Innovation in Mobile and Flexible Learning: From M-Library to Mobile ESL.

With the rapid evolution of technology today, distance education is about to shift to Mobile learning where e-learning materials are being delivered through mobile devices. Wireless and mobile technology provides flexibility: in time and location of study; in availability of information and resources; and in forms of communication, such as synchronous and asynchronous interaction through the Internet. Our University has initiated a Mobile Library (M-library) project including the mobile-friendly Digital Reading Room (DRR), Digital Thesis and Project Room (DTPR), Digital Reference Centre (DRC), and AirPAC. The M-library system can auto-detect users’ devices and bring them to the appropriate version (mobile or desktop) of the Web site.

Due to the ongoing success of the M-library, our library has continued to innovate and support our students on mobile devices. The mobile ESL (English as a Second Language) website allows students to read lessons and then do exercises that provide instant feedback. This makes ESL training available to anyone in the world with a web-friendly mobile device. This project is expanding further with a new Workplace English website that will bring richer multimedia (video/audio) content to mobile devices such as the iPhone. Making resources and lessons available to increasingly popular mobile devices ensures that we will be able to meet the growing demand for flexibility from our students.