

# Library in Everyone's Pocket

With reference to Bundelkhand University App

Mohit Gupta  
MLISc, Student  
DLIS, Bundelkhand University,  
Jhansi – India  
mohitg1407@gmail.com

Sridevi Jetty  
Deputy Librarian  
Central Library  
Bundelkhand University  
Jhansi – India  
sridevi.jhs@gmail.com

**Abstract**—A library is considered as a central nervous system of any educational institution to expedite all its services either manually or by using ICT (Information communication technology) for the process of exchanging information. This paper discusses how the traditional libraries are slowly transforming in to virtual and digital libraries with the help of ICT and internet revolution. It explores various infrastructural requirements with diversified services, about how the e – learning alters to m-learning and their benefits to patrons. In the era of smart gadgets, the libraries and knowledge centres of today have to move with the pace of users e-tech demands. In the light of this background this paper analyses how library can reach to everyone's pocket with reference to Bundelkhand University library app.

**Keywords**—*M-library; Mobile Library; Bundelkhand university; Mobile Application*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the current era of mobile technologies users approach to seek information is entirely different that depends upon various factors like save time, information on fingertips, quick and reliable access. Many studies suggest that more than 75% users in academic institutions use smart gadgets and they want smart services which provide information instantaneously using gadgets such as, mobile phones, smart phones, tablets, PCs, E-book readers, PDA etc. [2]. To provide easier, quicker, simpler services libraries are making efforts to develop their own applications on the trending operating systems and platforms which are smart and interactive. These applications provide all the relevant services of the library and can help the libraries to receive feedback, comments and provide notification services to users. In the past few years, utilization of mobile technologies and applications in the libraries has taken a pace to meet all types of requirements of the clientele. As Dr. S R Ranganathan [5] considered library as a business organization, library apps always help a librarian in implementing the five laws of library science and also to enhance the utilization of information.

### A. Bundelkhand University; Reference

The Central library, Bundelkhand University is providing an array of services as it has a massive collection of books, Journals, E-books, Periodicals, Research paper and many more.

By keeping in view of the non – users of the library and the users who are unaware of the library services a Mobile Library App will play an important role for dissemination of information.

## II. MOBILE LIBRARY APPLICATIONS (POCKET LIBRARY)

Since the smart phones are built with latest technologies and these gadgets are encompassed with numerous features, capabilities and quicker than earlier also include embedded systems and PDAs because they have many upgraded OS and connectivity of 2G, 3G and 4G [6].

The term application or software can be defined as a set of commands and command is a set of instructions to perform a specific task and these are the module of applications which prescribe how an application will perform various functions. Mobile applications are categorized on the basis of processes adopted.

Some of them are:

- Communication e.g. WhatsApp, Gap Sap
- Games e.g. Temple run, Candy crush
- Travel e.g. IRCTC rail connect, make my trip
- Education e.g. Lumosity – Brain Training
- Library e.g. M- library, Bundelkhand University App
- Utility e.g. QR Reader
- Business e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Lifestyle e.g. Around Me
- Entertainment e.g. Netflix

The applications that are designed to perform a particular task of any library are termed as mobile library applications. These applications are available for various operating systems like android, symbian, iOS, blackberry, windows and many more. Currently many institutional, public, corporate and private libraries are providing the services of mobile library apps to the users and demand for these applications are rapidly increasing [3]. Library mobile apps offer remarkable flexibility to reap the advantages of library services through the mobile phones. User can access E-content as well as multimedia information by the Library app hosted by a particular library either online or offline with the content broadcasted for the application and stored in database. Besides ease, mobile technologies present new opportunities for libraries to promote

access, to reach the unreachable, observe and receive feedback and provide seamless connectivity of its resources; best connectivity. These applications provide a global access to the user as they can connect with the library from any place at any time to save the time of user. The ease in usage increases the interest of user and also enhances the reading habits.

### III. ANALYSIS OF GADGET USERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The data indicates that more than 95% of the academicians own a smart phone device or any other gadgets. Tablet and e-book reader ownership is relatively low compared to smart phone devices[6].

