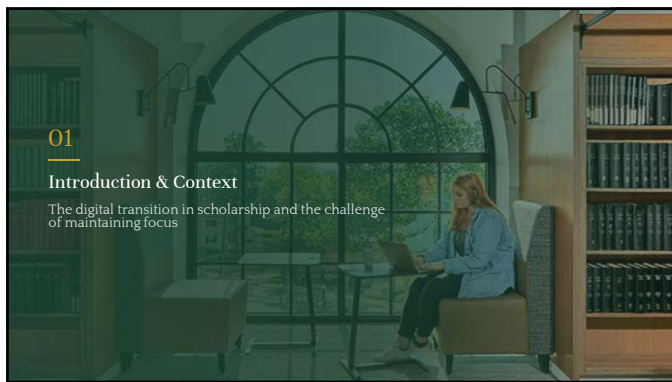




Presentation Overview

<p>01</p> <p>Introduction & Context</p> <p>The digital transition in scholarship and the challenge of maintaining focus in a distracted world</p>	<p>02</p> <p>Literature & Framework</p> <p>E-resource engagement, digital distraction, and MDM solutions in educational contexts</p>
<p>03</p> <p>The iPad Initiative</p> <p>Case study of the 27-unit iPad deployment and technical implementation</p>	<p>04</p> <p>Results & Implications</p> <p>Findings from the case study and future directions for digital library services</p>



Introduction & Context Literature & Framework The iPad Initiative Results & Implications

The Digital Challenge: Too Much Access, Too Little Focus

Digital devices offer remarkable convenience a student can search databases, read articles, and organize references almost instantly. Yet the same device opens unrelated websites, entertainment, and messaging apps.

Research shows users switch tasks frequently, with focus interrupted **within less than a minute**. For students engaged in serious academic work, this reduces comprehension and weakens critical thinking.

At **Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah**, focused attention is essential to scholarly development. The challenge: provide modern tools while protecting the academic atmosphere.

The Core Problem

Students begin with academic intentions but become distracted by unrelated browsing. Over time, this weakens the purpose of technology. The library faces a **dual responsibility**:

1. Provide access to modern scholarly tools
2. Protect the focused academic atmosphere

"The goal is not to limit knowledge, but to protect concentration."

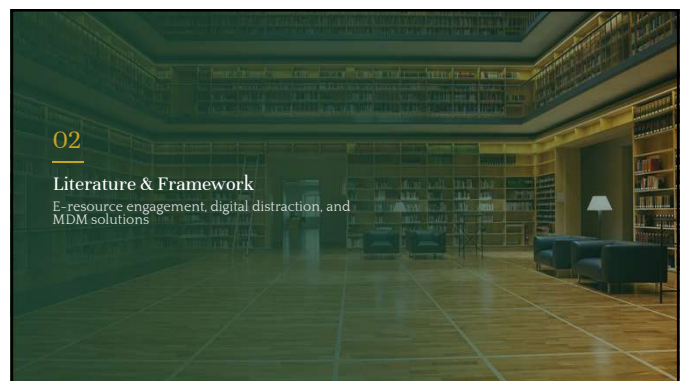
Introduction & Context Literature & Framework The iPad Initiative Results & Implications

The Focused-Resource Initiative

The library introduced a focused-resource initiative with **27 managed iPads** configured for academic use. Using Apple School Manager and JAMF School, devices are transformed into dedicated research tools creating a **"digital sanctuary."**

<p>Single App Mode</p> <p>Devices lock into one designated application during research sessions, preventing multitasking and ensuring complete focus on the assigned resource.</p>	<p>App Whitelisting</p> <p>Only approved educational apps are accessible. All entertainment, communication, and social media applications are blocked from the devices.</p>	<p>Web Filtering</p> <p>Internet browsing restricted to approved academic domains. Students access trusted research platforms while unrelated websites are blocked.</p>
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Key Principle: Technology is most effective when it is intentionally designed to support learning outcomes devices should guide students toward productive academic behaviors.



Introduction & Context Literature & Framework The iPad Initiative Results & Implications

E-Resource Engagement & The Distraction Problem

The Engagement Gap
Academic libraries have invested heavily in e-resources through ProQuest, Taylor & Francis and EBSCOhost. Yet studies show a persistent gap between access and actual usage. Students often prefer freely available web content over scholarly databases easier to find, faster to access, more familiar.

