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Proceedings of the IATUL Conferences

2018 IATUL Proceedings

Enhancing information literacy via MOOC and library's i-Space

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ENHANCING INFORMATION LITERACY VIA MOOC AND LIBRARY'S I-SPACE

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Abstract

Equating search with research, as reaffirmed by the studies led by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Library, is a widespread misconception among undergraduates in Hong Kong. Base on real findings of the studies, a self-paced, asynchronous, non-credit bearing online MOOC courseware "InfoLit for U", has been launched in early 2018. The "InfoLit for U" MOOC courseware was jointly designed by the libraries of all public funded universities in Hong Kong. Its design takes reference from the relational model of information literacy, in particular, the knowledge creation face of informed learning. The focal module, developed by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Library, addresses essential concepts and common misconceptions about using information in university learning and career settings, while the eight discipline modules designed by participating libraries focus on discipline-specific information literacy (IL) practices. All modules start with the "IL & Me" series of video sharing by professionals to highlight the personal relevance of information to university learning, research and future career. Animated scenarios, games and exercises help students to adopt appropriate learning-to-learn dispositions and best practices of information literacy. An i-Space has been set up in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Library in October 2017 to enrich students' information experience. It is a technology-rich space furnished with a variety of easy to use digital equipment and facilities for students from all disciplines to experience evolving technologies, to learn, evaluate and create digital content. The Digital Makerspace provides 3D Printers, 3D scanners, laser cutter, VR Experience Zone, IoT (Internet of Things) and Large Format Printing equipment while the Digital Visualisation Room is equipped with a high performance computer and high-resolution Video Wall to facilitate visualisation of data. The Multimedia Commons provides a Digital Studio and a number of multimedia workstations.

Keywords

Information literacy, MOOC, animated scenarios, i-Space, makerspace, studio, experiential learning

The competence of using information analytically, creatively and wisely for inquiries and research is critical to successful university learning and future careers. However, this set of competence cannot be learned unless one experiences the process, outcome, success and even failure first-hand, including: plan the information needs of research, search for ideas for developing new ideas, evaluate ideas to form better ideas, synthesize ideas, and learn from the community.

This presentation introduces two initiatives of the Library of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: (1) the "InfoLit for U" MOOC, and (2) the iSpace. Both initiatives aim at promoting the development of students' information competence.

Under a government-funded project led by the Library of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and participated by all publicly funded universities in Hong Kong, the "InfoLit for U" MOOC was officially launched in February 2018. The self-paced MOOC was designed to help students develop information literacy and competence in eight major disciplines needed for inquiry-based learning, through familiar university research animated scenarios, interactive contents, professionals' sharing, as well as formative assessment items.

The "InfoLit for U" MOOC courseware was jointly designed by the libraries of all public funded universities in Hong Kong. Its design takes reference from the relational model of information literacy, in particular, the knowledge creation face of informed learning (Bruce, 2008). The focal module, developed by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Library, addresses essential concepts and common misconceptions about using information in university learning and career settings, while the eight discipline modules designed by eight participating university libraries respectively focus on discipline-specific information literacy (IL) practices. All modules start with the "IL & Me" series of video sharing by professionals to highlight the personal relevance of information to university learning, research and future career. Animated scenarios, games and exercises help students to adopt appropriate learning-to-learn dispositions and best practices of information literacy.

In addition to the launch of the "InfoLit for U" MOOC, an i-Space has been set up in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Library in October 2017 to enrich students' information experience. It is a technology-rich space furnished with a variety of easy to use digital equipment and facilities for students from all disciplines to experience evolving technologies, to learn, evaluate and create digital content.

The Library's i-Space is a group workspace and is zoned to represent an Innovation Design Roadmap of Inspiration, Ideation and Implementation. The Inspiration and Ideation zones have been purposefully designed to inspire and stimulate creativity and curiosity through interactive and multidisciplinary collaboration. Over 5,000 volumes of design and makerspace books and

journals are displayed among the flexible and moveable furniture for group discussion. Idea Pods with white boards on featured walls, and bookable Group Study Booths equipped with LED TVs for 4-6 persons are in place.

In the Implementation Zone, a variety of easy to use digital facilities and services are available for students to actualize their creativity and imagination. The Digital Makerspace provides hands-on workshops and technical support to encourage students from all disciplines to learn and operate the easy-to-use digital and fabrication tools, to build their prototypes and actualise and present their ideas in one go. 3D Printers, 3D scanners, laser cutter, VR Experience Zone, IoT (Internet of Things) and Large Format Printing equipment are available. The Digital Visualisation Room in i-Space is equipped with a high performance computer and high-resolution Video Wall to facilitate visualisation of data with images in high resolution and videos for academic discussion and to support collaborative learning. This room also serves as a co-working space to support Digital Makerspace's workshops and activities when there is no class or event in the room. The Multimedia Commons of i-Space provides a Digital Studio equipped with a 4K video camcorder and professional lighting equipment to support audio and video recording, and a number of Multimedia Workstations (graphic PC and Mac computers) for editing video clips and creating 3D models.

Since its launch in October 2017, the iSpace has become an experiential learning space at the PolyU Library for students to experience the three "I"s crucial to university learning: inspiration, ideation, and implementation. The collaboration-supporting design of iSpace also promotes both individual and group inquiry, ideas development and refinement, as well as hands-on experience in constructing non-text intellectual outputs for innovative applications. Workshops have been provided for students to use the entry-level digital tools to inspire curiosity and to explore the affordance of emerging technologies in the new information world.