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Phones, Slates, Netbooks & Desktop computers: Information use across devices

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Phones, Slates, Netbooks & Desktop computers:

Information use across devices.

Andrew Walsh, University of Huddersfield, National Teaching Fellow.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/notionscapital/5225049493/
What we’ll talk about…

- It’s a mobile social world
- What this could mean for Information Literacy / digital literacy
- How do people use a variety of devices?
- What do you feel about this stuff?
Mobiles & social networks are everywhere

- More active mobile phones in the UK than there are adults...

- 350+ million active users currently access Facebook through their mobile devices

- Twitter has 100 million active users (Sept 11)
Some mobile things from Huddersfield
But we’re talking about digital literacies…

- How do you think information seeking and use changes with mobile devices?

- How do people act differently when they can access the ‘net wherever they are?
But we’re talking about digital literacies…

- How do you think information seeking and use changes with mobile devices?
- How do people act differently when they can access the ‘net wherever they are?

Choice of devices – not much use in tablets, but growing Perception that it’s trendy to have an iPad
There isn’t a one size fits all
Smart phones give learners more independence
Is the attention spans and learning habits of our learners becoming shorter and more bite-size?
Media literacy is a key part of digital literacy
Learners have more autonomy and institutions have less control over technology – increasing trend.
The role of the teacher has changed – no longer the sage on the stage more of a guide on the side.
Learner expectation has changed how we deliver
Four areas where mobile IL varies – Where?

“Someone sends me a link at work …. You just BANG, instapaper it … when I’m on a bus journey or something I can just call up instapaper on my phone…”
Four areas where mobile IL varies – What?

• “I did install a trainline.com app … when I was coming back from a gig in Manchester we got off one stop too far down the line so I was trying to find the train times to come back…”
Four areas where mobile IL varies – How?

“Where I’ve a preferred provider for any time of information … my first port of call would normally be their website … (or) … an app if it was a website I would always go for that sort of information…”
Four areas where mobile IL varies –

Time spent?

“I just love the thought of not being tethered to go and fire up the old laptop or desktop machine...”

“old laptop” from http://www.flickr.com/photos/running_like_an_antelope/2307016308/
Four areas where mobile IL varies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>“Fixed” IL</th>
<th>“Mobile” IL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where?</strong></td>
<td>Largely in “set” places. At a desktop computer (with little variation in software); at a fixed workplace; within a library.</td>
<td>Anywhere; any mobile device (phone, games device, eBook reader – massive variation in device).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What?</strong></td>
<td>Anything?</td>
<td>Normally quick information, often context or location specific?.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How?</strong></td>
<td>Range of established tools to access and manage wide range of information sources. Standard search engines.</td>
<td>Often narrow Apps and individual specialist sites rather than open web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time spent?</strong></td>
<td>Varies. Often slow, long access. People spending long periods searching for, organising and extracting information, especially for academic use.</td>
<td>Quick / Fast only. Shorter searches. Little pondering and extracting information. Favoured short chunks of info. “Convenience” of device.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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“It’s interesting that having something like this (iPhone) will allow you to kind of delegate remembering facts and free you up for kind of critical thinking…”
Breaking news! Aspects of mobile IL

- Searching for information is Quick & Easy
- Information needs are contextual
- Our memory can be outsourced
- Mobile internet acting as a bridge between devices
- Searching can be social
- Information is constantly pushed to us
So what does this mean?

- Do we need to:
- think about what search tools our users want via mobile?
- learn new tools to move information between devices?
- Learn how to extract information online and organise it via mobiles?
Thanks for listening and joining in!

More stuff from me at

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