Overall 57% of students own tablets; of those, 29 % own an E-book reader (figure 1)

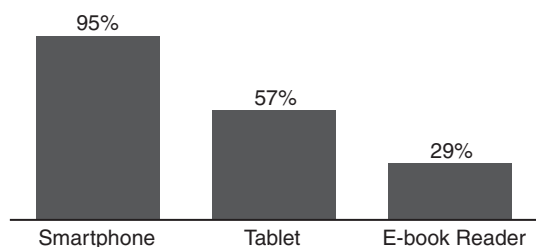


Fig. 1. Students' gadget ownership

### IV. BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY MOBILE LIBRARY APP

Library mobile applications can be considered as pocket library or in hand library. The 'search term' is the initial approach which leads the user towards the use of Mobile apps such as: web browsers, encyclopedia applications and the RSS feeds. Currently many users are absolutely dependent upon the mobile apps. In this revolutionary era of digitization [1], it is the duty and responsibility of a library manager or knowledge expert to be excelled with these ICT developments.

The mobile application of Bundelkhand University was developed and launched by the authors on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 for Bundelkhand University is a complete package of knowledge and services. The App does not only have a normal OPAC but also provides a number of sections and their facilities like access to E-resources that are subscribed by the library. The App also provides access to various E-resources, audio-visual lectures of faculties on various subjects etc. Also the user can search for the desired document and its availability, issue status of the book, feedback, appointment booking with the faculties of the university and can also know about daily records updating. A user can also enroll for membership of library and reap all the facilities of student management system with their login credentials. The app also provides dictionary services. The application is beneficial to the library managers/knowledge experts and the users. A librarian can transform a non-user to user with the help of a library App with its variety of services provided. These Apps are a big rescue on part of the library patrons to search web OPAC for any kind of document and information details.

Library mobile App of Bundelkhand University shows various functions, screen shots are given below:



Fig. 2. Home Page

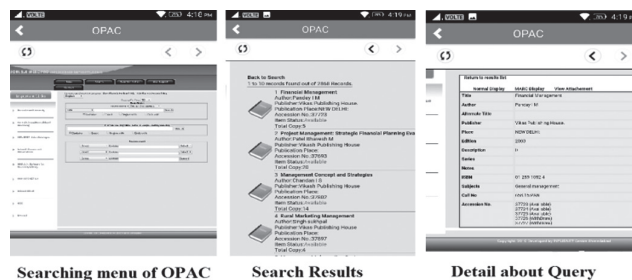


Fig. 3. OPAC

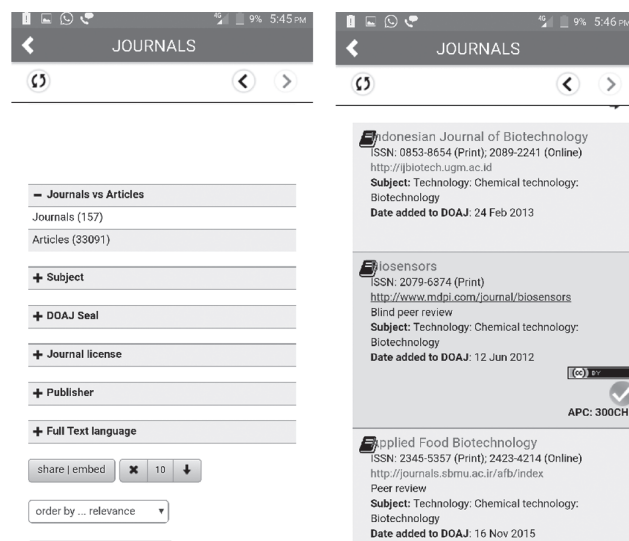


Fig. 4. E - Journals review

### • E-book and E-Learning with Dictionary feature:

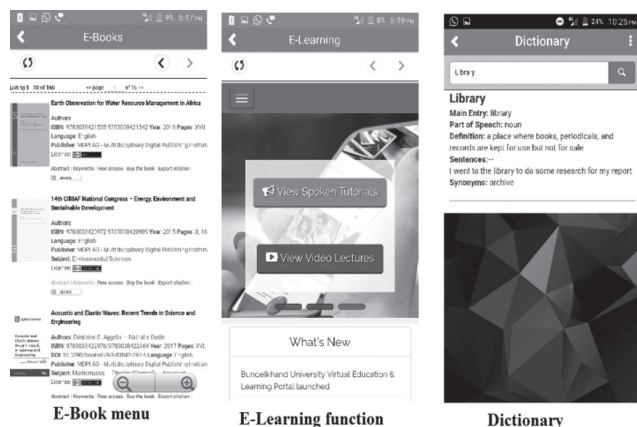


Fig. 5. E-book and E-Learning with dictionary feature

### • Other Tools

This BU mobile library App Also contains the Survey feature, Feedback and Student login facilities for improving and updating its services for better support and easy to access.



