

Abstract:

The un-intentional iPad-lending program – experience from Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz

The iPad lending program is a spin-off from an e-readers exploring and testing initiative in 2010. After evaluating some most popular e-readers on the market, the Library decided to purchase 20 iPads for a pilot program. The success and popularity has proliferated other pilots and adoption of iPads into course teaching on campus. Initially, it was a collaborative project of librarians and library tech support; and later, the program established itself as a resource and curriculum support to students and faculty. An additional bonus is the universal accessibility of the device in providing resources and services for students with disabilities.

The original pilot design comprises of two parts:

1. iPad as mobile reference tool for librarians to provide reference services in other locations on campus, outside the library building (i.e. mobile reference librarians or librarians-on-the-go);
2. iPad as e-reader with preloaded ebooks and instructional materials (e.g. pdf and audio-visual files).

Since the implementation of the lending program, librarians and staff have overcome many difficulties and excelled in many challenges. The Library is planning on a feasibility study to assess the value of the program. The current program will pave the way of integrating next generation of mobile devices in library services and classroom teaching in higher education.

Presenter Bio:

Kristy Lee is Head of Information Systems at the Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz (SUNY New Paltz). She holds a MSc in Library and Information Studies from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland. She is currently working towards her second master degree in Information Design and Technology at the State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT). Kristy serves as the library liaison to campus IT and Academic Computing, she has a strong interest in emerging technology and mobile learning. In her previous positions, she implemented an iPod video streaming program in a K-12 school system of 96 schools.