

Standards informing design of library service delivery to mobile devices and nomadic learners

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Overview

- **Mobile learning**
- **The nomadic learner**
- **Standards on mobility and nomadicity**
- **Barriers**
- **Libraries and service delivery**



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Mobile learning

- Ubiquitous learning
- Nomadicity
- Handheld learning
- Learning on the move
- Location-generated learning



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Mobile learning

“Any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not at a fixed, predetermined location, or learning that happens when the learner takes advantage of the learning opportunities offered by mobile technologies.”

O'Malley et al., 2003.



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The nomadic learner

Specific requirements:

- Support system
- Easy access to information
- Convenient form
- Anywhere, anytime



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Standards on mobility and nomadicity

- Internet Engineering Task Force – Mobile IPv6 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3935.txt>
- Cross Industry Working Team – Nomadicity in the NII <http://www.xiwt.org/>
- American National Standards Institute – IISP Nomadicity Standards Needs <http://publicaa.ansi.org/sites/apdl/Documents/Standards%20Activities/Information%20Infrastructure%20Standards%20Panel/Nomadcity.doc>



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Standards on mobility and nomadicity

- Australian Flexible Learning Framework – M-learning standards <http://e-standards.flexiblelearning.net.au/docs/m-standards-report-v1-0.pdf>
- World Wide Web Consortium – The Web on the move, OWL 2 Web Ontology Language
- ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 36 – ISO/IEC NP TR 291240 - Nomadicity and mobile technologies, Parts 1 and 2



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What does all this mean?

- Very much a work in progress
- Much research on nomadcity and mobile learning
- Recommendations may conflict
- New issues around m-learning constantly emerging



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Barriers

- Lack of standards
- Cost
- Resistance from learners
- Resistance from management
- Technology/learner mismatch



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Libraries and service delivery

- Understanding of user population
- Staff training to develop competence
- Technology infrastructure
- Support from higher level
- **PLANNING**



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What lies ahead?

- How should libraries plan to allow their staff or students to learn on the move?
- How should libraries implement successful support strategies for nomadic users?
- What should learners expect from the convergence of learning and technology?
- Where do the pitfalls lie and how do we avoid them?



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