Fig. 6. BU mobile library App

## V. LAYOUT

In the contemporary ICT environment maximum numbers of library patrons are users of smart phones, mobile phones and other gadgets and they use these devices for many other functions other than conversation or testing [3]. Most of the users' searching and browsing techniques are android based powered by Google which is termed as the most popular operating system of smart gadget. So the App developed for Bundelkhand University is android based application.

- The app is directly connected to database, librarian, E-learning material, library OPAC and the user as in Fig. 5.
- Supports all the Android versions that are released by android and App is free of cost for the users; the layout of app is given below in Fig. 6, the app has many icons, the user can choose any of them.

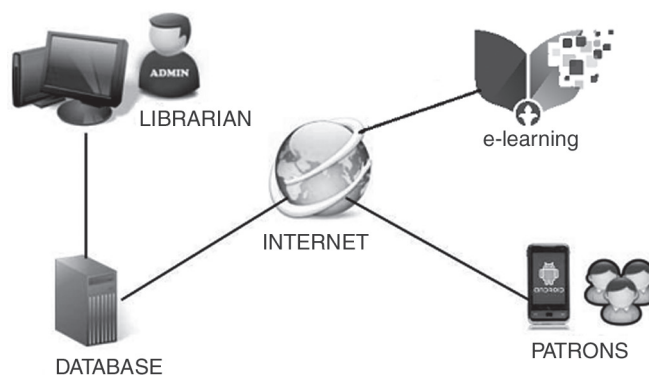


Fig. 7. Layout flow diagram



Fig. 8. Layout of the mobile App.

## VI. ADVANTAGES

Dr S. R. Ranganathan [5] has given the concept of Libraries on wheels which has now transformed in to Mobile Libraries / Libraries on cloud / Libraries on smart gadgets. Thus the implementations of five laws of library science with the help of these technologies make a remarkable change in library services as to:

- Books are for use- By using the mobile Apps user can access OPAC of library within the campus and can get aware with the availability of desired documents and topics. So the books will be used and the first law gets implemented.

- Every reader his/her book- with the help of feedback and demand query users can give their suggestions to the library which will in return help the acquisitions in library. So the need of every user can be fulfilled. Since the library App also has access to their E-resources that will fulfill the demand of users.
- Every book its reader- The searches via topic, book, author name, title etc. provide a quick access to all sections of documents.
- Save the time of user- By the mobile App of library, users can easily access the documents on their handsets which will save the time of user to visit library as it can be accessed anywhere within the campus. Students can also apply for membership through the application which saves their time. They can also use all subscribed and open source journals through the mobile application.
- Library is a growing organism- Mobile library app will be helpful to the librarian to know about various information such as demand, feedback, survey from the users. In this era of information explosion the quicker and easier assistance of the App is very essential to deliver the notification of new arrivals.
- Mobile App acts as a tool which serves as a link between librarian and the users.

The app provides various options and facilities with a single application that is like one app for all services of library.

- Users can be updated with the circulation status.
- It helps the faculty members to recommend the books on the basis of current availability to their students.
- The library App can be beneficial to the library if the librarian wants to monetize the app and can earn

money from it with which the library can have a new source of income.

- Maintenance and updating the App is less expensive compared to its services.

## VII. CONCLUSION

A library mobile App is an additional and essential application of mobile technologies to convert library services into an easier and better mode of access by providing assistance in various ways with e-services and connecting. The Beta results of Bundelkhand University mobile App through android smartphones has shown that the nature and access have become more affordable, easier and reliable without any bug. There is a rapid increase in the number of users who uses internet on mobile App and web apps like: Facebook, Whatsapp etc. These apps and web apps are most popular among youths.

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