Developing and mobilizing the information skills for students on the move

A study of IL content development and delivery in practice

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Agenda

- About OU and Library
- Information Literacy for mobiles
- The mobile delivery in practice
- Learning Objects Generator tool
- Outputs of LOG tool
- Other projects as part of broader mobile development strategy
- Technical issues and steps forward
About the OU and Library
The Open University

- Largest UK University – 35% UK part-time undergraduates
- Over 200,000 students currently studying with the OU and 8000 ALs
- 40th anniversary in 2009
- 16% under 25 (median age of new undergrads 32)
- Europe and world wide (26,700 live outside UK)
- Blended learning (print and electronic)
OU Library – more than a building …
The OU Library services

- 93 staff based in Library
- No document delivery or postal loans to students
- Access to eResources via Library website
- Helpdesk services (phone, email, IM)
- Online induction (through Elluminate)
- Moving away from physical collections
IL at the OU Library

• Support to L& T librarians
• Developing products and services such as Safari, IL Toolkit and the Library guide
• Developing bite-size IL activities for mobiles
• Provides staff development
• Course development – e.g. Beyond Google
Rights and Responsibilities

What is copyright and why is it important?

One kind of intellectual property is called copyright. This is the legal protection of creative or artistic work. In simple terms, this provides legal protection and ownership rights for those who write or otherwise create books, movies, music, etc.

What is plagiarism?

Whilst copyright means that you cannot reproduce another person’s book, art, movie, etc. without their permission, plagiarism refers to using someone else’s ideas or words without acknowledgment.

Library openness:

What is it and how do you use it?

iKnow

Library.open.ac.uk: Learning Object - Rights and Responsibilities

Pages: 1 2 3 4 5

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Why mobile services?

- Increasing demand from students and researchers – majority have mobile devices
- Flexible access for distance learners (anytime and anywhere)
- Quick and efficient WiFi or data access to services
- Caters for different styles of learning and communication
- Appropriate and to the point content
- Empowers students to engage when it suits them
Mobilizing the IL content – case studies

Safari – Online tutorials for developing information skills

iKnow – Information and knowledge at work.
Safari – case study 1

- Online tutorial to help develop information skills
- Interactive activities to test the progress
- Mobile safari – bite sized version of the main Safari tutorials
- Built on mobile ESL templates/ADR developed by Athabasca University Canada

URL: http://www.open.ac.uk/safari
Safari – screen shots (1)

Safari homepage (PC version)  Mobile Safari
Organising information (PC version)
iKnow – case study 2

• Information skills for the workplace
• Multi-market audience – at work and at study
• Mixture of learning activities, and audio and video clips
• Also offers IL content to fit on mobile devices

URL: http://iknow.open.ac.uk
iKnow – screen shots (1)

Information handling

Techniques for coping with information overload

Information that comes to you

Tips and techniques for dealing with the different types of information that come to you at work.

View

Information that comes to you - for mobile devices

Type [http://tr.im/GBA2](http://tr.im/GBA2) into your mobile browser for a summary of tips for dealing with information at work.

Using the 5D’s to handle information

This checklist offers a quick and simple strategy for dealing with each piece of information that comes to you.

View

Using the 5 Ds to handle information - for mobile devices

Type [http://tr.im/GBAm](http://tr.im/GBAm) into your mobile browser for a checklist on dealing with information.
One of the example iKnow activities
How the content is delivered?

Learning Object Generator (LOG) tool
Learning Object Generator tool

• Web based tool developed in-house
• Enable instructional designers to author learning objects
• Maximum 5 pages per LO with two screens on each page
• 90 words max per page for mobile LOs
• Content package function enables exporting to other systems such as VLEs
Technical details
LOG – back end technical details

LOG Interface API

Content Author
User interface

Content Packaging

View and Edit

Preview

Download

Contents optimized by ADR

IMS content package

Contents optimized by ADR

LOG Db Store

Learning Objects Generator (technical diagram)
LOG tool – used at M-Libraries 2009 conference to deliver “Skills on the move” hands-on workshop

Output available at: http://library.open.ac.uk/digilab/testarea/mLib2009Outputs/
Other mobile services projects

- Mobile Open Library 2.0
- iPhone and smart phone versions
- Experiment with SMS services e.g. overdue loan alerts and reference services.
- Customise search interface for smaller screens
- Contribution towards mobile VLE project
- Provide digital literacy on mobiles e.g. How to’s and learn about guides
Technical issues …

• Long contents – mean a lot of scrolling for users

• Larger pictures – don’t fit on screen and take longer to download

• Flash isn’t supported by some smart phones e.g. BlackBerry

• Limited and slower bandwidth

• Advanced HTML features not supported by many smart phones

• Too many devices and models
Finally steps forward …

• Continue to develop mobile Library services – it’s future!

• Identify what users need – very important

• Develop digital/info literacy material for mobiles

• Collaborate with other universities on mobile development
  - don’t re-invent the wheel

• Mobile services for VLE – information on the move!
Questions?
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Thank you!

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