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ENHANCING LIBRARY SERVICES USING QR CODE

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ABSTRACT

A library should try to keep up with the digital world through various technologies in this modern age. The new generation students are having information in just one click. They became more familiar to retrieving information from the internet than a traditional library. The new generation becomes more comfortable with the internet. For them, finding information by simply searching the internet could be much easier and faster than reading an entire book and visit to library. So libraries must update their techniques time to time accordingly and with the necessity of the future users. In this article how QR code can be created and applied to enhancing the library services were discussed. This is very innovative technology for providing library services.

Introduction :

As the modern technologies have grown rapidly the libraries are facing tremendous changes. Library materials are also changing quickly from traditional print formats to various digital formats. Information has been creating and publishing from many sectors. Document types are also not limited to books and periodicals. Various types of materials out there like- image, audio, video, painting, software, etc. These materials are also available with various file formats so that, the information can be used in many ways. The internet has opened the door to reach this type of information from anywhere on a single click. Managing this huge amount of resources becomes more challenging day by day.

Implementing various software is becoming a way to maintain these resources like automation, digitisation, content management, e-resource management and much more. These software are handling as well as managing all types of housekeeping works in the library like- procuring materials, acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, controlling serials, digitising, archiving-retrieving, providing service to the users and so on. QR Code is the technology by which retrieval of resources got easier.

Need for QR Code Technology

Users have very less time to find out a piece of information from an entire content. So, these technologies are very important for providing quick and pinpointed services and-

- Keep up-to-date with the modern technical initiatives.
- To improve access more quickly from inside the library as well as from outside the library at any time.
- To improve the working efficiency
- More sharing and use of materials.
- Cost saving.
- Maintaining through software is very easy.
- Easy to reproduce.
- Can create hyperlinks for more similar materials

Quick Response (QR) Code Technology :

QR is a bi-dimensional code composed by black and white pixels into a squared matrix, containing information to be enjoyed with the help of smart phones or similar devices. Scanning the code, which is usually printed on newspapers, posters, or captions, and processing it with ad-hoc software, users can obtain additional information and data on objects or services without extra searches. Considering the widespread circulation of mobile devices (such as smart phones) among users, many libraries are experimenting the usage of the QR to deliver library services in a friendly and quick way. The Library are using the QR code to give their users access to guides, manuals, library map, audio and video files[1].



Fig 1 : QR Code to access Question Papers in my library

Concept of QR Code :

A QR code is the abbreviation for quick response code, which is a machine readable optical label with information on the associated item or product. In barcodes, information is coded in one direction or one dimension only. On the other hand, in a two dimensional code, which the QR code is, information is coded in two directions: horizontally and vertically. It can be read easily and is capable of holding a great deal of information[2].

QR codes are ubiquitous as marketing and information-provision tools. They appear on products

ranging from candy bars to laundry detergent, on T-shirts and soft drink cups, in magazine advertisements, and elsewhere. Libraries and academic institutions have started to place these small codes on websites, in print literature, and in other physical locations where they may entice patrons and visitors to seek additional information about programs or services. The first object of implementation of QR codes as a means of connecting course content of the resources available with library sector[3].

Advantage of QR Code

Here are some of the advantages of using QR code

- It's fast;
- Can store huge amount of data;
- Can use anywhere;
- No specific skill is required
- No additional technology is required;
- Can use the information later;
- Anyone can generate it;
- Increased customer satisfaction etc.

Disadvantage of QR Code

There are some disadvantages too -

- It's not working without the decoder like android phones;
- Need internet connection;
- Still users' are not fully aware of this technology;
- Human errors happen sometimes at the time of coding;
- Codes are not working sometimes due to the compatibility of the decoder.

How to Generate of QR Code :

- First find out the information that you want to share.
- Search the user friendly QR Code generator site.
- Give the appropriate information.
- Generate the QR Code
- Test the QR Code
- Save the QR code on your desktop.
- Share this QR code with the world.

System Requirements for QR Code :

Here we also need some hardware and software materials to run the QR code.

These are-

- **A Computer :** Where we can open QR code generator websites to generate the code. It may be a PC or a laptop.
- **Internet Connection-** For accessing the internet.

- **Data-** to generate the code we need the data/information which we want to convert into the QR code.
- **Scanner -** a scanner is required for reading the coded information in QR code. You can use android mobile phone as scanner.
- **Scanning Apps-** to scanning the information we have to install an app in a camera facility Android phone to read QR Code[4].

QR Code generator websites :

There are plenty of free QR code generators websites.

Some websites are:

- **KAYWA Generator -**
<http://qrcode.kaywa.com/>
- **QR Generator -** <https://www.the-qrcode-generator.com/>
- **Go QR Generator -** <http://goqr.me/>
- **QR Stuff Generator -** <http://www.qrstuff.com/>
- **Bee Tag QR Generator -**
<http://www.beetagg.com/>

QR Code Reader Apps.

There are plenty of free QR code reader apps for mobile phones :

Some of the these are :

- QR Code Reader (Android)
- QR Droid (Android)
- QR Reader (iPhone)
- QRafter (iPad)
- QRky (Android)
- RedLaser (iPhone)

QR Code Can be Use in Library for :

- Linking organisation website with QR Code
- Linking Library web site with QR Code
- Linking Library e-resources with QR Code
- Linking Library social blog with QR Code
- Linking Library Ask a Librarian Service with QR Code
- New book Arrival via QR Code
- Bookshelves Display via QR Code
- Library manual, Library guide Accessible via QR Code
- Library architecture design via QR code
- User Services information via QR code
- QR Code for WEBOPAC
- QR Code for Question Papers
- QR Code for CD's in Library

Conclusion :

With the advent of ICT and awareness of technology among people, QR codes are being used everywhere. QR Code is an innovative technology for the libraries. So QR codes can be used in library to access e-books, e-journals, CD-ROMs, library web site.

Web-OPAC, other e-resources. So we can say that QR code can be used in a variety of ways as per need. The main aim of using QR code is to give brief message to the users.

Conclusion

Libraries are now being very challenged by the development of various technologies. In this present

era, the new technology like QR code demands the changes of information handling in the library. The user would have easy access to most current and necessary information related to the library by using QR code.

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