SimplyE App: Implementing an Intuitive Interface

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Why SimplyE?

Overview & Demonstration
Implementing Yourself
Implementing with Help
Coming Next

Questions
What is SimplyE?

Middleware
Mobile Reading app
Web Apps
A community
Libraries
A labor of love

What SimplyE does

It turns this . . .
SimplyE App: Implementing an Intuitive Interface

April 2018

What SimplyE does

Find Books  Borrow  Read

Into this . . .

Why SimplyE?

Content Vendor = App

Not Library Branded
Walled collections
Inconsistent UXs
Lack of accessibility
Lack of privacy
Leading the Way
Demonstration Implementing Yourself
Christine Peterson

Amigos Library Services

We’re all about service

We’re a non-profit, 501(c)3 member-based organization, with a mission to unite libraries in service to their communities.

We take pride in being one of the largest consortia of libraries in the nation, providing continuing education, member discounts, online services, association management, and more.

SimplyE
SimplyE App: Implementing an Intuitive Interface

SimplyE Demo
SimplyE App: Implementing an Intuitive Interface

April 2018

What We Knew

What We Didn’t Know
Start-up Funding

Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Best Practices

- Download and play with the app now
- Working through your ebook vendor takes time
- Expect the implementation to take more time than you think
- Find the person in charge of security or your firewall for your network
- Test the app internally before providing for your patrons
- Involve yourself with SimplyE partners
Successes

- Definite interest from public (& academic) libraries
- Current technical documentation
- SIP2 is working!
- Our first library is up in test
- Becoming an Amigos service - open to members and non-members - this summer

Leading the Way
What You'll Need to Work with a Vendor
Michael Blackwell
Our Progress and What A Vendor May Do

- **In Maryland, we are working at the state-wide level with Datalogics**
  - Thank you to the IMLS for providing funding, through Maryland’s LSTA grant!
  - 7 libraries deployed so far, in “soft launch” mode, with 4 others in test mode
  - E-Book content from OverDrive, Axis 360, Cloud Library, and RB Digital Working
  - **New!** E-Book content from the DPLA Exchange
  - In talks with Internet Archive about providing content from the OpenLibrary

- **Guide You Through the Process of Deployment: A “Turn Key” solution**
  - Help You Set Up a Host—Say, Amazon Web Services
  - Offer a step-by-step process to begin app deployment
  - Deploy the app, working with New York Public Library and other stakeholders (Minitex) as necessary, so that your circ manager works with your various platforms
  - Troubleshoot issues as they occur
  - Serve as a long-term partner, deploying upgrades/new platforms and tech support
What is the DPLA Exchange?

- Open Bookshelf and Curation Corps
- The Exchange

What is the Internet Archive OpenLibrary?
**What You Will Need**

- A careful RFP process
- A project leader who can coordinate with various in-house departments (including Marketing, IT, Development, etc)
- Logo, Tagline, and Colors (you’ll be given a choice of colors)
- Vendor information: Client Key/Website ID/Library ID/Default Loan Period
- Google Analytics with Tracking ID
- A Top Level Domain: SimplyE-My-Great-Library.org (not seen by library patrons)
- A Privacy Policy Webpage
- Content License Webpage (lists your vendors and license terms and DCMA email POC)
- A troubleshooting email address with employees to monitor it

**Potential Issues, and Cost**

- Be careful about your contract--look at things like the number of updates deployed per year
- Identify your needs clearly to your e-book vendors and be prepared to be forceful
- DO have a good transitional management plan in place: SimplyE is, well, simple, but staff are not. Know the 4 talking points of WHY:
  - It is EASY; It is branded for us, not vendors; privacy; works across platforms
- DO have a “soft” launch period
- DO have a Marketing Strategy (materials are available)
- Costs:
  - $15,000 for initial deployment
  - $6,500 for maintenance and support
  - Cost of AWS
- Should YOU Deploy?
Best Practices for Larger Deployments

- Don’t reinvent – partner with other institutions and organizations--join the SimplyE partners calls
- Collaborate with your e-book vendors
- Be ready to “sell” the app; don’t get discouraged if some don’t want to deploy
- Keep various stakeholders updated on the project
- Rolling Launch instead of trying to do an entire consortium or state at one time
- Be Adaptable
- Be patient--it’s going to take longer than you think!

Leading the Way

Some Other Deployments
Or
Interested Parties
Deployed or Planning Deployments

- **Califa**
  - 11 California libraries are now live on SimplyE
  - Implemented first Odilo collection, now discoverable and readable on SimplyE
- **Connecticut State Library**
  - 6 Libraries are operational
- **Working on it:**

Coming Next

- **Audiobooks**
- **PDF**
Service Provider Integrations - Audiobooks

Type 1 - Findaway
- Bibliotheca
- Axis 360
- EBSCO

Type 2 - Non-Findaway
- RB Digital
- DPLA Exchange
- OverDrive

Basic Features - Audiobooks
- Discover audiobooks in catalog
- Borrow, download & return audiobooks
- Play audiobooks
  - Play/pause, skip forward & back (adjust skip time)
  - Sleep timer
  - TOC navigation
  - “Scrubber” forward & back
  - Position indication
- WCAG compliant
Basic Features - PDF

- Discover non-DRM PDFs in catalog
- Borrow, download and return non-DRM PDFs
- Read non-DRM PDFs
  - Navigate (TOC, in-document link, page through)
  - Annotate (text), highlight
  - Bookmark, synch

Upcoming Functionality

Already implemented / soon
- PDF Support – integrating PSPDFKit; in beta in April
- Citations - Chicago, MLA, APA; initial work done
- Bookmarks – initial work done
- Annotations – initial work done; working on device synchronization
- Geolocation – almost done

Coming
- Single sign-on (SAML) support
- Desktop / laptop functionality
- Additional content providers
- Additional ILS support
Questions

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