

Survey of Library Services for PDAs

Jeffery Loo
NLM Associate Fellow

Sept 7, 2004

Contents

Overview of library services for PDAs.....	1
Best web resources for learning more.....	2
Examples of library services for PDAs.....	3
Services provided on the PDA.....	3
Web resource pages.....	6
In-person services.....	6
Medical education curriculum support.....	6
Document management technology.....	6
Recommendations and guidelines.....	7
Service evaluation and needs assessment research.....	7
Other interesting resources.....	7

Overview of library services for PDAs

Services provided on the PDA

- Finding general library information
- Getting FREE books and reference materials
 - Searching the OPAC for PDA resources
 - Finding resources in a PDA format
 - Finding a compiled list of useful PDA resources
 - Finding subject guides on PDA friendly pages
- Getting LICENSED books and reference materials
 - Borrowing e-books
 - Buying discounted reference resources
- Using electronic journals
 - Browsing journal content
- Using databases
 - Using reference management software
 - Searching indexes and databases
- Using integrated library systems software for PDAs
- Borrowing hardware: devices and peripherals
- Using connectivity stations: syncing and printing
- Services for librarians and library staff
 - Gathering library statistics.
- Asking reference questions
 - E-mailing reference librarians
 - Using live chat reference service
- Saving database and catalogue search results
- Filling out library forms
 - Requesting ILL
 - Sending feedback forms
- Reading health news

Web resource pages

- Guides to purchasing PDAs
- Guides to using PDAs
- PDA education (general web pages)
- Guide to staying updated on PDAs
- Guide to creating PDA-friendly web pages

In-person services

- Training
- User Groups

Medical education curriculum support

Document management technology

- Converting Documents to PDA format

Best web resources for learning more

1. PDAs and Handhelds in Libraries and Academia – by Megan K Fox, Simmons College
<<http://web.simmons.edu/~fox/PDA.html>>
2. PDAs for Health Care Providers – by Arizona Health Sciences Library
<<http://educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda/index.htm>>

This survey was completed by updating, reorganizing and finding other examples from Fox's PDA page.

Examples of library services for PDAs

Services provided on the PDA

Finding general library information

- ◆ Finding the library hours, contact info, events, news, directions, materials locator, guide to LC call numbers and floor locations and other library information on a PDA-friendly web page accessed through an AvantGo channel or wireless

Examples

Virginia Commonwealth University <<http://www.library.vcu.edu/pda/>>

University of Georgia <<http://www.libs.uga.edu/pda/>>

Yale University <<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/pdachannel/>>

Getting FREE books and reference materials

- ◆ Searching the OPAC for PDA resources

Example

Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences, VCU uses the following MARC fields to describe resources: 300 physical format, 506 restrictions on use and 538 platform requirements

- ◆ Finding resources in a PDA format (some libraries are taking the initiative to convert documents to be PDA-friendly)

Examples

Duke University's Evidence Based Medicine Guide

<<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/pdaformat/>>

Golden Gate University Library converted APA Style Guide for PDA format

New York Law School created the JurisPDA portal

- ◆ Finding a compiled list of useful PDA resources

Examples

University of Virginia Library Etext Center for downloading 1800 publicly available e-books

<<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/ebooks/>>

University of Alberta Libraries' *The PDA Zone*

<<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/pdazone/index.cfm>>

- ◆ Finding subject guides on PDA friendly pages

Getting LICENSED books and reference materials

- ◆ Borrowing e-books. For example, Overdrive is a digital rights management software for libraries. The e-book will be inaccessible or locked when the borrowing period ends. An e-book may be borrowed by one patron at a time.

Examples

- Cleveland Public Library uses Overdrive.

<<http://www.overdrive.com/news/pr/04202004.asp>>

- OSF Saint Francis Medical Center Library & Resource Center, Peoria, IL lends

Harrison's as a separate module for a one-week checkout

- University of Alberta lends e-books on expansion cards

- ◆ Buying discounted reference resources

Example

University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Library, Little Rock, maintains a list of PDA applications which can be bought by users at discounted prices because the library owns a print copy or has a campus license

<<http://www.library.uams.edu/lrc/pdainfo/pdailibrary.htm>>

Using electronic journals

- ◆ Browsing journal content: tables of contents, abstracts, healthcare news, etc.

Example resources

- *OID@Hand* allows users to download tables of contents for journals, view abstracts, mark articles to retrieve in full text at the next sync and even build search requests
<<http://www.ovid.com/site/products/tools/ovidhand/ovidhand.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=8&subsection=14>>
- *Wiley Interscience MobileEdition* uses the AvantGo site to provide access to tables of contents from 15 of its core journals
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/mobile_edition/>
- *JournalToGo* brings together content from key health and medical sources and provides clinical abstracts and healthcare news
<<http://www.journaltogo.com/>>

Using databases

- ◆ Using reference management software

Example

Cornell University's Mann Library has converted EndNote files to Jfile, a simple Palm OS database program.

<<http://mobile.mannlib.cornell.edu/documentation.html>>

- ◆ Searching indexes and databases

Example

- The Mann Library is also testing traditional library databases (SilverPlatter, ProQuest) accessed on wireless devices and PDAs.
<<http://mobile.mannlib.cornell.edu/about.html>>
- NLM's 'PubMed on Tap' <<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/pmot/pmot.php>>
- NLM's 'PubMed on PDA' <<http://certif.nlm.nih.gov:8080/nlm/>>
- Cunningham Library, Indiana State University <<http://panther.indstate.edu/>>

Using integrated library systems software for PDAs

ILS vendors (Innovative, Dynix, and Endeavor) are creating interfaces for wireless or small screen devices

Examples in use

- Minneapolis Public Library
<<http://mplwebcat.mplib.org/airpac/jsp/airpacIndex.jsp>>
- King County Library System

Borrowing hardware: devices and peripherals

- ◆ Borrowing PDAs loaded with reference and journal content in specific subject areas. Permits evaluation of PDA applicants and content.

