Blurring the boundaries between our physical and electronic libraries

emtacl conference
Andrew Walsh, April 2010

The next 20 minutes

- Why 'blur the boundaries'

- Locating technologies

- 'Smarter' objects

- RFID for more than just circulation

Why? A little bit of magic

Click to edit Master text styles
Second level
Third level
Fourth level
Fifth level

Why? To keep our physical libraries…

Are we becoming glorified computer labs and meeting places?

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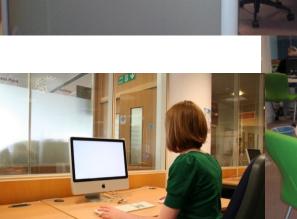
Are we becoming glorified c

Silent Study

Why? To keep our physical libraries…

Quick question!

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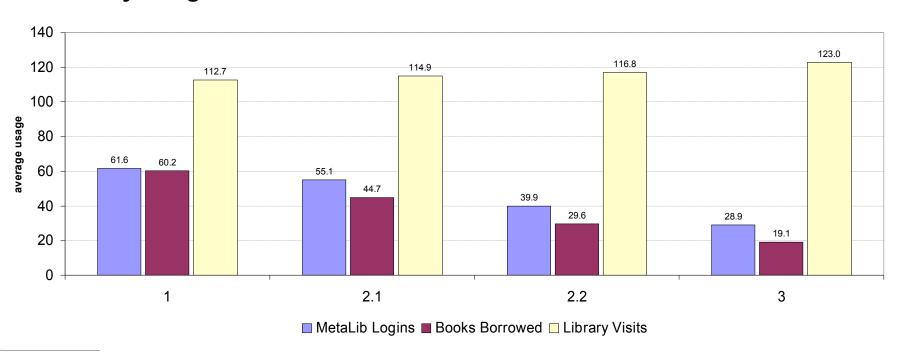
Do you think your physical library directly impacts on student achievement?

YES/NO

Why? To keep our physical libraries…

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Library Usage v Final Award – All Honours Courses

What is the physical library for?

http://www.flickr.com/photos/michaelsphotos/430442919/ - mstephens7

Personalising the library environment

- Typical 'mobile friendly' library services

- Podcasts; SMS services; Mobile friendly web pages

- What about the user moving through the library?

- Annotating the physical resources;

- Augmenting the physical reality;

- And more….

Photo from http://www.flickr.com/photos/przemion/296458630/ - przemion

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Locating technologies

- GPS

- WIFI / Bluetooth / Active RFID Triangulation

"…in large indoor environments such as libraries … location awareness can become a crucial determinant of superior quality of service, deriving from the ability to locate the co-ordinates of a person or an object with reasonable accuracy at all time, and this provide spatially-aware services."

Giaglis et al (2002) *On the potential use of mobile positioning technologies in indoor environments.* In: ereality:constructing the eEconomy, pp. 413-428. Bled: Slovenia

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A few examples…

Erewhon
(Oxford)

Image from http://mobileoxford.posterous.com/

A few examples…

CampusM
(ombiel - various)

Ryerson Uni has very
 similar service!

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A few examples…

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Technology enabled campus
(Durham)

Image from http://tel1.dur.ac.uk/wiki/doku.php

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A few examples…

- SmartLibrary
Oulu University Library
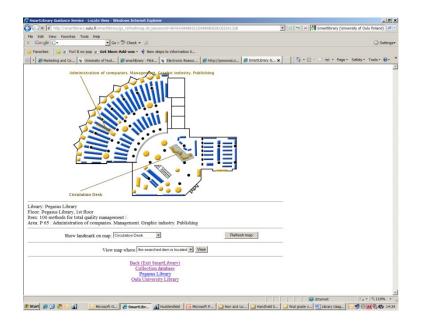

Image is desktop screenshot from Smartlibrary service…

'Smarter' objects?
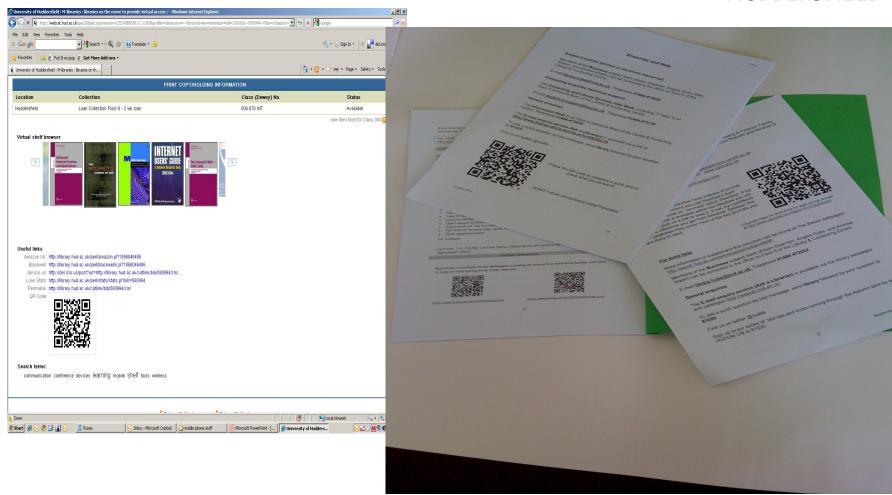
- QR codes and similar

- RFID tags

QR codes

QR codes

QR codes

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Awareness of QR codes

- Before we started – 8% recognised a QR code

- After a full academic term – 22% recognised one. (but another 11% volunteered they were familiar...)

RFID Tags

In our library, they're in:

•Every book

•Every DVD / Video

•In fact, almost all stock

•AND - every library card

But all we use them for is stock control and print credit.

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RFID tags

Could be used for....

•Book recommendations

•Comments on books

•Recommend this book to others

•Personalised help

•Social Networking

•Directed messages from the University

Summary

So how can we bring that little bit of magic into the library?
- Could use software on handheld devices to locate users.
- Could use QR codes, or RFID tags to interact with users as they move around.

"Research which sought to make full use of all cell phone hardware and software capabilities in tandem would be creating a service which did not have a true analog in the physical library ... The development of such a platform provides the library with a way to be an instrumental part of the students' life."
Hahn, J. (2008) Mobile learning for the 21st Century Librarian. *Reference Services Review,* 36(3), pp. 272-288.

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Contact Details & Links

Vcard QR code
Andrew Walsh, a.p.walsh@hud.ac.uk
Twitter - @andywalsh999

Link to presentation
http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/7456

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