The "Digital Native" Challenge
Comfort with technology does not equal effective academic use. Students may know how to operate devices but still struggle with focused reading and sustained attention. Continuous partial attention weakens depth of engagement, creating a false sense of productivity.

Key Insight: From Provision to Engagement
Libraries must shift from resource provision to resource engagement – creating systems where technology actively supports concentration and academic discipline. Controlled digital environments are an emerging response.

Implication for Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah: In an environment where academic success depends on disciplined study, unrestricted digital access can conflict with institutional values.

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Introduction & Context Literature & Framework The iPad Initiative Results & Implications

Mobile Device Management in Education

Mobile Device Management (MDM) platforms allow institutions to configure, monitor, secure, and control digital devices remotely shaping how devices are used for learning.

01 Single App Mode
Locks a device into one designated application. Users cannot exit, access settings, or switch tasks creating highly focused educational tools.

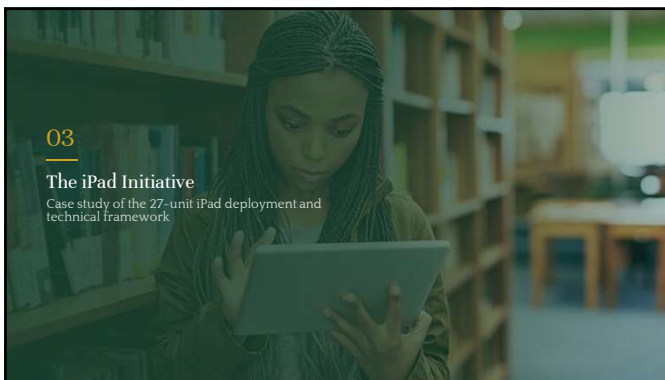
02 App Whitelisting
Ensures only approved educational apps are accessible. All non-academic applications remain hidden and unreachable by students.

03 Web Content Filtering
Limits internet browsing to selected academic websites and databases. Students cannot freely navigate the wider internet.

Educational Impact: MDM systems shape student behavior by reducing distractions and guiding attention. For libraries, this transforms e-resource engagement from passive availability into purposeful interaction.

Common MDM platforms: JAMF School | Microsoft Intune for Education | Mosyle Manager | Apple School Manager

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Controlled Hardware: The Core Philosophy

"The design of a device influences the behavior of its user. Devices should be designed to support concentration rather than test self-control."

The Problem with Open Devices
In many settings, digital devices are treated as flexible tools for any activity. Students are expected to manage their own digital habits balancing academic work with entertainment and communication. At Aljamea-tus-Saifiyah, this model does not align with the institution's philosophy of focus, intentional study, and disciplined engagement.

Four Key Advantages

- Protects attention – removes distractions
- Reinforces discipline – aligns with values
- Creates consistency – same environment for all
- Guides engagement – curated pathways

The iPad was chosen for its reliability, portability, and compatibility with Apple School Manager and JAMF School enabling precise control over settings, applications, and access permissions.

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Technical Framework: ASM & JAMF School

Apple School Manager (ASM)
Device registration and institutional ownership
Core Functions:

- Register all 27 iPads under institutional ownership
- Automatic enrollment into the management system
- Bulk purchase and distribution of educational apps via VPP
- Create and manage staff and administrator accounts
- Maintain long-term institutional control

JAMF School MDM
Operational control and device management
Core Functions:

- App whitelisting – only approved educational apps
- Single App Mode – lock to one application
- Web content filtering – approved academic sites only
- Remote monitoring and troubleshooting
- Organize devices into purpose-based groups

Together, ASM and JAMF School create a secure, focused digital learning environment where iPads function as dedicated research tools not general-purpose devices.

