



Mobile Library Services and Technology in India

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to study definition and role of the mobile libraries in India in 21st century. The study also focuses on the scope, mission, strategies, advantages and disadvantages to users of mobile libraries. The study also aims at discussing leading innovative strategies for mobile services which are using through mobile devices. During 1953 to cater the needs of the people living in the rural areas and new colonies the Mobile Library service was started. Through mobile vans library is providing library services at the doorsteps of the readers. Bookmobiles or mobile library have been based on various means of conveyance, including bicycles, carts, motor vehicles, trains, watercraft and wagons as well as camels, elephants, horses and mules.

Key words: Mobile technology, Bookmobile, Mobile Library, Technology, Trends.

Introduction

A mobile library or bookmobile is a vehicle mainly designed for use as a library. A mobile library known by many names all over the world which includes, travelling library, library wagon, book wagon, book truck, library-on wheels and book auto service and many more. Mobile Library is a term which is mainly used by British/Australian librarians. They use this word to describe a motorised vehicle carrying library material. Other countries in the world call these by different names which include Bookmobile, Bibliobus, Bucherbus, etc. Any library service that does not stay in one place is graded as a Mobile Library. Books are by no means its only charge. The advanced mobile library may carry DVD's, CD's, computers, pictures, maps, toys and leaflets as well as books. A bookmobile also provides facilities to download material onto disk and memory device.

Motorised vehicles are not the only means of transport, but also boats, trains, planes, motor cycles and various animals are used to provide a service. Mobile libraries are a worth while addition to libraries and a library's services. It is something that, if feasible, should be implemented. Globally, there are libraries facing challenges like activating non-users of the library as well as extending the "reach" of the library in effort to allow the resources therein to be attainable by everyone. These difficulties have led to amazing drives such as bookmobiles and mobile libraries.

The Public Library Service is an essential part of mobile library services. When planning library services to meet community needs, mobile library services should be considered early in the planning process as a usable and cost effective means to serve residents deprived in terms of access to an immobile library. The main aim of a mobile library service is to boost equity of service provision by



accepting the opportunity of access to library services. A mobile library provides the most flexible of library service, not being restricted to any particular population centre and able to respond to the needs of contradictory populations.

The advantages of these mobile libraries are that it develops the reach and visibility of the fixed library or library branches. Commonly, the fixed libraries allow access to only a significant number of the users in that area. These could be frequent users or promoters of library services that just do not have the convenience or ability to the access of the library. This could be due to many reasons but commonly it could be due to location, as in hidden rural communities.

Mobile libraries bring material goods outside of the library's fixed location to users who otherwise may not get a chance to benefit from them. It also adequately extends the reach of the library's safe learning and social development areas. Below are some examples of mobile libraries. Maybe the most common type of mobile library is the book mobile. Usually, built around a van or a bus, the combination of flexibility and space make it quite popular as an expansion of the library. Being able to offer library services and experience within a larger area is acutely beneficial for library users and also a great way to switch on library non-users.

With many libraries in damaged condition or on the threshold of closure, two mobile libraries are giving there required dosage to 'casual' bibliophiles. Advertising knowledge through books in areas where people have the capability, but no scope, is the book mobile or mobile library run by the government of Karnataka. The concept was started in the year 1983, initiated by chief librarian KG Venkatesh and later promoted by R Desai in 1994, it seems to be having a successful run, going by the number of members registered with them.

Though the e-library is communicable with lot of people, the mobile libraries are helpful for all age group who belong to the old school of thought. The new upgraded technology does not match the demand of the older people. They still prefer or read books. Mobile libraries do not have any over due charges but in some cases they do not get back with the books and when given back, it may not be in proper condition. Some people borrow but do not know how to safeguard them properly.

Objective of the Study

- To study the use of mobile libraries as a new trend in services and information.
- To know the various types of mobile libraries services in India in 21st century.

Review of Literature

Nalluri, S. R., & Gaddam, B. (2016), the study states that Mobile Technology has become a very important part of our lives nowadays. Mobile phones were advanced primarily for communication purpose. Mobile phones have gained importance in both the developed and developing countries. The mobile phone is a device that enables users to communicate, connect, transact and innovate. Mobile devices and mobile technologies have potential to facilitate the teaching and learning process in a great way. Mobile applications can support learning by making library resources more pervasive, by bringing new users to the library through increased accessibility to the library resources, and by creating a new way to enhance connections between users and libraries. This fastened use of mobile phones provides an inaugural resource for delivering library resources to public. The mobile web is the next step for libraries in providing global access to resource and information.

