

Digital Archives of Buddhist Sutras and Writings in a Mobile Application with Chinese-English and Chinese-Spanish Split-Screen

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In a digital world where the current mobile platforms are dominated by digital entertainment applications, it is difficult to find Buddhism apps that can captivate and effectively teach users the virtues of Humanistic Buddhism without requiring their immense dedication. The Hsing Yun app aims to fill that void by combining intuitive, attractive visual design, accessible yet engaging educational content, and social media connectivity in a brand new fashion that integrates Humanistic Buddhism into users' daily lives like never before.

Even though the Hsing Yun app was created to be suitable for everyone, extra attention was given during development to focus on western and younger audiences whom are the most difficult to reach for other similar Buddhism apps. The first part was resolved by having the app be multilingual with the options of Chinese-English and Chinese-Spanish split-screen. As for the latter, the app has been designed with a robust UI, creating a more intuitive and streamlined experience for regular users while sporting an attractive look and feel that would appeal to the younger audience.

Religious texts can be difficult to comprehend and appreciate for people with little or no religious background. Many spiritual apps suffer from the common problem of not being suitable or appealing for users who are not already active practitioners of said religion. The Hsing Yun app remedies this problem by utilizing short educational stories authored by Master Venerable Hsing Yun as its primary content. These thousand-word stories are short and engaging, covers a wide spectrum of topics, and full of educational values that are interesting to read and quick to consume. To make the app even more accessible, the main text is accompanied by beautifully crafted visual imagery to help reinforce core ideas and allow better digestion and absorption of the material. Users are also given the option of experiencing the stories with an audio reading of the text, which allows even the most busy, young users to enjoy on-the-go.

Since the Hsing Yun app is developed to be used primarily as a teaching and learning platform, the importance of learning amongst peers was recognized early on. A fully fleshed out social environment is integrated right into the app. Users have the ability to easily share their thoughts on a certain verse or part of a book with friends and family via social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. While embedded news feed can be used to deliver updates or as a platform for involving group of friends or the whole family to learn together and be inspired by the teachings of Humanistic Buddhism.