. Also considered are the enhancements facilitated to traditional library services and practices through the incorporation of these technologies, in particular the exciting possibilities they hold for a weakening of the "digital divide", greater "social inclusion" and the revolutionizing of learning with respect to distance learners and communities/populations previously starved of educational opportunity.