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Implementation & Configuration

01 ASM Registration

- Institutional verification with Apple
- D-U-N-S Number submission
- ASM account approval
- Administrative roles configured
- Organizational settings established

02 JAMF Integration

- Secure Server Token exchange
- Public Key upload to ASM
- All 27 iPads assigned via serial numbers
- Automatic enrollment configured
- Management restrictions applied

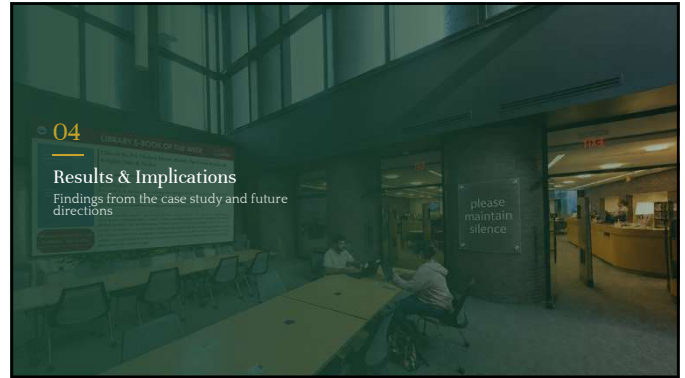
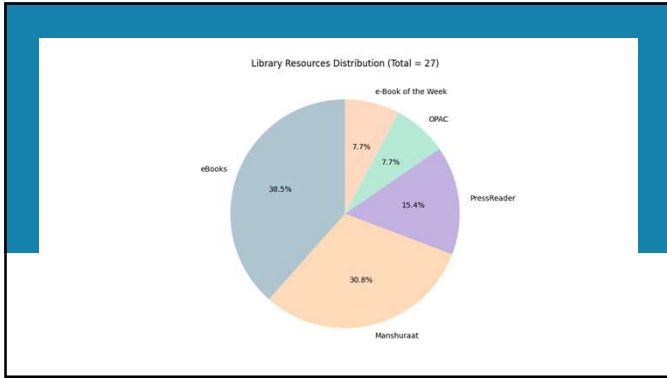
03 License Management

- VPP bulk license purchasing
- Synchronization with JAMF School
- Silent deployment to all 27 iPads
- License reassignment capability
- Usage tracking and compliance

iPad Allocation (27 Units)

Resource	Units	Purpose
e-Books (ProQuest, Taylor & Francis)	10	Digital reading and research access
e-Book Display	2	e-Book of the week
Manshuraat (Digital Archives)	8	Institutional manuscript and archive access
Pressreader	4	Newspaper and magazine reading
OPAC	2	Library catalog

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Introduction & Context Literature & Frameworks The iPad Initiative **Results & Implications**

Results: Dedicated iPads & Academic Discipline

Dedicated iPads Eliminate Choice Paralysis
Each iPad configured for a **single designated resource** e.g., a "Fatimi Research Portal" iPad permanently assigned to that platform. Students immediately enter the resource without navigating menus or apps. This eliminates the **"Paradox of Choice"** and directs attention to intended academic activities.

Single App Mode Maintains Discipline
Once activated, users **cannot exit** the assigned app, access settings, or switch tasks. This transformed iPads into highly focused educational tools. Students perceived devices as **academic tools**, not entertainment gadgets fostering a culture of concentration and scholarly engagement.

Additional Outcomes

- Reduced IT support burden
- Enhanced system stability
- Better device consistency
- Improved resource visibility
- Data-driven decision making
- Improved user privacy
- Simplified training for new students
- Strengthened institutional control
- Higher learning efficiency

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Introduction & Context Literature & Frameworks The iPad Initiative **Results & Implications**

Key Findings & Future Directions

Key Findings

- "Less is more" in digital scholarship.** Carefully limiting functionality to essential resources creates a more productive educational environment than unlimited access.
- Centralized management reduces burden.** ASM and JAMF School enabled remote deployment, reducing manual configuration and technical support requests.
- Controlled environments deepen engagement.** Students perceived devices as academic tools, fostering concentration and purposeful interaction.

Future Directions

- 1. Expand the iPad fleet** – scale the current deployment
- 2. AR integration** – augmented reality for architectural study of Fatimi monuments
- 3. Digital literacy programs** – information literacy and ethical technology training
- 4. Analytics integration** – usage statistics for evidence-based planning
- 5. Cloud-based resources** – extend library reach beyond physical spaces

"Technology must serve the learner, and the learner must remain focused on the pursuit of knowledge without unnecessary digital distractions."

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