Designing a Mobile Experience

HCPL Mobile

Internet Librarian 2010
Dave McLaughlin

Web Services Manager
Harford County Public Library
mclaughlind@hcplonline.info
• Suburban county northeast of Baltimore
• Influx of STEM with BRAC and APG (more acronyms, anyone?)
• 11 Branches
• Over 200,000 registered borrowers
• Annual circulation almost 5 million
Learn French, Russian, Spanish, Italian, German, Chinese, and more, all online!

Mango’s language lessons guide you through real conversations.

Digital Bookmobile

The Digital Bookmobile National Tour made a stop at the Abingdon branch on Tuesday, September 21.

Featured Upcoming Programs

Game On! @ Your Library

LEAP: Journey to the Sun 10/19
Behind the Scenes with Chemistry 10/19
Are you the next GUITAR HERO? 10/19
Back to School Blues? Look What the Libra... 10/19
Minds At Play 10/20
Fallston Critics Without Credentials 10/20
Teen Read Week Open House 10/20
10 to 30
Choosing a Mobile Development Route

Development Hurdles

End-User’s Experience

- Do Nothing
- Straight HTML
- JS Framework
- Native Code
JS Framework Web Apps & Mobile Webkit Devices

Apple iOS

Palm (HP) webOS

Android

Blackberry OS 6
jQuery Mobile

- Broad compatibility, degrading gracefully (Nokia, Opera Mobile)
- Alpha 1 released 10/16
• Good example code
• Spotty documentation
• No clear dev timeline
• Big update “soon”
Write 1 Web App, Publish Native Apps

- Frequently used by jQTouch developers wanting to get into the App Store
- Ships with jQTouch built-in
- Developer Rhodes also offers hosting

Both can integrate core features (accelerometer, camera, etc.)
1. Include framework

```html
<html>
<head>
<title>Test Web App</title>

<style>@import "jqtouch/jqtouch.min.css";</style>
<style>@import "themes/apple/theme.min.css";</style>

<script src="jqtouch/jquery.1.3.2.min.js"></script>
<script src="jqtouch/jqtouch.min.js"></script>

<script>
    <!--- Initialize jQTouch here --->
</script>

</head>
```
JQTouch Basic Usage

2. Boilerplate for each page

```
<div id="home" class="current">
  <div class="toolbar">
    <h1>Title</h1>
  </div>

  <!-- Content goes here -->

</div>
```
3. Add your content

```html
<ul class="rounded">
    <li class="arrow"><a href="#loc">Locations</a></li>
    <li class="arrow"><a href="#cat">Catalog</a></li>
    <li class="arrow"><a href="#acct">Account</a></li>
    <li class="arrow"><a href="#ask">Ask Us</a></li>
</ul>

<h2>Contact Us</h2>
<ul class="individual">
    <li class="forward">
        <a href="mailto:you@mail.com" rel="external">E-mail Us</a>
    </li>
    <li class="forward">
        <a href="tel:123-456-7890" rel="external">123-456-7890</a>
    </li>
</ul>
```
HCPL Mobile

- Content of interest to mobile users
- Reuses some content from website
HCPL Mobile: Branches

- Tap address for Google Maps
- Tap phone # to call
HCPL Mobile: Branches

- Exits web app and displays library in Google Maps (directions, etc.)
- Possible to include GMaps in web app, but more dev time
HCPL Mobile: New Releases, Booklists

- Booklists created by Materials Management
- Stored as XML on web server for website & app
HCPL Mobile: New Releases, Booklists

- Materials Management enters ISBN or Bib#
- Website and app pull info from catalog
HCPL Mobile: My Account

- Displays “My Account” info available through OPAC
HCPL Mobile: My Account

- Info sorted, formatted for mobile user
Demo Time

Source: flickr.com/nifmus
HCPL Mobile: What It Can’t Do

• Main missing features: “Request” and “Renew”
• Web coders need ILS web services or API
HCPL Mobile: The Future

- Better integration with next-gen ILS, including “Request” and “Renew”
- Storing of card #
- Broader compatibility
- Customized UI?
Thank You!

Questions?

Dave McLaughlin
Web Services Manager
Harford County Public Library
mclaughlind@hcplonline.info