# Strategic Mobile Library Development: the Place of Library Apps and the Options for Creating Them

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## ANLTC/Swets Research Fund Award 2012



Academic and National Library Training Co-operative www.anltc.ie







#### **Devices**

- Smartphones & tablets
- Mainly iOS & Android
- Mainly focused on native app
   & web app development



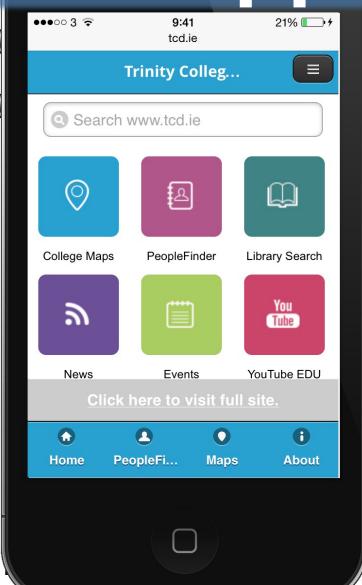
#### Native v Web-based?

- Pros & cons for both
- Leaning toward web development
- Responsive web design the way to go?
- RWD offers a consistent crosschannel experience



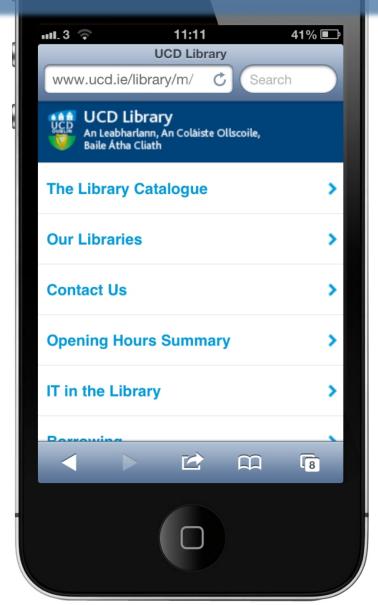


# Web apps



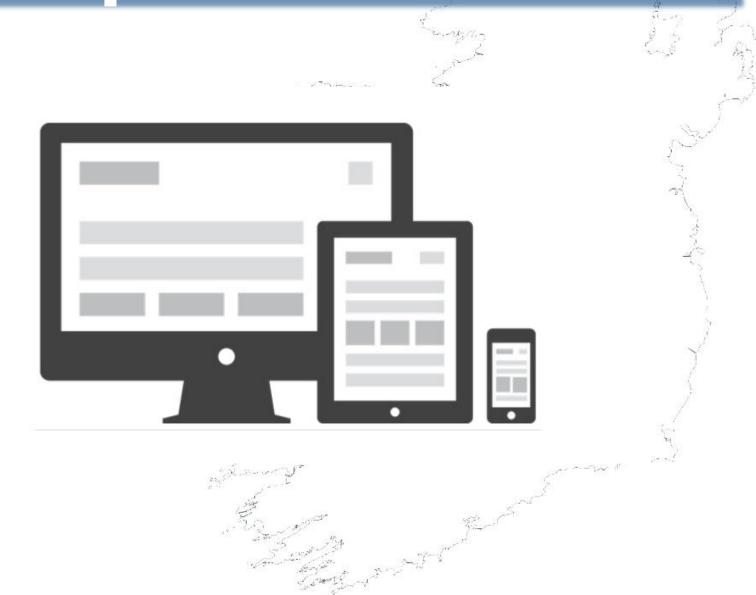


# Mobile Websites





# Responsive Web





## Responsive Web Design

- Rise of the tablet device
- ECAR Survey 2013
- The "Digital Omnivore"
- Libraries should offer consistency across devices



#### What content?

- Find out what the user wants!
- Tailor the solution to the library environment
- Study indirect user feedback
- Plan>Develop>Launch>
   Evaluate & Adapt (or trash...)







## **Summary (2012)**

- 24 responses
- Only one institution with a mobileenabled website
- Only three with an institutional app
- Only three with a library mobile website



#### Some Reasons...

- Lack of strategic vision
- Lack of technical expertise or specialist staff
- Lack of finance (the Irish situation)
- A confused area not sure which way to go



