# The Advantages of Mobile Library

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**Absract.** With the rapid development of mobile technology, many of libraries have applied mobile library as in their library which contributes mobile technology. There are many benefits of using mobile library. This paper conducted to study the application of mobile library and its advantages to the user. This literature review consist of several advantages of the mobile library which mobile library can disseminate thousands of information, ease user to retrieve the online resources. Other than that, mobile library also can promote library services besides it used low cost. Mobile library also tend to automatic cross-platform service, synchronization between different intelligent devices and deliver information and services to accommodate user demands.

**Keywords:** mobile technology, mobile library, application, advantages

## Introduction

As technology has growth rapidly, the use of technology in the library is very important in order to market the usability of library to the public. A mobile technology is any technology that is portable. It is a device that a person uses on the go (La Counte, vi 2013 as cited in Liu & Briggs, 2015, 124). In the last decade, in order to increase the use of library resources by university students, a significant segment of user groups in university libraries, thousands of universities in China have developed or provided mobile library (m-library) apps or services. This approach shows that developed countries also applied mobile library and it is really beneficial to the user. In addition, mobile library services are becoming increasingly mature and successful in meeting the demands of patrons in the mobile internet era (Qunyi Wei, 2015).

## Literature Review

As technology has growth rapidly, the use of technology in the library is very important in order to market the usability of library to the public. A mobile technology can defined as any portable technology such as device used by every person (La Counte, vi 2013 as cited in Liu & Briggs, 2015, 124). In the previews history, there were thousands of universities in china invented mobile library (m-library) apps that can help to enhance the use of library resources among library students. This approach shows that developed countries also applied mobile library and it is really beneficial to the user. In addition, mobile library services are becoming well known

since there were high demand among the users who were using mobile internet. (Qunyi Wei, 2015).

Short Messaging Services (SMS)

Many studies have pointed out that MT could be used in libraries to provide a number of sevices (Lippincott 2009; Vollmer, 2010; Jetty et al., 2013; Saxena and Yadav, 2013; Malathy and Kantha, 2013; Singh Negi, 2014; Gupta, 2015; Roy et al., 2016). Research surgests that libraries can send notification through Short Messaging Services (SMS) when the item was ready to be borrow, and they can send a notice about due date to remind the users. They were suggested to provide a contact chatting as their reference services so that the users can chat with a librarian (Lippincott, 2009). To enhance the reading culture, E-book was introduced in a mobile format and it can be downloaded to mobile devices so that the users can enjoy their reading experience anytime and anywhere. Washburn (2011) claimed that the users prefer to check out materials, view the status of check out books in their library account and read electronic resources on their mobile devices.

Advantages of Mobile Library

The population of using technology devices are very common within these few years. People are tend to use mobile devices in order to fulfil their needs daily. The development of technology itself has been growth rapidly and created a concrete foundation for the mobile devices user to browse internet. Qunyi Wei (2015) said, number of mobile phone users has increased daily in the worldwide.

According to Bruce (2014), MT especially phone and tablet has proved efficient in all aspects of daily life. Nowadays, the users were concretely dependent on mobile devices as their authority that can support their daily activities such as maps access e-mail, reading books and interacting with their friends. With the use of MT, the users can seek relevant information. Mobile devices provided services that the users can portable access to information across organizations (Singh Negi, 2014). Mobile device is the primary sources for the users to access and share information (Saxena and Yadav, 2013). People usually need to complete simple task by using mobile devices (Wasserman, 2010).

- Can disseminate thousands of information
  A university m-library app may free access for students that enable them to gain library resources or services in anytime and everywhere through library account (Chang, 2013). Since the percentage of smart phone adoption were rate as 100% and their needs for services highly increase, university m-library may upgrade their sources based on the number of initial downloads (Jian and Dong, 2014).

- Availability of online resources
  The users can read more than 1 million volumes of e-books, search for more than 300 types of variety newspapers, view for 18400 videos, listening to 11,034 audio materials access 660 open sources. They also obtain digital resources from journal articles which were 154,780,000 journal articles for foreign-language, and 3,860,000 of dissertation metadata. Even the libraries are

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moving toward offering mobile apps, but the still provide their specific services through mobile applications (Anbuand Kataria, 2015).

