

Android Library Application for Handheld Library Services: Usage Study of KVM Library App

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Abstract

The advancement in mobile technology can be appropriated for providing easy access to information through ICT tools and techniques in the field of modern education. The boundaries of libraries can be further extended in order to make available the library services on the user's handheld device such as Smartphone. Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai Library has already taken a very innovative initiative of developing its own Library App called "KVM Library App". The College Library has made available this App on Google Play store free of cost. However, there is an urgent need to conduct a survey to understand the satisfaction level of the users for the further improvement of this App. The result of the survey indicates that more than 50% of users are satisfied with the Library App and with some suggestions, it should be updated. The App is more beneficial to all Library users and is saving the time of its users by providing the library services at the handheld Smartphone device.

Keyword: Mobile Technology, App, Smartphone, Tablet, Android etc

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INTRODUCTION

Application of Information and Communication technology and mobile technology becomes need of the time. The rapid advancement in mobile technology and easy access to its use has led to the use of these mobile devices for several purposes, educational purpose being one of them. Universities and Colleges have always made an attempt to appropriate the developments in science and technology in its curricula. Likewise, the higher education sector has introduced the changes in mobile technology to upgrade the educational system. Mostly, the young generation has been utilizing the mobile devices to listen to music, to watch movies, to play games, etc. The need of the hour is to divert the energy of this young generation to make the constructive use of these devices. The librarians, therefore, intend to use the mobile devices for handheld library services. The present researcher has made an attempt to analyze the role and significance of using KVM Library App to extend the boundaries of the library through the availability of the said App on the Smartphone.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Different scholars and researchers have expressed their views about the application of

mobile technology for educational progress. **Barnett-Ellis and Vann[1]** (2014) conducted the survey on the use of mobile for library services and suggested that marketing of library services is possible through Smartphone. **Dresselhaus and Shrode[3]** (2012) highlighted in the survey that students are rarely using their mobile for academic activities but mostly prefers to entertainment. **Kosturski and Skornia[5]**(2011) expressed his opinion in his paper that smartphone can provide the various types of services and formats like MP3 Player,E-Book facilities,E-Reader and Tablet etc. The application of Mobile is "One size fits all" is possible. **Chamberlain, David[2]**(2015) conducted online survey regarding use of mobile technology in health libraries and mentioned in conclusion that mobile technology provides the opportunity to share resources and expertise. It is also benefited to adopt the user-friendly resources. **Yan Quan Liu and Sarah Briggs[8]** (2015) conducted the online survey in top 100 Universities to understand the patron's expectations about mobile services from various libraries. The result shows that all of the libraries are providing at least one mobile service and majority library offers multiple services. The common services are

text messaging, visiting of mobile websites, e-books and databases and Catalogs.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the research study are:

- a. To acquaint the users with KVM Library App
- b. To understand the purposes of using the mobile devices and their types
- c. To analyze the use of KVM Library App
- d. To determine the benefits of the App
- e. To explore the satisfaction level of the users of the App
- f. To acquire the suggestions from the users for improving the App

METHODOLOGY

The Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai, students, faculties and staff members were invited for the survey. The random sampling was applied and total 200 sample population was chosen for the present study which includes 50 teachers, 25 non-teaching staff and 125 students from Arts, Commerce and science faculty including undergraduate and post graduate. The survey will provide information about how the students and faculties are using the KVM Library App. It will also helpful for to understand the satisfaction level of users.

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT KVM LIBRARY APP

Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai Library has been taking initiates to prepare its own Library App to strengthen the library services for its users. The App has been assisted by Vortex Software, Pune. It is uploaded on Google

Playstore so that all users as well as students can download and install the app on their mobile phones. It is free of cost so that anyone can download and install. The App is user-friendly and acquires less than 5MB storage space. The Home page has Menu Button at the right corner which gives us list of various menus i.e. New Arrivals, Services, E-Resources, Library Schemes, Our Staff, Contact etc.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In the present study, Survey Method is used for to collect the data. The data has been analyzed by using charts and diagrams. The charts and diagram makes the picture clear of analysis and becomes easy to interpret.

