



**From KNC to LC:
Evolving learning space @ Main Library,
The University of Hong Kong**

Y.C. Wan and Antonia Yiu
The University of Hong Kong Libraries
December 2007



The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

- Established in **1911**: The first and oldest university in Hong Kong
- **10 Faculties**
 - Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science and Social Sciences
- Number of **students**: 20,032
- Number of **staff**: 7,691
- Number of **alumni**: Around 119,000



The University of Hong Kong Libraries (HKU Libraries)

- **Main Library** and **six branch libraries**
- **Collection size:**
 - 2.56 million bound volumes
 - 1.37 million electronic titles
 - 1.88 million non-print items and others.
- No. of **registered library users**
 - Around 100,000
- Total **library space**
 - 43,263 square metres

A photograph of students in a library study area. In the foreground, a young woman with glasses and a blue jacket is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another young woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a piece of paper. In the background, other students are visible, some sitting at tables and others standing. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern, open-plan library environment.

From KNC
to LC

**Today's topic:
Evolving learning space at its
Main Library**



From KNC
to LC

Agenda

- Story of the learning spaces @Main Library
- Knowledge Navigation Centre (KNC)
- The driving forces
- Concluding remarks

A photograph of students in a library study area. In the foreground, a young woman with glasses and a blue jacket is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another young woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a large sheet of paper. In the background, other students are visible at tables, some looking at books or papers. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern library environment.

From KNC
to LC

**Story of the Learning Spaces
@ Main Library**

1912

1961

1991

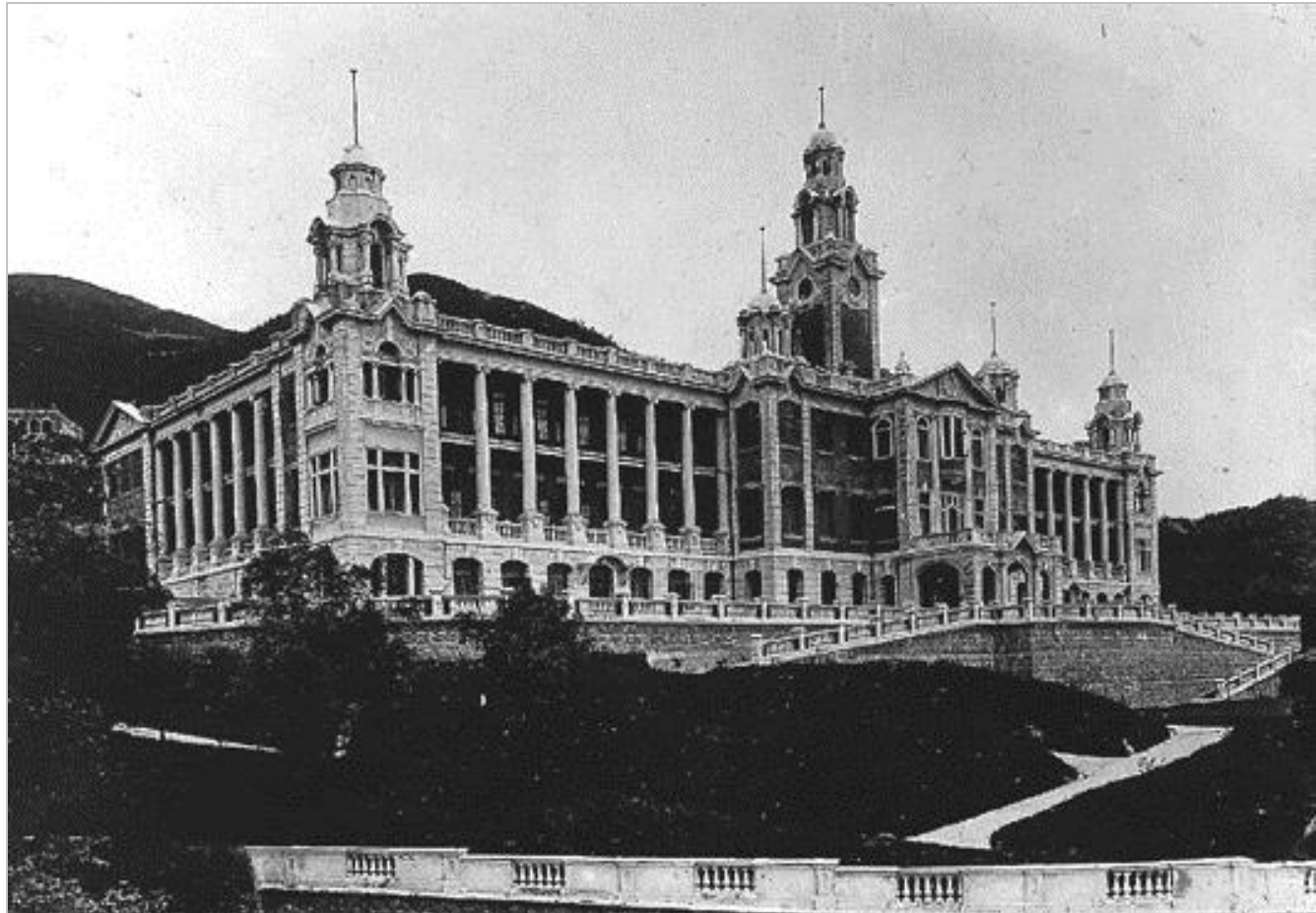
1995

1998

2007

What happened in...

Establishment of HKUL in the Main Building



Evolving learning space @ Main Library (HKU)

Bookshelves for the print collection



Hush! Quiet study in progress.



