BYOD@HKUL: Success, Failure and Lessons Learned

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Abstracts

BYOD (Bring your own device) is gathering momentum in higher education. It is seen, together with mobile computing, migrating to the Cloud and others, as one of the top institutional IT priorities over the next two-three years.[1] Its prevalence among library user has enabled digital contents to be available anywhere, anytime.

The University of Hong Kong Libraries (HKUL) has been in the BYOD business long before the term was coined in 2005.[2] HKUL has been playing a significant role in supporting the use of mobile devices on campus ever since the University rolled out a notebook ownership programme, which provided financial subsidies to new students of undergraduate courses to buy notebook PCs, in the late 1990s. This has resulted in the enhancement of library facilities and services over the years, from the provision of wired and wireless connections, power sockets and charging stations, to the design of new library spaces which facilitate users to use their notebook PCs, tablets and smartphones conveniently.

The Libraries also promoted the BYOD concept. It launched Hong Kong's first wireless-LAN enabled Palm handheld information solution, MyLibrary@Hand, in 2003. The objective was to make "library without wall" a reality by allowing users to search the library catalogue, access to subscribed e-journals and request library services without entering the library. Unfortunately, the programme was not able to gain sufficient public support and became obsolete gradually.

The presentation aims at sharing the HKUL experience: both in supporting BYOD and promoting BYOD. While there are success stories we can share with others, lessons we have learned over the years would probably be relevant in the era of BYOD.

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[1] http://www.campuscomputing.net/item/2013-campus-computing-survey-0 (accessed on 23 October 2013)

[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bring_your_own_device (accessed on 23 October 2013)