

Mobile Information Literacy for libraries: A case study on requirements for an effective Information Literacy Program

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Abstract

Information literacy plays an important role in the service delivery of library. Time and again tested models and standards have guided library personnel towards implementing information literacy programs in the libraries. Christian Bruce's relational model of information literacy service has been an accepted model in libraries. With the advent of mobile communication technology, especially into the different walks of library services the possibilities of providing mobile information literacy programs are imminent.

This paper looks at the starting point of providing mobile based information literacy service using a case study conducted at a university library. The backbone of the paper is a survey conducted at JUIT university, in Solan, Himachal Pradesh in India on the expectations of the users in providing the needed mobile information literacy services. While designing the mobile information literacy program for libraries especially for university level students there is a need to differentiate the two basic information needs the students has, the information they want on the fly and the information they need for research. Differentiating these two is paramount in providing a sound IL program for libraries. To achieve this there is a need to analyse the type of searches carried out in mobile, the different tools used for searching in mobile, the time spent on searching in mobile and the end result are paramount in establishing a program.

The basic difference between providing fixed information literacy and mobile information literacy especially the areas of when where and how are analysed using the case study. Since mobile searches can happen at virtually any time and any place, context sensitive mobile information literacy skills are the needs of the hour. With the advancement of technology the mobile searching environment provides an ideal platform for pushing the relevant information to the users through delivering the information as it is born. The study also analyses this change and provide insight into how that can be incorporated into designing a mobile information literacy tool.

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