

Web vs. Native Application: best practices and considerations in the development and design of web applications.

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Many libraries and universities have adapted and developed native applications for their institutions to better serve their community and promote their services and resources. But with smart phones and operating systems changing on a yearly basis it can be time consuming and difficult to ensure that your application is compatible and fully functional with each device and OS.

The University of Regina Library has designed and launched a mobile web app for our patrons to use in order to access our most popular resources and services via their smart phone device. This web application can be used by any smart phone or OS and fits any screen size. This paper will discuss some of the best practices for creating mobile web applications for libraries and will explore some of the benefits and considerations of choosing to develop a web application over a native application.