Libraries can also optimize their websites to access OPACs and databases via mobile devices. For instance, The New York Public Library mobile beta support an OPAC and allowed users to access location of library and the opening hours (NYPL, 2017). The other example is World Cat mobile web allowed users to search catalogues and find the materials in the libraries (OCLC, 2017). There were some libraries have introduced mobile applications for the smart phones to facilitate the users access to the library. In Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) provides mobile apps on IOS and Android so the users can access the content and events for free. It increase the ability of users to search collection resources. (Apple, 2016a; Urban Libraries Council, 2017). Other examples, The District of Columbia Public Library, provide services to access OPAC information about locations the hours of the other local libraries. (Malathy and Kantha, 2013)

Faten Hamad et al. (2017) said the staff of library were asked their perception about the accessibility of required resources to adapt MT in academic libraries. The staff responded that academic libraries might not have requisite resources and strategies to support MT in their services. There were 55% of the respondent said that libraries required IT infrastructure to support MT as their medium to communicate and receive complaint from their users via mobile devices. Some of the result revealed that 31.6% of participants currently use library mobile applications while, 75% of participants are aware of a mobile web services to access library. This result shows that some of library staff were confuse about mobile application and does not understand the meaning of MT. Being able to open library website in mobile devices does not means access to mobile web. Mobile web was created with specific configuration used to adapt to mobile device screen size which it was a smaller and shorter version of main website. (Yildirimturk, 2017). The respondents demonstrated a general understanding of MT for example, the use of MT for online reading, browsing library website contents but they still not sure how the implication of it in their academic libraries. In the other words, some of the staff does not fully understand on how to transfer library services into mobile libraries. They concretely know the potentials of MT for their library services but lack of experience to implement the uses of MT in their libraries.

- Can promote library services

The American Library Association (ALA) affirmed promoting and expanding their services by providing websites and OPAC on mobile devices is one of the way that libraries can do (Vollmer, 2010). To ensure their libraries improve resources, they were necessary to provide e-books, journals, video and other online resources to since it was highly demand in formation services of MT. Vollmer (2010) suggested to introduce mobile reference services to improve the library services.

- Low cost

By visiting a WAP website or installing App in their IOS or Android devices, the users can access mobile library services. The use of services in mobile applications are quite similar with desktop library website except resource sharing, barcode scanner and resource subscription. These library services can only be accessed by authenticated users which is the username and password used are similar in both mobile library and desktop library website. The users are authorized via the web service interface.

- Automatic cross-platform service, synchronization between different intelligent devices.

Users can use their voice to interact with web applications. The library through mobile technology become a pervasive library. Mobile devices provided a services that can scan the barcodes of the sources to searching the books even in different library catalogues and databases. The service of text recognition help the users in database searching so that relevant full text information can be downloaded and accessed as interactive (Malathy and kantha, 2013).

- Transfer information and services to accommodate user demands

The goal of libraries services is to satisfy the information needs of users. To improve better support users to access information easily, they need to adopt new technologies and communication channels. They need to innovate their services to deliver information and services to accommodate users demand anyway. Today, libraries are improved to gain benefit of mobile device accessibility (barile, 2011). The users can proceed many activities through MT means that libraries must improve to connect with their users in the easier way. To stay better services, they must remain relevant with the era (Saxena and Yadav, 2013). To enhance and promote library services, the availability of Wi-Fi almost anywhere that make it easier for libraries to incorporate MT within their environment (Rogers, 2009).

Table 1. Analysis of review

| Authors | Advantages 1 | Advantages 2 | Advantages 3 | Advantages 4 | Advantages 5 | Advantages 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Chang, 2013). | / | | | | | |
| (Jia and Dong, 2014). | | / | | | | |
| Anbu and Kataria, | | | / | | | |

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| 2015). | | | | | |
| (Malathy and Kantha, 2013) | | / | | / | |
| Faten Hamad et al. (2017) | / | | | | |
| (Vollmer, 2010). | | | | | / |
| (Saxena and Yadav, 2013). | / | | | | / |

## Conclusion

As for the conclusion, use of mobile library is quite crucial in this era growth of technology. We can conclude, most of the academic, public and etc libraries use mobile platform as their technology. There are many advantages of mobile library proven in this study.

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