Yoon, H. Y. (2016), the results of this study strongly support the TAM theory to understand user acceptance of mobile library applications. Noticed usefulness, collective, and ease of use had



significant effects on user attitude and purpose to use mobile library applications. Further, user satisfaction had the most powerful effect on motive to use among the constructs included in the model. A visionary structural model for user acceptance of mobile library applications was developed using a Technology Acceptance Model as a theoretical background. The study used a structural equation modeling with partial least squares approach to examine data collected from a survey of 273 undergraduates in an academic library setting.

Paterson, L., & Low, B. (2011), the study reveals that dramatic growth of Smartphone ownership among students in an eight-month period was surprising. The study states that a 17 percent increase between March and November 2010. In addition, 68 percent of students who plan to change their mobile and set would boost to a Smartphone.

Background of Mobile Library Services

India is currently rolling her way into development but illiteracy continues to plague a large section of the people in India. However, in the recent times many children have shown the weakness to learn, to be educated and have started attending schools. In the face of being able to attend school these children are unable to afford academic books due to the high prices. Often the libraries of our educational institutions lack quality educational and informative books. This hinders students from reading and gaining adequate knowledge on different subjects.

Ratna Nidhi in association with ACC Trust seeks to create access to world class educational books to needy students in India free of cost in order to provide access to quality educational books to students in India. It aimed to do this by setting up a Library on Wheels. The mobile library moved around Chandrapur district in Maharashtra, making books available to children from low income backgrounds. The main objective of the project is to manage reading habits among children by providing access to quality and informational reading material free of cost to educational institutions in India.

The first boat library service was inaugurated on Kolkata's Hooghly River in India has been recently launched. It has been introduced by the West Bengal Transport Corporation. The floating library is called The 'Young Readers Boat Library' which has over 500 collections of books of different classifications in three languages namely English, Hindi, and Bengali. The floating library picks up from Millennium Park and take you on a three hour long trip to Belur Math and then back to the original site. The cost has been reduced for people below 18 years of age to promote and strengthen the reading habit.

Advantages of Mobile Library Services

- There are many areas or places, where it is hard to find a library and does not have a trace of reading culture. For people residing at such locations, there are mobile libraries which are actually moving libraries, as they are made on a vehicle, such as a van, bus, truck or even on animals. Bookmobiles offer an exclusive opportunity for the public to access reading materials. Since librarian Mary Titcomb launched the first bookmobile at the turn of the 20th century, these small businesses have supplied the reading needs of the public in both rural and urban areas.
- Whether performing as a for-profit business selling books to customers or a public service offered by some libraries, bookmobiles bring entertainment and education to those who may not otherwise have access to books.



- While the popularity of bookmobiles grow and waned during the past century, these mobile bookstores and libraries remain individually equipped to meet the needs of the modern reader. Since the early 2000s, the number of bookmobiles has grown universally.
- That increase likely will accelerate in today's environment with more people both adults and children staying home for work and education. Bookmobiles can provide for the reading needs of their communities by meeting residents wherever they're located.
- Usually, these vehicles are driven by individual too far off places, and people can get access to some good books or novels right outside their homes or at a particular spot where it stops.

Disadvantages of Mobile Library Services:

The disadvantages of mobile library were as follows:

- Largely manpower is demanded to handle all the effects things for book mobile services.
- High cost of expenses as compared to normal library expenses.
- Limited space to store the material such as books, printed materials.
- Need more important powerful and high server and more band width for access.
- Need more knowledge for preservation of books and archiving the materials.

Conclusion

Summing up whatever form of mobile library service is offered, it is important to foster the reach of the library and library services. Through mobile library vans is furnishing library services at the doorsteps of the compendiums. Bookmobiles or mobile library have been grounded on colorful various means of vehicles, including bikes, wagons, motor vehicles, trains, boats and wagons as well as camels, elephants, horses and mules. Bringing the benefits of the library to remote or unique areas will only strengthen the benefits and knowledge of the library.

Corridor of the library collection having the library's collection will be important, having books, magazines and access to implicit pictures or music that the library offers will be engaging for the public. Another important service of mobile library is printing. Being able to offer a form of printing service would also be appealing for the public. Mainly, a printing service which allows the public to print from their own device at the mobile library will be great service and also induce income for the library.

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