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eContent in a Flash: Delivering Digital Resources to Patrons Using NFC Technology

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e-Content in a Flash

Delivering Digital Resources to Patrons Using NFC Technology

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How To Program NFC Tags

- Step 1: Select Materials
- Step 2: Design a Template
- Step 3: Grab a Permalink
- Step 4: Create a Short URL
- Step 5: Generate a QR Code
- Step 6: Program the NFC Tag
 - a. Format the tag.
 - b. Write to the tag.
 - c. Secure the tag to discourage tampering by locking the tag or setting a password.
- Step 7: Put It All Together

Background

What is NFC?

Near Field Communication (NFC) is a short-range, wireless communication technology that establishes a temporary peer-to-peer network to complete a small data transfer. While NFC's four-inch range limits its usability based on proximity, this feature also increases security. The peer-to-peer network is established for a single operation, the data transfer. There is no additional information served up to the NFC tag and there is no persistent memory. It will continue to operate as it was initially programmed. The data transfer is measured in bytes and kilobytes, and therefore limited to small snippets of text and hyperlinks.

NFC in Libraries

Librarians have explored the potential inherent in NFC technology to alter information delivery (Guevara, 2012). Several common applications for NFC enhancement include self-service operations like checkout, obtaining additional information, and access control at the user's point of need (Hoy, 2013). Many librarians who implement NFC technology report high user satisfaction and several advantages of NFC technology over other methods like RFID, barcode scanning, and QR Codes (Yusof, 2015). Consequently, if NFC becomes an ubiquitous standard in smartphones, it carries tantalizing potential to transfer library resources conveniently into every pocket from physical locations (Abram, 2017).

Application Examples



Subject Librarian Posters



Harry Potter Display



eTravel Guides Poster



Audiobooks Poster

Advantages & Challenges

Advantages

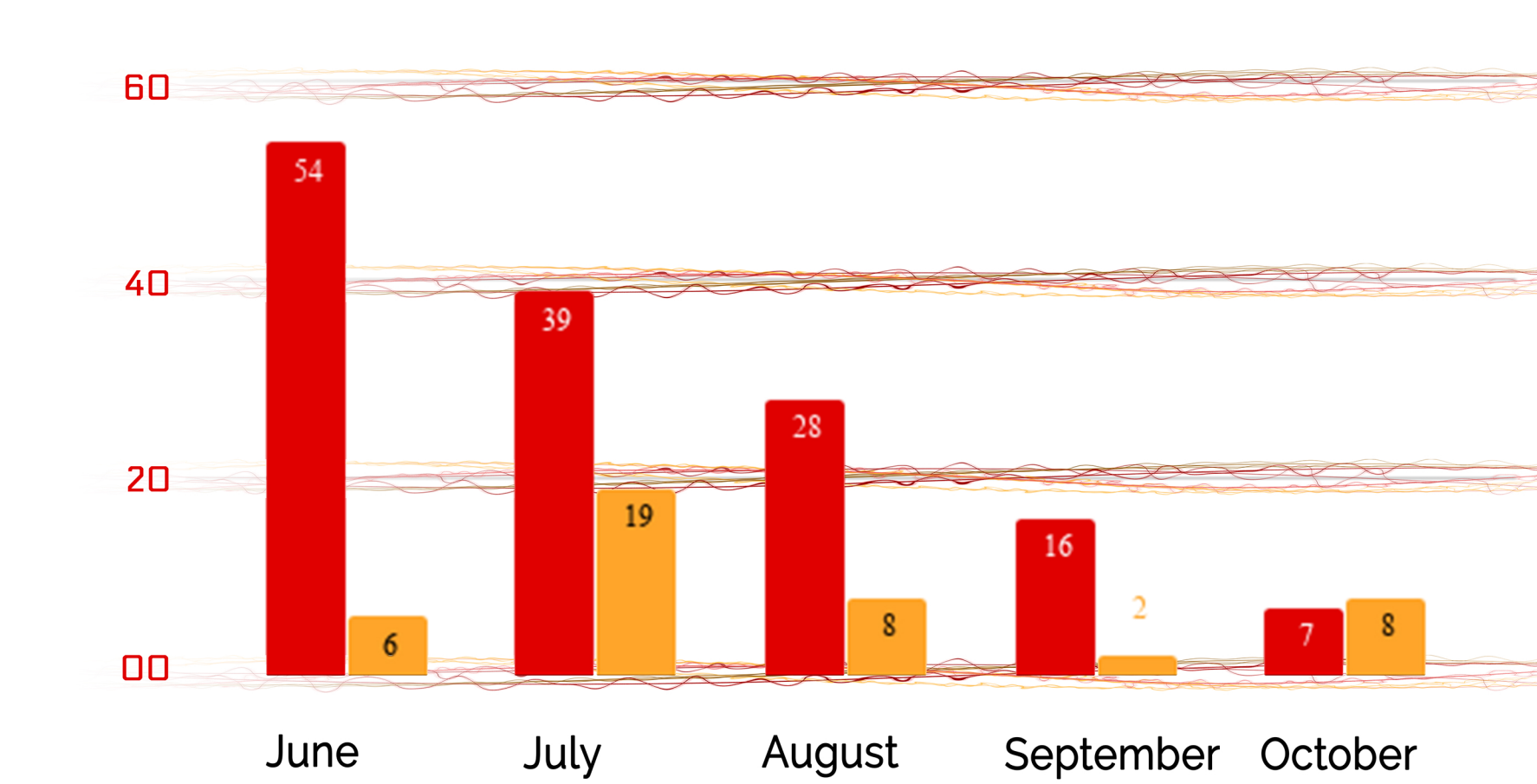
- Low tech graphical display
- Physical browsing of digital resources
- Fast delivery

Challenges

- Users need their own device (BYOD)
- Transferability of search skills
- Accessibility & technical compatibility of devices

Usability Statistics

Harry Potter Display & Audiobooks Poster



3:1

Ratio of Ebook Hits: Physical Travel Guide Use

216

Hits on Rotating Displays Jun.-Nov. (5 Months)

75% of all Website Traffic is via Mobile

75% of all Mobile Traffic is on iOS

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Project Site: library.fiu.edu/nfc