DEMOGRAFIC DETAILS

The randomly selected total population is 200 which include Students (125), Faculty (50) and Non-teaching staff (25) of Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai. Male participants are 146(73%) and female participants are 54(27%). The faculty wise ratio of students is Arts (38.40%), Commerce (33.60%) and Science (28%).

TYPES OF MOBILE DEVICES

The 91% of students have their own Smartphone and 9% students don't have Smartphone (fig 1). The various type of devices are used by respondent in which iphone/Android /Blackberry/other Smartphone are 78%, Cell phone are 10%, E-Readers are 3% and Tablet are 9%.

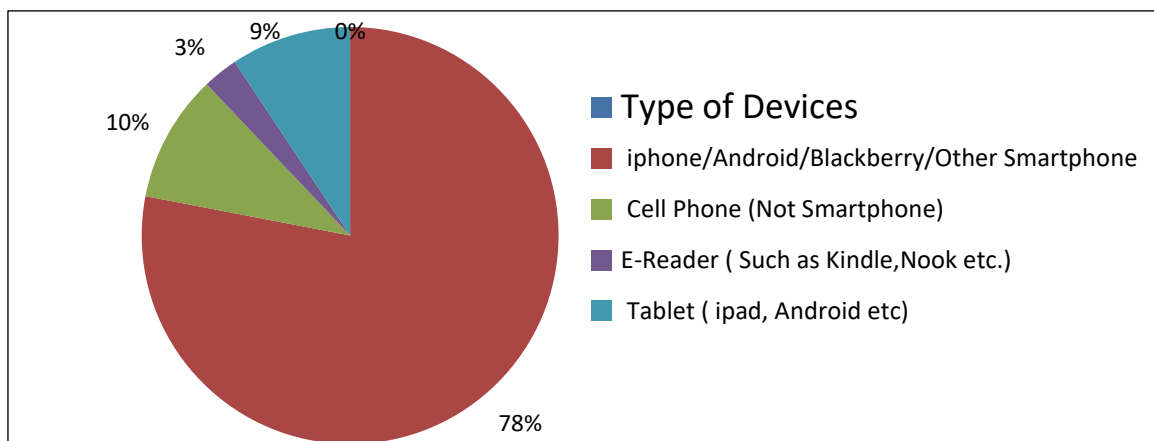


Fig. 1: Types of Mobile Devices.

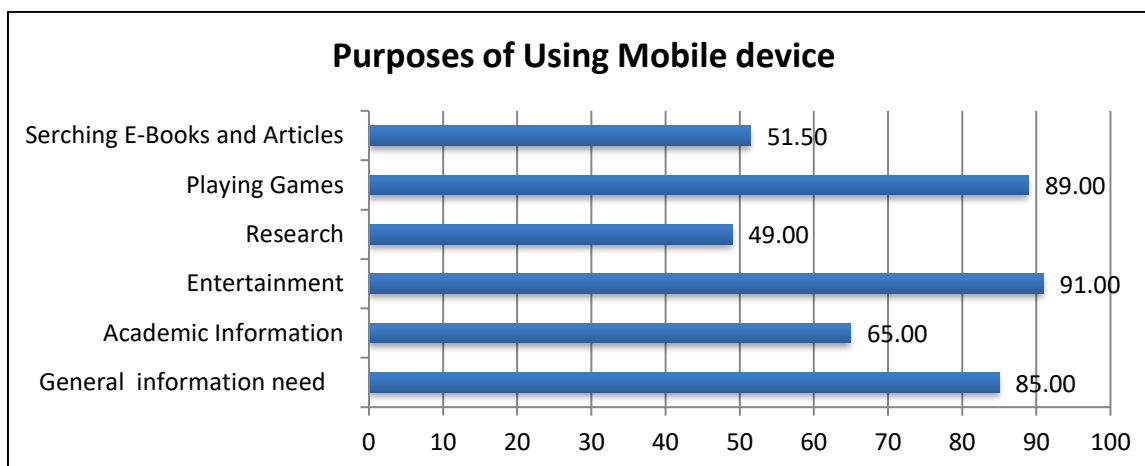


Fig. 2: Purposes of Using Mobile Device.

