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Yāna Final Project Report

Project Summary

Yāna provides a free, open-source template that open access journals can use as the basis of their own multi-platform mobile applications. The Yāna template provides the basic functionality required by any journal operating on a mobile platform. The template also takes advantage of standards-based web technologies to allow publishers to deploy their applications to multiple platforms (iPhone, Android, etc.). We believe that a well-documented and publicly available template has the potential to greatly reduce the cost to each journal publisher of developing a custom mobile application.

Accomplishments

At the conclusion of the project we achieved our goal of producing a web application template with the functionality we envisioned: simple navigation, easy to configure, online viewing of journal content (web and PDF), and the ability to bookmark favorite articles.

Challenges

We use PhoneGap, an open-source framework for developing mobile applications, to convert journal applications built in Yana to native applications on multiple platforms (Android, iPhone, etc). The Phonegap framework makes it possible to develop a web application using—JavaScript, HTML5 and CSS3—and then to package it as a native application.

During the course of our project, Phonegap made changes to its framework. This set us back because we had to re-code some parts of our application to accommodate the changes.

We are still working to perfect the Phonegap build process. One of the biggest challenges has been ensuring that the user can open and read PDFs in the native application rather than resorting to the device's browser.

Next Steps

We plan to work out the last bugs in the web-app-to-native-app conversion process. At that point we will create two sample applications, one for the DASH repository and another for a literary journal (*Printer's Devil Review*). We want to put these applications through the build process and register them to be downloaded by the Apple and Android app stores so that we can document the process for our users.

We currently maintain a website with documentation, screencasts, and tutorials on how to configure the application (http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/yana). This documentation will need to be updated and expanded. We're hoping that the site will also be host to a user and developer community interested in expanding Yāna. We will also follow-up with open access publishers who initially expressed interest in the project and help them to make use of our template to create their own applications.

Code Deposit

The code for Yāna can be reviewed and downloaded here: https://github.com/oscharvard/Yana**.**

Budget Spent

[Abigail will provide]

Publicity

We created a graphic identity (logo, etc.) for the project and built a website for it. I also blogged about it on my site techneblog.com and shared information about it with local indie publishers. Although we didn't do publicity ourselves, we benefited from the general Library Lab publicity.

Presentations

Reinhard and I gave a presentation about the project to the Harvard ABCD technology group. I also presented to the members of Boston Publishing Innovators.