Handhelds in the Health Science Library

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Introduction

- Handhelds, pocket computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), palmtops, organizers
- Support since 1993
- Palm platform in 1997
Palm & PocketPC

• Use by clinicians
  – Reports in literature
  – Arizona

• Use by health organizations
PDA Initiatives in Health Care Libraries

• Hospitals
  – Cradles
  – Support

• Universities
  – Hardware
  – Applications
  – Consultation and training
Arizona Health Sciences Library
PDA Support

• Hardware - cradles
• Training and consultations
• Alerting services
• Web pages
Hardware

• Palms and iPAQs
• Cradles
  – PC to PDA
• Librarians with PDAs
PC-to-PDA connections

- Public stations
  - Via Palm Install
  - pinstall.envicon.com

- Login stations
  - Via Hotsync
  - Library & LRC
  - Security
Training

• Two hour workshops
  – Twice a year since 1998
  – educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda/

• Curriculum
  – Enrichment elective, Fall 2000
  – Pharmacy Internet practicum, Spring 2001
Consultations

- Getting started
- Customizing
  - Clinical
  - Educational
  - PIM tools
- Troubleshooting
Alerting services

- Alerts Page
  - educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda/alert.htm
- Email news
- Bibliography (274 citations)
- Tables of contents
  - Avantgo and iSilo
  - ahsl.arizona.edu/journals/ejrnls/pda.cfm
PDAs for Health Care Providers

http://educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda

Hardware and Accessories

PalmOS machines

Pocket-sized with simplified handwriting entry, pop-up keyboards or second-party keyboards.

See Palm's Hardware Comparison Matrix

Palm Palm VIIx (wireless), V and Vx (shirt-pocket sized), m100 (small, inexpensive), IIIc
PDAs for Health Care Providers

http://educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda

Productivity Tips and Applications

Tips and Tricks

Tips and Tricks

From comp.sys.palmtops.pilot, Pogue’s Ultimate Palmpilot Guide, and Preston’s List:

- Put the Palm in the INSIDE pocket of scrub tops
- Beam your business card by holding down the Address button for two seconds
  - Create a business card entry with brief, public data in Addressbook.
  - Put personal information -- home phone, family -- in a second entry.
PDAs for Health Care Providers

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Health Care Applications

[ Alerts and General Sites ][ Initiatives ][ Student Sites ][ Prescribing and Patient Tracking ][ Calculators ][ Reference Works ]

Alerts and General Sites

Alerts

AHSL Alerts List -- check to see if there are updates for some standard applications
Dr. Jim Thompson's Recommended Applications for the Medical Palm
University of Rochester Recommendations
University of Wisconsin Recommendations
MedSchool list
Assessment

- Count users of services
- Count web hits & links
- Classroom evaluations
- Follow-up interviews
- Surveys
Statistics for six months

- **PC-to-PDA connections**
  - 50 regular users
  - Few walk-ins

- **Web hits**
  - 4th quarter: 6000
  - 3rd quarter: 4000
Evaluations and comments

• Classroom evaluations
  – Average 8-10 participants

• Follow-up interviews
  – Continuing to use
  – Sharing with others

• Surveys
Future

- Site licences
- Development
- Grant: PDAs in education
Conclusions

• Information access when needed
• From memorization to skill acquisition
• Many opportunities for libraries
For more information

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