Example

University of Illinois at Chicago

<<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/lhsp/temp/visors.pdf>>

- ◆ Borrowing PDA peripherals such as:

- expansion cards (additional memory or specific reference materials)
- keyboards
- digital cameras
- voice recorders
- Margi Presenter To Go systems (which employs an expansion slot on a PDA to plug in a VGA cable and connect a PDA directly to an LCD projector)

Example

University of Illinois at Chicago

<<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/lhsp/temp/visors.pdf>>

Using connectivity stations: syncing and printing

- ◆ Finding physical or IR syncing cradles at computer workstations

Example

University of Pittsburgh HSL has docking stations for 7 different types of PDAs
 Yale University <<http://info.med.yale.edu/library/technology/PDA/>>

◆ Connecting a PDA to a network for syncing and printing (stations that allow PDAs to use a wireless or infrared connection to a network)

Clarinet Systems EthIR LAN station allows patrons to use an IR port to go live on the Internet or print directly from their PDA and allows staff to sync their personal desktop over the network instead of having to put their PDA in the cradle at their desk.

Example

Simmons College Libraries Boston

<http://www.simmons.edu/libraries/wireless/pda_sync.html>

Services for librarians and library staff

◆ Gathering library statistics. Barcode PDA attachments simplify the repetitive task of gathering statistics, such as physical head counts, reference inquiries, and stack inventory.

Examples

- University of Connecticut Libraries, Storrs monitor and collect data on copiers, computers, and print station with handholds equipped with a Momentum II barcode scanner

- Cunningham Library, Indiana State U is beta-testing a mobile barcode reader for shelf reading and inventory maintenance

- Bartlett Public Library, Bartlett, Illinois

<<http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/seworkspace/lundquist/315/PDA.html>>

Asking reference questions

◆ E-mailing reference librarians

Example

University of Georgia, user completes reference request form, and when the PDA is hot-synced an e-mail is sent to the librarian

◆ Using live chat reference service

Example

Cunningham Library, Indiana State U, is testing chat live reference functions on a PDA

<<http://panther.indstate.edu/>>

Saving database and catalogue search results*Examples*

- Cornell University

<<http://www.library.cornell.edu/EMPSL/PDA-pilot-report.pdf>>

<<http://www.library.cornell.edu/EMPSL/PDA-instructions.php>>

- University of Alberta <<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/pdazone/beaming/index.cfm>>

Filling out library forms

◆ Requesting ILL

Example

University of Alberta

◆ Sending feedback forms

Example

University of Alberta

Reading health news

Example

Virginia Commonwealth University Health News from Reuters
<<http://www.reutershealth.com/elinel.html>>

Web resource pages

(see <<http://web.simmons.edu/~fox/PDA.html>> for examples)

Guides to purchasing PDAs

Guides to using PDAs

PDA education (general web pages)

Guide to staying updated on PDAs

Guide to creating PDA-friendly web pages

University of North Carolina HSL produced a guide "XHTML Basic and PDA Web Pages",
<<http://geocities.com/handheldlibrarian/xhtmll-basic.pdf>>

In-person services

Training

- Online web tutorials
- Discipline based user consultation

User Groups

Medical education support

Lane Library, Stanford University Palm Project <<http://palm.stanford.edu/>>

Document management technology

Converting Documents to PDA format

- Columbia College Chicago – Internet File Converters for PDAs
<<http://online.colum.edu/palmconvert/>>
- pdaMD.com Document Converter
<<http://www.pdamd.com/vertical/introconvert.xml>>

Recommendations and guidelines

Mobile Mann Project at Cornell University

Created a criteria checklist for evaluating to evaluate usability of library service web pages on different PDA browsers.

<<http://mobile.mannlib.cornell.edu/index.html>>

Their final report:

<http://mobile.mannlib.cornell.edu/docs/mmcg_report.pdf>

How to Create Handheld Friendly Web Pages

University of Iowa

<<http://www.its.uiowa.edu/cs/sp/pda/PDA-handheldfriendly.html>>

See the references at the bottom of the page.

Service evaluation and needs assessment research

University of Alberta

<http://www.thealbertalibrary.ab.ca/netspeed/netspd2003/presentations/A4_Ryan_Kouf.ppt>

LITA National Forum – Library Handheld Programs: Providing new levels of service

<http://www.ala.org/ala/lita/litaevents/litanatlforum/forumpreconf/handheld_handouts.doc>

Yale University <<http://info.med.yale.edu/library/about/research.html>>

Other interesting resources

Course Management software

- WebCT allows syncing to Palm.
- Blackboardtogo enables wireless and handheld device access to course content.
- Harvard's MyCourses <<http://mycourses.med.harvard.edu/>>

Harvard has a course management system designed for medical schools based on the MyCourses system developed at Harvard Medical School. MyCourses, accessible via Internet-connected computers or personal digital assistants, provides the framework for a centralized, customizable portal platform to disseminate information to students. The system enables students to access medical reference material, course content and visual tools.

PDA friendly web sites

Google <www.google.com/palm>

Google's wireless access protocol (WAP) service will translate pages on the fly into PDA readable format

PDA Groups

Educause – Personal Digital Assistants Constituent Group

<<http://www.educause.edu/cg/pda.asp>>

PDA Reports

Mobile Project: Educational Institutions Report

<http://www.its.uiowa.edu/cs/sp/pda/universities.html>