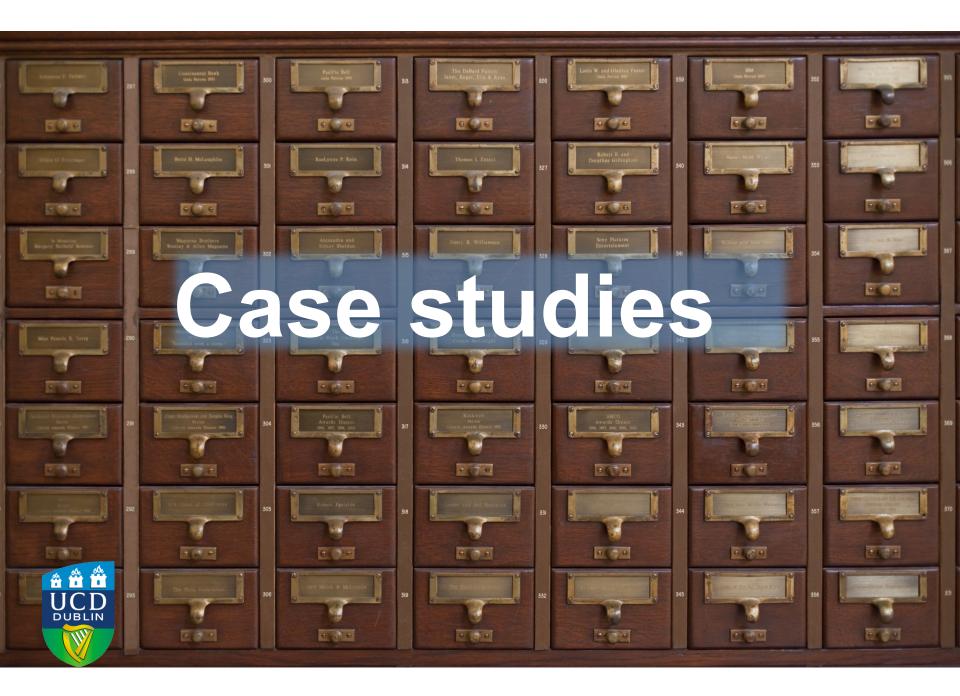


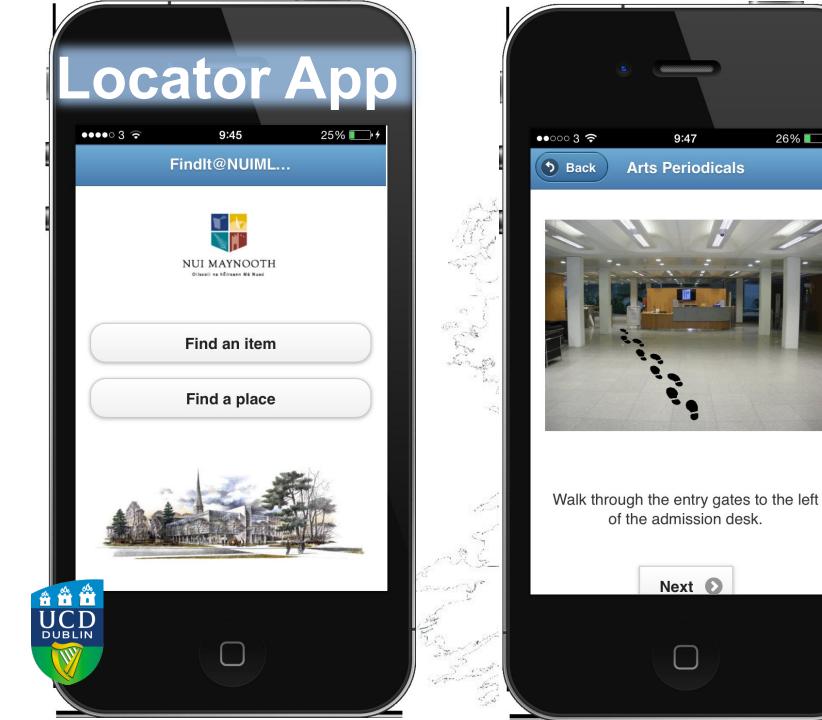
## Moving right along...?

- Now six institutions with mobile website
- Four with an institutional app
- Five with a library mobile website

Still slow...but improving







26% 💷 🕯



32% • +

**EXAM PAPERS** 

**BOOK A** 

**PIN RESET** 

ROOM

Mobile website & cloud-based app creator







#### **Student survey**

834 surveys returned 88% by undergraduates



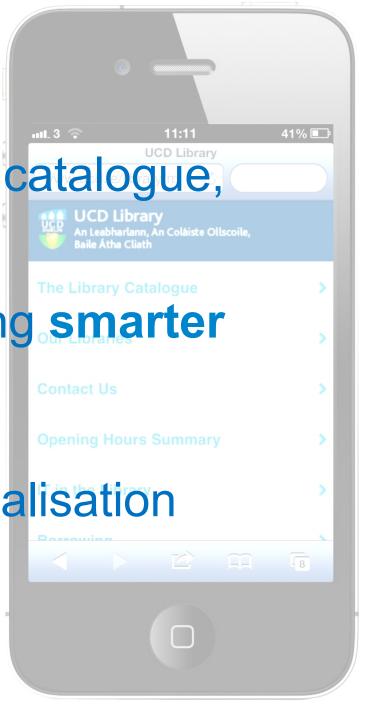
#### **Student wishlist:**

No 1 priority: mobile catalogue,
 opening hours

Looking for something smarter

Self checkout facility

Shelf locator, personalisation features



#### **Demo apps**

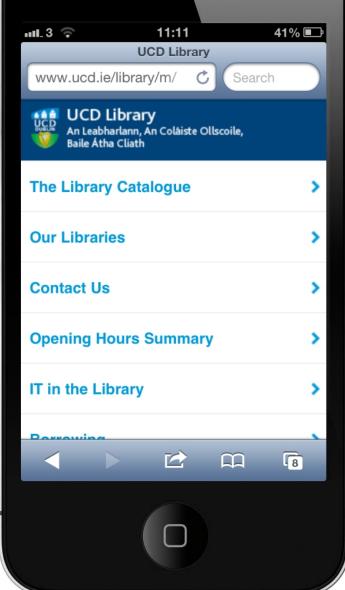
Decided on two different approaches:

Revamp of our own mobile website

Native app for a "niche" area

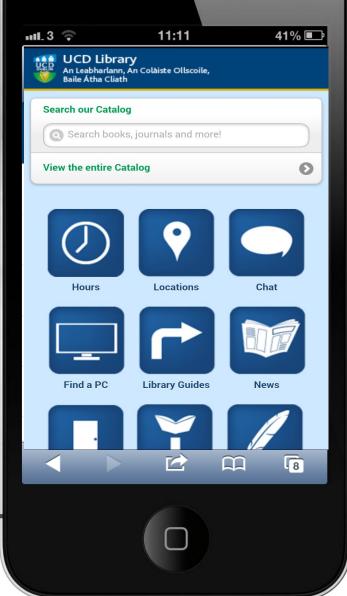


Redesign of mobile website





Redesign of mobile website





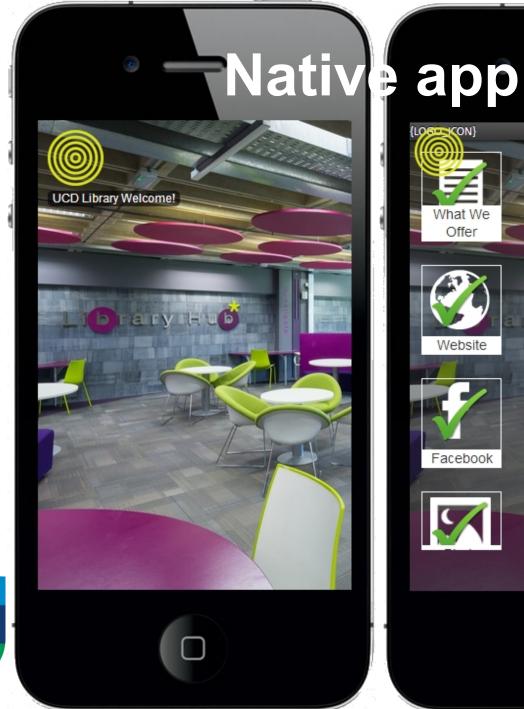
#### **Mobile website**

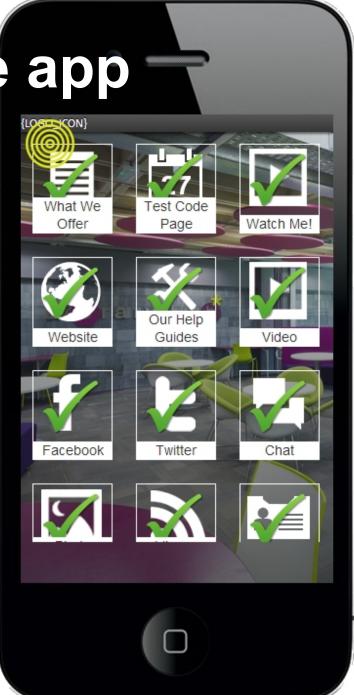
Development by Computer
 Science postgraduates

Created using HTML5,
 Javascript, JQuery (mobile), CSS

Issues









#### Native app



UCD Library Welcome!

#### For you...

 Five libraries with friendly staff on hand to assist you



- •3,150 reading places for quiet study or relaxed reading
- Group study rooms and new social learning space
- Printed books, journal articles, eBooks, music and film
- Self-issue/return terminals to avoid queues and online room booking and fines payment
- Wireless and wired network access: work on your laptop/tablet, on PCs we provide, or avail of our laptop loan service. Find a computer in our libraries here. <a href="here">here</a>.



#### **Native app**

- Wanted to explore a niche area
- Appy Pie -a cloud-based solution
- Lots of limitations
- Offers a quick "out of the box" solution
- Reviewed & published to App

  Store, etc for you



Select App Type

App Setting

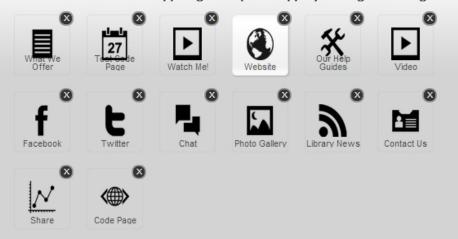
App Pages

Publish

#### App Page

Add Pages to your App & click "Next" or Watch user Video for Help.





Choose from following pages to add to your Mobile App:





#### **Photo Credits**

Go Mall, by Bart Maguire <a href="https://flic.kr/p/w1iB2">https://flic.kr/p/w1iB2</a>

Custom House at Sunset, Dublin, Ireland, by Giuseppe Milo http://500px.com/photo/69426951/the-custom-house-at-sunset-dublin-ireland-by-giuseppe-milo

El diseño web adaptativo o responsive design, by infocux Technologies

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