

Key Factors in Establishing an Effective Mobile Learning Community

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Overview



- Community of Practice Project

- Mobile Learning Community (MLC)

- Key factors in establishing MLC

- Challenges and Solutions

- Conclusion

Community of Practice (CoP) Project

Fostering a mobile learning community:
the use of mobile technology in studying
subject knowledge through English at
tertiary education in Hong Kong

Funded by Hong Kong University Grants Council:
promoting CoP

Project duration: Apr. 2013 - Jun. 2015



What is CoP?

- ❖ A group of people who share a ***concern*** or passion for some thing they do and learn how to do it better as they ***interact regularly***. (Wenger 2010)



Project aims

(1) To promote using mobile technologies in teaching and learning in higher education institutions

(2) To bind together individuals or small groups to form a larger community of mobile learning that integrates subject learning in English



Key factors in establishing a successful MLC

- Recruitment of members
- Establishing a MLC website
- Organization of sharing sessions
- Making an impact on students' learning
- Making an impact on staff development
- Evaluation of effectiveness of the MLC



Recruitment of members

Challenges and Solutions:

- Identifying proactive staff (critical mass)
- Identifying proactive students
- Interacting with other related projects
- Promoting the MLC via leaflets / emails
- Sending invitations (email/poster)
- Online registration form
- Hard copy registration form (after sharings)
- Snowballing through members

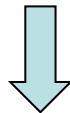


Recruitment of members: progress

- At the start:
6 staff + 30 student members



Through a series of activities to promote MLC



- Now:
54 staff + 252 student members
(many more participated in community activities)



