

Clarion University Libraries

iPad Apps To Consider

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With the start of the new school year comes new technology – iPads – to Carlson and Suhr Libraries. In preparation for the installation of the new units (10 at Carlson and five at Suhr), we have the opportunity to help select applications that may become part of the “image” or default setup of the Library iPads.

First, you should know that the iPad comes with the following standard apps:

- Messages
 - That is, “iMessages” which can be sent *only* between iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Mac
 - Unlimited use
- Calendar
 - Connect to email, Google, and Facebook calendars
- Notes
 - A virtual legal pad for whatever you need
- Reminders
 - A common task list
- Maps
 - Satellite map
- Clock
 - World Clock
 - Alarm
 - Stopwatch
 - Timer
- Videos
 - Videos can be downloaded from the iTunes Store
- Contacts
 - Synced from email account(s)
- Game Center
 - Contains “recommendations” of game applications that can be purchased from the App Store
- iTunes
 - Download free or purchased music, movies, TV shows, apps, books, and podcasts
- App Store
 - Download and install free or purchased apps for iPad
- Newsstand
 - Preview and/or purchase a variety of current newspapers and magazines or purchase subscriptions

- FaceTime
 - Apple's answer to Skype
 - Works only between Apple products (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Mac)
- Camera
 - Still and video functions
 - Front and rear cameras available
- Settings
 - A place to set up accounts, change preferences, make the iPad work for you
- Photo Booth
 - Snap photos using effects:
 - X-Ray
 - Light Tunnel
 - Stretch
 - Mirror
 - Normal
 - Twirl
 - Thermal Camera
 - Kaleidoscope
 - Squeeze
- Music
 - Download music from the iTunes store
- Safari
 - Apple's Web Browser
- Mail
 - Set up one or all of your email accounts
- Photos
 - You iPad photo depository

Right off the bat, I would suggest that the Libraries add the following "shortcuts" for easy, one-touch access:

- Google
- Libraries
- ProQuest

The iPads added to the Libraries have *no* limits, lockdowns, or other restrictions. Users can purchase, download, install, and use any and all available content. When the iPad is returned to the Circulation desk and plugged in, it is completely re-imaged...totally wiped clean of all the user's activity. The next time that user borrows an iPad, he or she can download and install the free or purchased apps (all are saved under the user's log in at the App Store).

Technology "experts" have said that the iPad is a *consumption* tool...not a device used for serious or "real" work. We are all hoping that our students will use the iPads for research, but the cold, hard reality is that this amazingly fast tablet excels at providing quick access to favorite apps, websites, games, Facebook, etc. We can help make the iPad more "useful" by pre-installing useful apps. Remember, users can download anything they want. We may be able to save them some time and aggravation by having common and useful apps readily available.

In June, I asked for your recommendations on apps that we should consider adding to our Library iPad “image.” I received a few suggestions from a couple of folks but I thought we should have a greater selection. I’ve taken a LOT of apps for a “spin around the block” and have compiled a list of what I think might be worth a second look.

Although I have *looked* at all of the apps on the list, I have not had the opportunity to become an “expert” on any of them. What I have looked for, primarily, is:

- Is the application FREE?
 - Many (if not most) “free” applications for Apple or Android-based products are supported by ads.
 - Many (if not most) “free” applications offer an upgrade or premium version for a fee or subscription.
- Is there enough FREE content available to make the application somewhat useful?
 - Many “free” applications offer additional content for a fee or subscription.
- Is the application “different” enough from others to warrant inclusion in our “image”?

There are other factors that need to be considered. Computing Services personnel will evaluate the apps for safety and security and PASSHE attorneys must approve of the End User Agreements (EULAs) of the apps which the University installs on equipment.

Okay! So with all of that said...

Let’s get down to business! I’ve grouped the apps that look interesting into ten categories (which may or may not be correctly categorized):

- Books/Magazines
- Cloud Storage
- Education
- Entertainment
- Finance
- Games
- News/Weather
- Photography
- Social
- Tools

There are (I believe) 63 applications in all! Let’s start with the category “Books/Magazines”... (Don’t panic! There are only 11 apps.)