Table 1: Use of the KVM Library App and its services.

| Sr. No. | Services | Never | Rarely | Sometimes | Very Often | Always |
|---------|----------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1 | New Arrivals | 0.06 % | 15.00 % | 26.50 % | 34.00 % | 18.50 % |
| 2 | Services | 8.50 % | 13.00 % | 36.50 % | 24.00 % | 18.00 % |
| 3 | E-Resources | 4.00 % | 11.00 % | 18.50 % | 46.00 % | 20.50 % |
| 4 | Library Scheme | 14.00 % | 15.50 % | 33.50 % | 20.00 % | 17.00 % |
| 5 | Our Staff | 19.00 % | 6.50 % | 18.00 % | 14.00 % | 42.50 % |
| 6 | Contact | 3.50 % | 16.00 % | 29.50 % | 21.50 % | 29.50 % |

PURPOSES OF USING MOBILE DEVICE

The patrons are using their mobile device for various purposes like General Information need(85%), Academic Information(65%), Entertainment(91%), Research (49%),Playing Games(89%) and Searching E-Book or Articles(51.50%).(fig 2)

The analysis indicates that the majority of respondent are using their mobile for entainment purpose and less used for research.

ABOUT DOWNLOADING KVM LIBRARY APP

The 193 respondent (96.50%) are seen and downloaded the KVM Library App and 7 respondents (3.50%) are unaware about KVM Library App.

USE OF KVM LIBRARY APP AND ITS SERVICES

The respondent's opinion about the use of KVM Library App and its services is ranked from Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Very Often and Always.

The result indicates that the respondents are very often using the New Arrivals(34%) and E-Resources (46%). They are always using contact (29.50%) and rarely using staff information (Table 1).

OPINION ABOUT E-RESOURCES FACILITY

The 86.5% respondent are giving more importance to E-Resource facilities which includes E-Books (71.09%), E-Journals (57%), Theses and Dissertations (37.57%), E-Newspaper (32.95%) and Important link for Competitive Exam (69.36%).

BENEFITS OF LIBRARY APP

The Fig 3 indicates that majority (above 80%) of respondents are opined that the app saves the time of users, Portable and it is easy to use. The KVM Library App is more beneficial.

SATISFACTION ABOUT KVM LIBRARY APP

The pie chart (fig 4) shows 58.50% respondents are 60% to 80% satisfied, 3.50% respondents are up to 20% satisfied and 12% respondents are 100% satisfied with the KVM Library App.