Establishing a MLC website

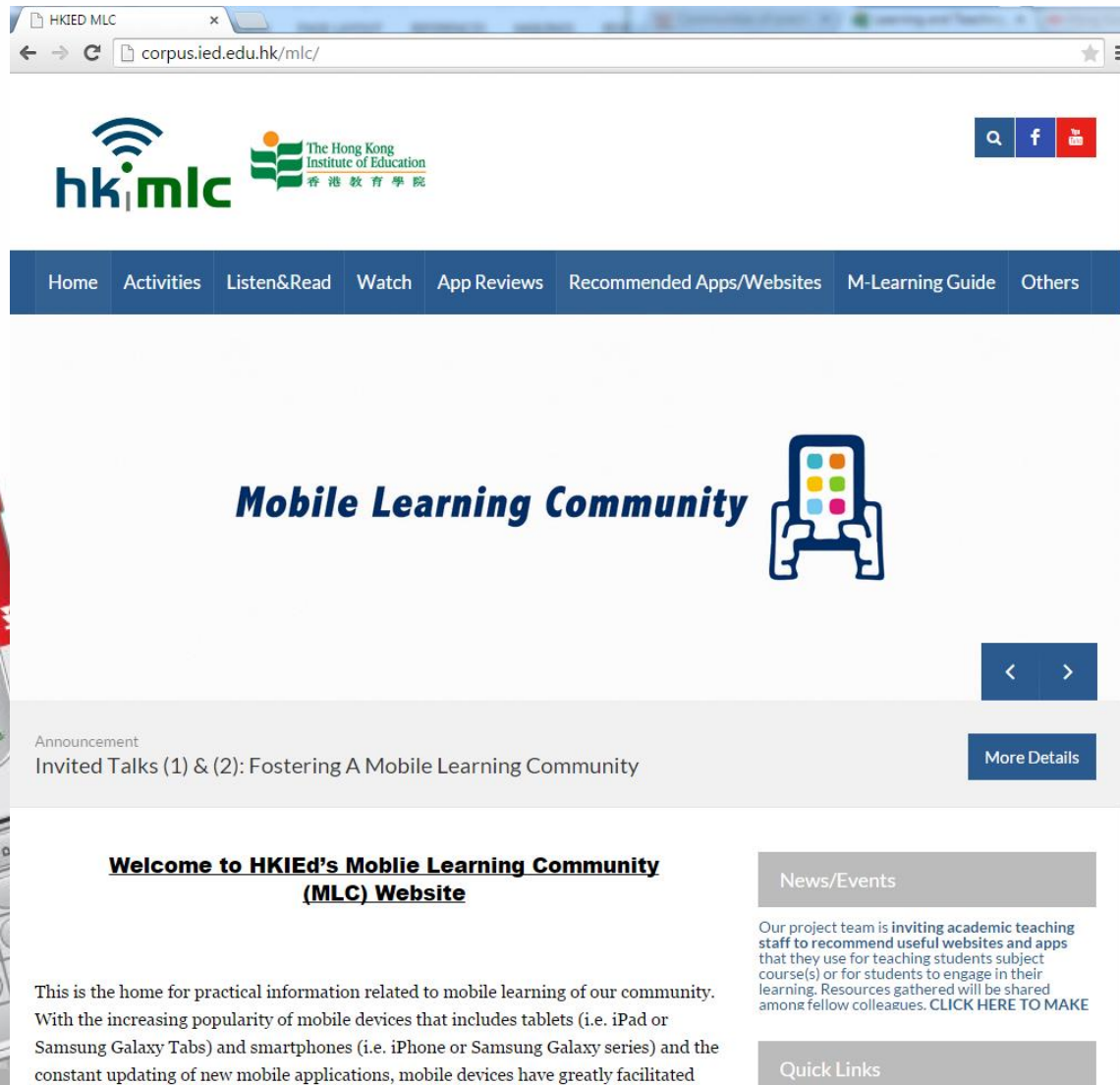

<http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/mlc>

An online platform that allows community members (students and teachers) to share their valuable insights and to disseminate good practices to other students and teachers who are interested in mobile learning.



The MLC website

<http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/mlc>



HKIED MLC

corpus.ied.edu.hk/mlc/

hkimlc The Hong Kong Institute of Education 香港教育學院

Home Activities Listen&Read Watch App Reviews Recommended Apps/Websites M-Learning Guide Others

Mobile Learning Community

Announcement

Invited Talks (1) & (2): Fostering A Mobile Learning Community

More Details

Welcome to HKIED's Mobile Learning Community (MLC) Website

This is the home for practical information related to mobile learning of our community. With the increasing popularity of mobile devices that includes tablets (i.e. iPad or Samsung Galaxy Tabs) and smartphones (i.e. iPhone or Samsung Galaxy series) and the constant updating of new mobile applications, mobile devices have greatly facilitated

News/Events

Our project team is inviting academic teaching staff to recommend useful websites and apps that they use for teaching students subject course(s) or for students to engage in their learning. Resources gathered will be shared among fellow colleagues. [CLICK HERE TO MAKE](#)

Quick Links

The MLC website: Homepage

- Introduction to MLC site
- Membership hyperlinks
- Online evaluation form for evaluating the site



The MLC website: Activities

➤ Present and past community activities:

- Seminars
- Sharing sessions
- Mini conferences
- Workshops



The MLC website: Listen & Read

➤ Personalised mobile learning/teaching stories:

- students' mobile learning stories
- staff's mobile teaching stories

Innovative use of mobile apps or web technologies in facilitating learning and teaching

- written stories
- audio stories



The MLC website: Watch

➤ Videos of students/teachers sharing their mobile learning experiences

- video learning stories by students
- videos of sharing sessions/seminars by staff
- videos of workshops on mobile learning



The MLC website: App Reviews

- 200 language and subject learning app reviews written by students from 13 Hong Kong higher education institutions.
- Language apps covering a wide range of languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Taiwanese, French, German and Spanish
- Subject-oriented apps covering a wide range of subjects such as Social Science, Arts & Psychology, Music, Mathematics & Information Technology



The MLC website: Recommended Apps/Websites

- Large number of learning apps and websites recommended by students and teachers.

