Libraries: Augmenting to reduce perceived complexity.

Displaying connections

Semantic links between two books or subject areas can be shown visually on the the augmented displays or projections. These connections may be informed by links between user given tags, less known catalogue classifications or user comments.

RFID tagging technology

Making it easier for library staff to deal with the process of lending, returns and shelf sorting right down to the individual copy level.

Social bookmarking/tagging user mediated vocabularies

Inform book selection and bring a sense of community to an otherwise non conducive system where patrons don't interact.

Smart displays

Roaming or stationary displays can enable alternate visualisations of book arrangement and encourage playful, thoughtful user centric interventions in the library space.

Short throw projectors can also project directions or textual information directly onto the floor, ceiling or designated areas on shelves.

Signs and Wayfinding

In a Smart library, navigation and bookfinding should be less of a chore, with a series of systems in place to give you directions when you are on a book search. Dynamic maps and trails can be printed based on your list of searched books , they can show you the shortest paths to travel in order to find your books and give directions based on your point of origin, not just a floor number and a triple barrelled bibliographic sequence.

Portable Windows

PDA's or Tablet PC's enabled with RFID readers and active WIFI connections, allow patrons to browse book covers without touching and tugging the books from stacks. This not only preserves books, but also assists with visual memory recall and encourages browsing by cover, much like a well planned magazine rack.

User Centric Catalogues

Existing terminal based search facilities can benefit from enriched meta data, user annotation, physical location data, gathered on individual books.

Two way interactive text messaging

SMS services on mobile phones can be used to renew books, remotely query the catalogue, identify patrons upon entry and exit and even add notes/reviews/ tags to books via sms.

Inbuilt RFID features in phones can be used to identify books. Effectively you will be able to load comments for a particular book, leave your own comments for other users to see, or just bookmark it.

Enhanced Searches

Searching by cover colour, is just as important to someone who only recalls 'that thick green book' from the second floor.

Smartlib

http://library.organised.info

Iman Moradi, Huddersfield University, April 2005.