

Tangible interface for ISNM digital library

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I would suggest to have as tangible objects for digital library:

1. Posters (with RF tags or physical buttons) about digital collections
2. Physical objects (with RF tags or physical buttons) representing student projects
3. Books as physical, tangible objects

Posters (with RF tags or physical buttons) about digital collections

The user has a device with RFID reader. It can be a laptop, a PDA or a “wired”, stationary computer. The user scans the tag or presses the button and on the monitor the digital collection is shown. The digital collection can be a text file, an image, a music file or a movie.

Physical objects (with RF tags or physical buttons) representing projects

The user moves the physical objects to the hidden RFID reader and the monitor shows the information related to this object or project. As a physical object can be anything: from a coffee cup to a mobile phone.

Books as physical, tangible objects

The same is used for books in the physical library. By placing the book with RF tag to the hidden RFID reader the used gets information about this book on the monitor. If there is a digital copy of the book the user can copy this file or can see on the monitor.

In all cases in the objects there are hidden RF tags. The RFID reader scans the tag and the information processed by computer. For every tag there is connecting link in the system.

The system can be connected to Internet web server or to the local network server.

This idea is related only to the object that asks information about itself from the server.

With this technology it is not possible to track the location of the object, only the position by the last RFID scanning is definite. Accordingly, using this technology we cannot track books in the library. It will be possible if the library has only one window for books and the librarian or the robot place books by their address on the shelves. The server will have information which book is in the library and which one is out. But the server will not know if the book on its place. If we want that books know their place we need to have RFID readers near every book...

I think it is better and cheaper to have a librarian.