Infopeople Webcast Series:

*Technology Tuesdays*

**Tuesday, July 18, 2006**
12:00-1:00 pm

**Using PDAs in Libraries**
An Infopeople Webcast

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**Agenda**
- Overview
- What can libraries do for PDA-carrying customers?
- How can librarians use PDAs?
- Case studies
- How to get started
Housekeeping

- Today's webcast:
  - presentation: 50 minutes
  - Q&A: final 10 minutes
- Submit your questions via 'Chat' during webcast so presenter gets them in time
- Fill out evaluation during Q&A

Webcast Archives:
http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/archived.html

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Using Chat

- Chat Box is located at the bottom, lower left corner (below the video of the presenter)
- To send a message, select ALL from the dropdown
- Type message in box to right of ALL and press Enter.

*Use Chat to send questions to the presenter and to get help with technical difficulties.*
*Send messages to ALL.*
What is a PDA?

**Personal Digital Assistant**

A handheld computer that offers multiple computing and personal organizational functions.

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**Key Features of PDAs**

- Size
- Portability
- Synchronization
- Stylus and touch screen input

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**PDAs are Popular Because of the Three Ms**

- They have **memory**
  - store pictures, names, address, files
  - the calendar feature keeps track of appointments so you don’t have to
- They allow us to be **mobile**
  - make calls and check email from a hotel room
  - your office fits into the palm of your hand and is available 24/7 from anywhere in the U.S.
- They allow us to **multitask**
  - surf the Web, finish up a MSWord document, take phone calls from one device
  - no need to carry a laptop and a cell phone
### Palms
- Palm OS
- Easy to use, fast interface

### Pocket PCs
- Windows Mobile OS
- Familiar Windows look and feel

### Smartphones
- Palm OS, Windows OS, Symbian OS
- Combination PDA and mobile phone
Blackberries

- RIM OS
- Used mainly for email
- Less software available

Considerations for Buying a PDA

- Price
- Desktop OS
- Memory and storage needs
- Screen size
- Networking needs
- Organizational support
- Battery life

What can libraries do for PDA-carrying customers?
Connect Users to Info via PDA

- Synching stations/cradles
  - provide a station for supported or available devices
- IR (infrared) ports
  - simple but slow
  - connect to a computer or network
- WiFi
  - best solution but there are network security issues
  - not all PDAs have WiFi
- Bluetooth
  - possible replacement for IR but only newer PDAs have Bluetooth

Two Ways to Provide PDA Specific Content

- Web Channels
  - create Web sites designed to be used by Web clipping software that captures Web pages
  - static pages can then be downloaded and read asynchronously on the PDA or via a WiFi connection
- PDA-Friendly Web Page
  - create Web pages that can be viewed on the PDA in real time via a Web browser

Web Channels

- AvantGo
  - free software
  - users can subscribe to public channels or create own channels by capturing Web pages
  - hardware option allows institutions to serve private channels to their users
- Plucker and RepliGo are other options for capturing Web pages
Create PDA-Friendly Web Pages

- Text-only version or ADA compliant sites can be viewed via PDA Web browsers
- Create a subset of library Web pages specifically written to be read on PDA (HTML, XHTML)
- Web server detects type of device requesting Web page and serves appropriate version (example: XSLT and XML)

Acquire PDA Content and Make it Available from the Web

- Several product models available (see handout)
- Prices range from free to several thousand dollars or more
- Make software available for download from a PDA-resources page or toolkit
- Catalog all PDA software so it is available in your OPAC

E-Books

- Point users to free E-book Web sites such as Project Guttenberg or Memoware
- Contract with E-book providers such as Overdrive or netLibrary
E-Journals

- Available from aggregators such as HighWire Press and JournaltoGo
- Example: HighWire Remote delivers tables of contents, abstracts, and selected full text material to PalmOS and PocketPC users.

