DECIDING ON A MOBILE APP

Boopsie at Vanderbilt
ASERL Webinar
October 25, 2012
ENVIRONMENT

- Student body of more than 12,500
- 210 Library staff (10 in Library Digital Services)
- SirsiDynix Symphony ILS
- Ex Libris Primo discovery layer
- Ex Libris SFX openurl resolver
- Locally developed database applications
- Several Blogs
- Non-CMS public web site
CHALLENGE

- Increased availability of smart phones and mobile devices
  - Different operating systems
  - Different screen sizes
  - Different browsers
- Variety of information sources and formats
CHALLENGE

- Ability to provide information about ongoing renovation
- Able to provide data from many information sources (ILS, RSS, Calendars, etc.)
- No additional staffing
- Need for easy updates
- Need to be available for all devices
OPTIONS

- Change all websites to be accessible for mobile devices
- Locally create app for each device
- Request student groups to develop app
- Outsource
BOOPSIE

- Experience working with Boopsie at ALA/LITA
- Reasonably priced (especially compared to local development costs)
- Available for all devices (Android and iOS)
- Experience pushing the information to the Apple store
- Little staff time required to get set up
Design updates use Google Docs

- No additional training was needed
- Able to get more people involved in updates
- Quick and easy updates
- Ability to pull data from different resources
- Ability to search local ILS
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<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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THE EXPERIENCE
THE GOOD

- Setup was simple and they were able to harvest our MARC records from the catalog
- Encountered issues with hours
  - Boopsie developed a new method to allow our hours to be harvested
- Staff were enthusiastic about the mobile app at launch and continue to use the app
- Works well on all mobile devices
THE EXPERIENCE
THE BAD

- Obtaining statistics needs to be done through Boopsie
  - This has improved and is generated by Boopsie monthly
- Some sources are not easily displayed (Google Calendar)
- It cannot do everything
  - New websites cannot always be included
  - Links out from the app need to be mobile friendly
The app does not do everything
- Still need to work towards mobile accessible websites

Adoption by students has continued to increase
- Jan. – June 7 2010 (255 users)
- August 2012 (228)

Boopsie is a good solution that requires little staff time
LIVE DEMO

- Google Docs (http://docs.google.com)
- Boopsie (http://vulibrary.boopsie.com/)

Questions?
THANK YOU

Dale Poulter
Coordinator, Search and Core Services
Vanderbilt University Library
Dale.Poulter@Vanderbilt.edu