The Library for the Mobile Patron

In the past, when the word mobile was used in connection with a library, it referred to a bookmobile. The bookmobile would bring the library, via regularly scheduled visits at designated locations, to users who were unable to travel to the main library. Now, however, library users are frequently on-the-go, and if the library is to be a part of their busy lives, it must come to them—not by making scheduled visits but by being accessible at all hours through the mobile devices they carry with them.

‘Critical Mass: The Worldwide State of the Mobile Web’

This report, prepared by Nielsen Mobile, a service of the Nielsen Co., explores the rapidly expanding use of the web through mobile phones.

PDAs, Handhelds, and Mobile Technologies in Libraries

Megan K. Fox of Simmons College Library presents her work in this area on her website. There are links to presentations and reports she has prepared and information on the handheld market, mobile devices, the mobile web, and emerging mobile technologies.

<http://web.simmons.edu/~fox/pda>

Superpatron—Mobilizing the Friends of the Library: ‘Mobile Versions of Library Web Sites’

In this blog posting, Edward Vielmetti presents a list of links to library catalogs that offer customized versions for mobile phones. He invites others to contribute links to sites he had not identified. Quite a few librarians have responded in the comments section. He also provides links to two collections of iPhone screen shots of optimized library sites.

<http://vielmetti.typepad.com/superpatron/2008/05/mobile-versions.html>

Webjunction: Mobile Devices

This new topic at WebJunction is looking for articles, links, handouts, and other files on this topic to be shared with the WebJunction community. Volunteers willing to contribute to this area are needed as is an editor.

<www.webjunction.org/mobile-devices/resources/overview>

Tinfoil + Raccoon: ‘Loaning Kindle to Patrons a No-No for Libraries?’

The author of this blog initiated a discussion of whether the lending of Kindles by librarians violates the terms of service for the device.

<http://rochellejustrochelle.typepad.com/copilot/2008/01/loaning-kindle.html>

Official Google Mobile Blog: ‘Google Book Search for iPhone and Android’

Google’s Book Search service, which offers more than 1.5 million public domain books in electronic format, is now available for the iPhone and any Android device. The announcement appeared on the Official Google Mobile Blog.


TIME: ‘The Race for a Better Read’

Josh Quittner writes about possible alternatives to Amazon’s Kindle with emphasis on the potential of Adobe’s AIR software.

<www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1877161,00.html>

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