Students' section: dictionary applications, e-news websites, learning applications, learning websites, online dictionaries, online lexical concordancers, social & communication apps, and music & videos.

Teachers' section: corpus based learning resources, dictionaries, English language learning resources, general tools apps, learning management systems, machine translation, speech & pronunciation apps/websites, online presentation apps, music education, reading apps, and social media apps



The MLC website: MLC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/hkiedmoblearn?ref=hl>

- To keep community members well updated and informed on the activities and events (i.e. seminars, workshops, sharing sessions)
- To allow members interact with each other (vote/comment on favourite mobile learning poster, etc.)



HKIEd Mobile Learning Co x

← → ↻ <https://www.facebook.com/hkiedmoblearn?ref=hl> ★

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HKIEd Mobile Learning Community is on Facebook.

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Community

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PEOPLE ▸


177 likes

ABOUT ▸

ⓘ This is the official Facebook page of HKIEd's Mobile Learning Community.

🌐 <http://corpus.ied.edu.hk/mlc>

PHOTOS ▸



 **HKIEd Mobile Learning Community** 在 May 22, 2015 - Invited Talks (1) & (2): Fostering A Mobile Learning Community 相簿中新增了 7 張 5 月的相片。

5月 · 🌐 · 📷




Organization of sharing sessions

Theme-based seminars or sharings for staff and students:

- “Building a Mobile Learning Community: Using Mobile Technologies to Facilitate the Learning & Teaching of EMI Courses at HKIEd”
- Student Presentations – “1st Mini Conference on Mobile Seamless Language Learning”
- “The Future of Language Learning and Teacher Education with MALL.”
- "Mobile Flipped Classroom for Mathematics Teaching with Schoology"
- "Websites or Apps to facilitate the Learning of Chinese Language Foundation Skills"
- “BYOD: Using Edmodo for Reflective Engagement of Learners”
- “Using an Online Student Response System to Animate Linguistic Lectures”



Making an impact on student learning

Challenges and Solutions:

Activities to enhance students' various skills:

1. Sharing of learning stories (reflection)
2. App reviews (critical thinking)
3. Discussion forum (problem solving)
4. Student sharing sessions (presentation of ideas)
5. Self evaluation (learning gains)



Making an impact on staff development

Activities for staff development:

- Staff sharing sessions to showcase good practices (models to follow)
- Training workshops on using innovative mobile technologies in assisting teaching (practical skills)
- Online discussion forums (problem solving)
- Self-evaluation of mobile teaching experiences (reflective engagement in the MLC)



Impact on staff professional development: Examples

- Staff members obtained new knowledge and skills about mobile learning through attending community activities

Dr A: learned to use Edmodo and applied in his courses

Dr B: learned to use Wikibook and applied in her course

Dr C: learned to use social media tools to teach English

...



Evaluation of effectiveness of the MLC

- MLC site: 186 students completed online evaluation, the average mean score of all 10 items being 4.06 (on a 1-5 likert scale) → The MLC site is effective
- Sharing sessions: evaluation surveys carried out at the end, on average 93% participants agreed or strongly agreed that the sessions were valuable
- Students/staff self-evaluation: benefited from the community activities
- “Ambassador of Mobile Learning” Award for students
- Teaching awards won by teacher members
- Expert evaluation of the CoP project: positive



Conclusion

- Community of Practice should be promoted in tertiary education
- Mobile learning is gaining momentum, and a Mobile Learning Community can greatly benefit both staff and students
- There are a number of key factors in establishing a successful MLC:
 - Recruitment of members
 - Establishing a MLC website
 - Organization of sharing sessions
 - Making an impact on students' learning
 - Making an impact on staff development
 - Evaluation of effectiveness of the MLC



Thank You !



References

Wenger, E. (2010) Communities of practice and social learning systems: the career of a concept. In Blackmore, C. (Editor) *Social Learning Systems and communities of practice*. Springer Verlag and the Open University.

