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

http://www.flickr.com/photos/7933170@N03/2631820657/ - by photographer padawan *(xava du).

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Why? To keep our physical libraries…

Are we becoming glorified computer labs and meeting places?
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Quick question!

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

YES/NO
Why? To keep our physical libraries…

Library Usage v Final Award – All Honours Courses

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What is the physical library for?

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

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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.”

A few examples…

Erewhon (Oxford)

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

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A few examples…

CampusM  
(ombiel - various)

Ryerson Uni has very similar service!

Screenshot from iPhone
Ryerson uni from
http://www.ryerson.ca/rmobile/

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A few examples...

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...

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‘Smarter’ objects?

- QR codes and similar
- RFID tags
QR codes
QR codes

I'm also available electronically –

http://englishlegal.noftong.com/

What's the strange picture for?

It's a QR code. QR code readers can be downloaded free for most camera phones from the internet (just Google QR reader and the model of your phone). They then translate a QR code into a URL and prompt your phone to do something – in this case go to a webpage containing the full text of the book.
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.
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

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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.”
Contact Details & Links

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