Databases

- PubMed freely available or packaged by vendors such as Ovid and Unbound Medicine
- Westlaw and LexisNexis have mobile versions

Reformat Existing Content on Library Website

- Convert handouts or teaching materials from MSWord or HTML to DOC format
- Load PDA-readable documents to Web server for download
- Use PDFs that users can easily download and convert to read on PDAs
Provide Access to OPAC

- Scaled version of Web OPAC
  - Search and display interface
  - Some customized patron features such as view patron record
- Vendors with PDA compliant OPACs
  - Innovative Interfaces (AirPAC)
  - Sirsi/Dynix (Corinthian)
  - VTLS (Virtua)

OPAC via PDA

Example:
Innovative Interfaces AirPAC

Lend PDAs or Memory Cards

- Lend PDAs with pre-installed software
  - Purchase one copy of a title and load onto PDA
  - Lend PDAs so that users can try out a PDA
- Lend books or other content on memory cards
  - SD (Secure Digital Cards) or MMC (MultiMedia Cards) are most common
  - Contract with vendor to allow copying of cards so that cards can be replaced quickly if lost or destroyed
Educate

- Teach classes
- Lead PUGs (PDA user groups)
- Form discussion lists
- Publish Weblogs

How can librarians use PDAs?

Point of Service Reference: the Nomadic Reference Librarian

- Roam stacks and other library areas with PDA to assist customers
- Bring PDA to hospital rounds or offsite teaching classrooms
- IR ports in the stacks for shelf location information
**Virtual Reference**

Answer reference questions on your PDA from PDA users via:
- Email
- IM/Chat
- SMS/Text Messaging

**Inventory**

- Add barcode reader to PDA or purchase Symbol PDA
- Scan items in the stacks
- Upload information via wireless or sync with desktop computer

**Research**

- Keep track of citations using database software, or Endnote or Bibloscape
- Surf the Web, consult databases, read RSS feeds from PDA browser
Case studies from libraries

Web Channels

- University of Georgia Libraries (http://www.libs.uga.edu/pda/)
- Lincoln Trail Libraries System (Champaign, IL) http://www.llts.org/pda-memberliblinks.html
- Wellington City Libraries, (New Zealand) http://www.wcl.govt.nz/about/services/pda/

PDA-friendly Web Pages

- Evansville Vanderburg Public Library www.evpl.org/pda.html
- Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Library, Yale University www.med.yale.edu/library/pdachannel
- NYU Bobst Library www.library.med.nyu.edu/mobile
PDA OPACs

- Westerville Public Library
  (http://catalog.westervillelibrary.org/airpac/jsp/airpacIndex.jsp)
- Pace University
  http://innopac.pace.edu/airpac/jsp/airpacIndex.jsp
- University of Hong Kong Libraries
  http://gecko.lib.hku.hk/

Ebooks and Other Content

- New York Public Library (Overdrive ebook site)
  http://ebooks/nypl.org
- Memoware (Free ebook titles)
  http://www.memoware.com/
- HighWire Press (ejournals)
  http://highwire.stanford.edu/

Display of PDA Resources

- University of Alberta Libraries
  http://www.library.ualberta.ca/pdazone/index.cfm
- Hong Kong University Libraries
- Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library Yale University
  http://info.med.yale.edu/library/technology/PDA/licenced
Lending PDAs

- Queens University Bracken Health Library—Lends PDAs and PDA books
  [http://library.queensu.ca/webmed/PDAs.htm](http://library.queensu.ca/webmed/PDAs.htm)
- Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (3 year “lending” to students)

Inventory and Use Counts

- Bergen County Community College [http://www.bergen.edu/faculty/esirianni/inventoryprocedures.bak.htm](http://www.bergen.edu/faculty/esirianni/inventoryprocedures.bak.htm)
- University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, Boreham Library [http://libcat.uafortsmith.edu/screens/manbarc.htm](http://libcat.uafortsmith.edu/screens/manbarc.htm)
- University of Connecticut Libraries Use Count SMS (alerts and virtual reference)

- Sims Memorial Library, Southeastern Louisiana University—Text a Librarian [http://www2.selu.edu/Library/ServicesDept/referenc/textalibrarian.html](http://www2.selu.edu/Library/ServicesDept/referenc/textalibrarian.html)
Educating

- NYU School of Medicine PDA classes
  http://library.med.nyu.edu/library/instruction/description/#pda
- Duke University Medical Center Library PDA User Group
  http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/subject/pda/users
- UTHSCSA Library Online Tutorials
  http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/consultation/guides/tutorials/main.cfm#PDA

More Case Studies

- Handout # 4
- Fox, Meghan. PDAs, Handhelds and Mobile Technologies in Libraries. Available:
  http://web.simmons.edu/~fox/pda/

Wrap Up
How To Get Started

- Get a library PDA(s) and software
- Train staff
- Learn about your users
- Build teams to format content

Have Fun with Your PDA!

- Experiment with software based on your personal interests
- Listen to music or audio books
- Share files and photos with other PDA users
- Exchange tips with other PDA users

Questions?

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