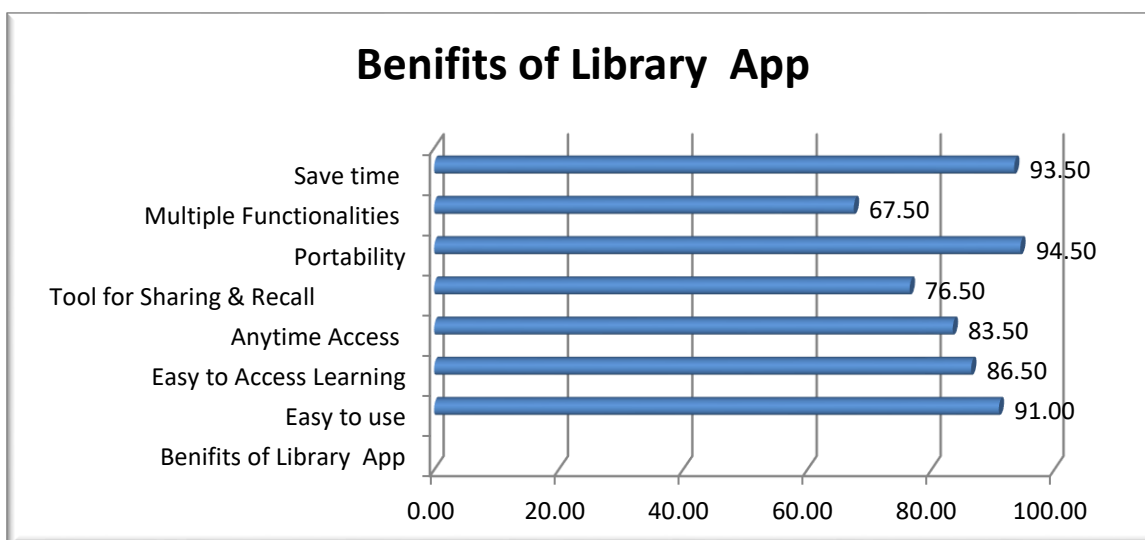


Fig. 3: Benifits of Library App.

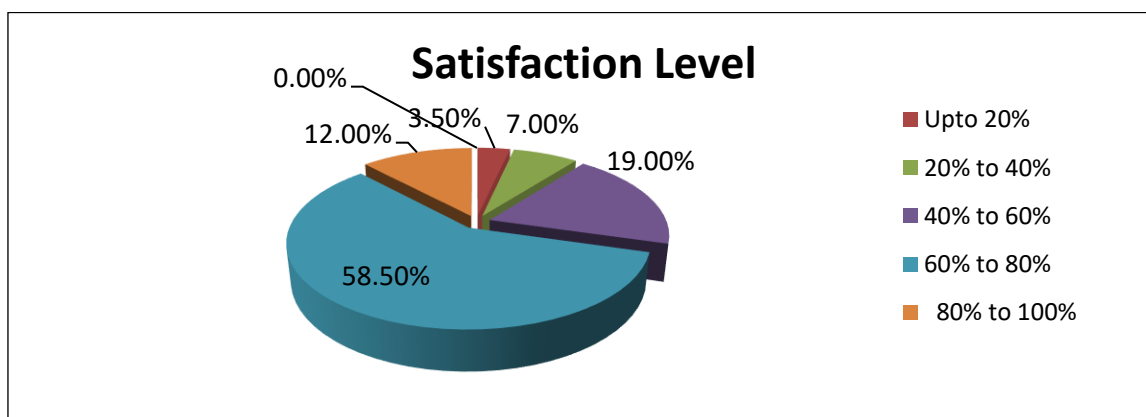


Fig. 4: Satisfaction about KVM Library App

SUGGESTION FOR ADDITIONAL LIBRARY APP SERVICES

The respondents are suggested following suggestions for further development of App.

- a) WEB OPAC Link on App with Book Status.
- a) Add more E-Books and Journals.
- b) Facility of request for book demand.
- c) App should update per month.
- d) Addition of new arrivals books list with slide show.
- e) Connection with social networking.
- f) To organize the orientation programs for promotion of App.

- 3. The KVM, Wai users are giving more preference to New Arrivals and E-Resources and less importance to Contact and staff information menus of android app.
- 4. The KVM Library App is more beneficial to all users and easy to use and also save the time.
- 5. The Library app is free on Google Play store and acquires very less space i.e. 5 MB only.
- 6. More than 50% of respondents are satisfied about the KVM Library App.

FINDINGS

- 1. The 91% of users are using Smartphone
- 2. The majority of respondent are using their mobile for entrainment purpose and less used for research.

SUGGESTIONS

- 1. The Librarians should pay more attention for optimum utilization of Smartphone for education purpose.
- 2. The Library App should be design according to the users demand.

3. The app should update regularly and always think about users' requirement.

CONCLUSION

The Kisan Veer Mahavidyalaya, Wai Library has taken the initiatives to strengthen the library services through mobile App viz. KVM Library App. It may be the first effort of college library to reach the students with handheld library services through Smartphone. The major findings of the study are 91% users are using the KVM app, most of users are using their Smartphone for entertainment purpose not for research, very less space is required for installation etc. The survey indicates that more than 50 % of users are happy with app and some additional services also required. But overall it is a great idea to get the library services at user fingerprint by overcoming on the distance barrier and saves the time of users.

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