1912

1961

1991

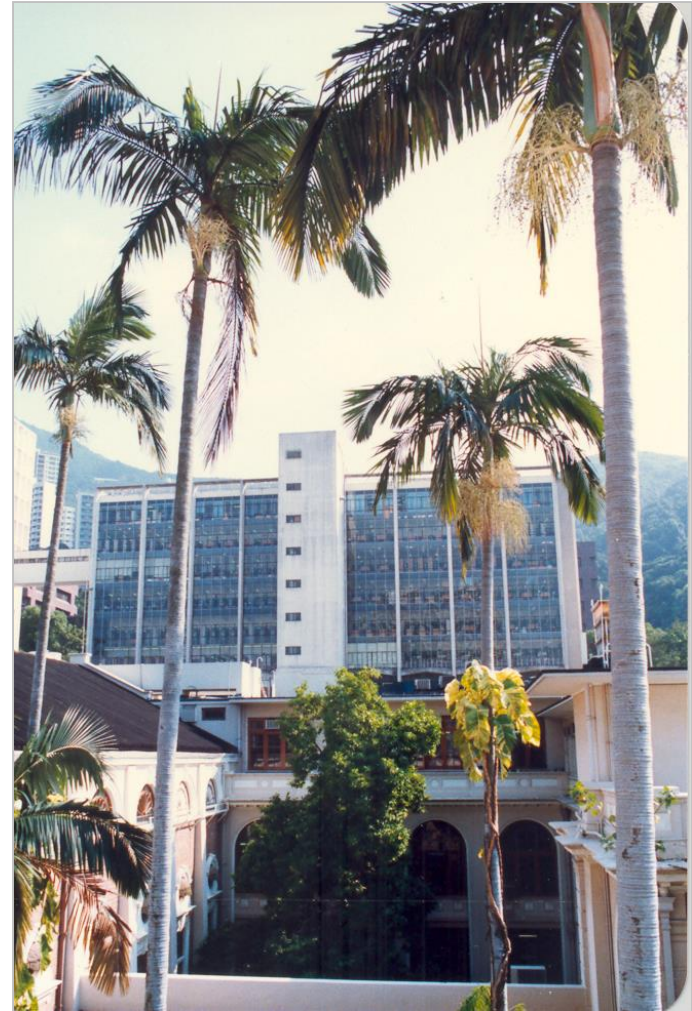
1995

1998

2007

What happened in...

HKU Libraries moved to the Old Library Building



Evolving learning space



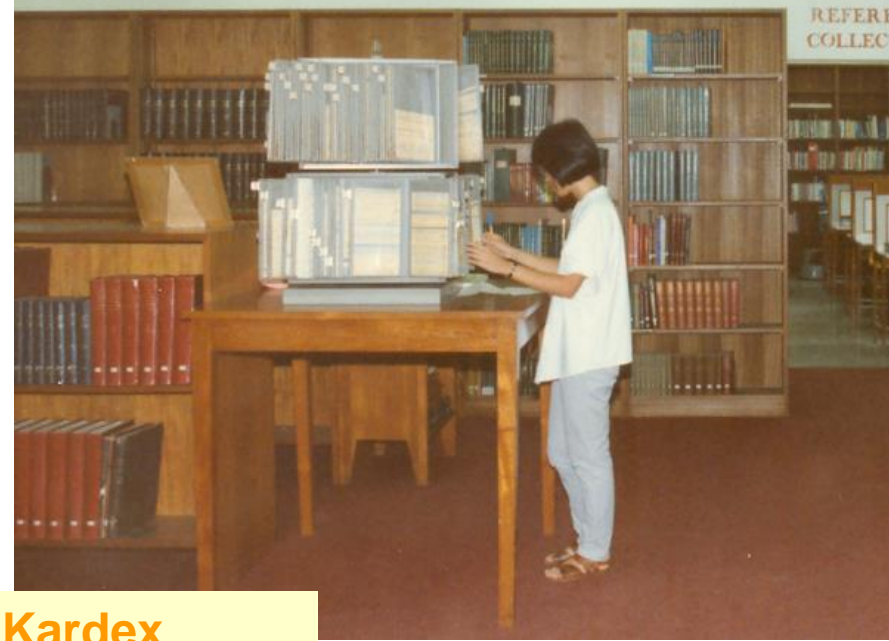
Main Library (HKU)

The **information tools**

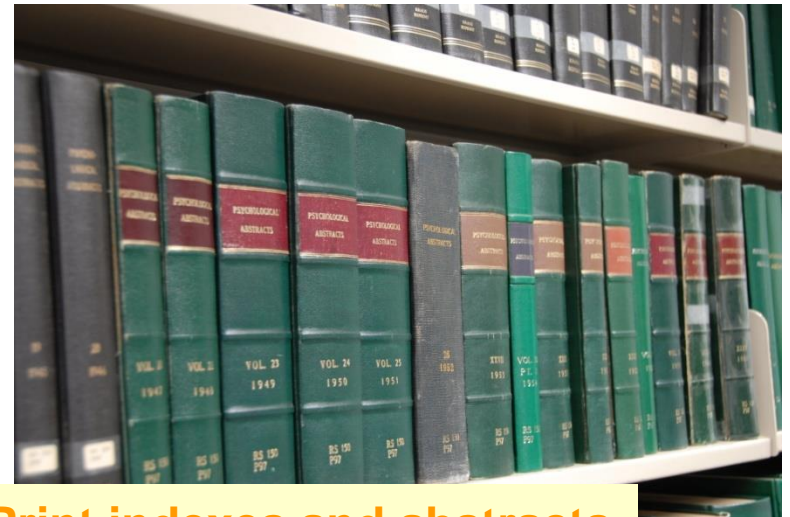
were predominantly



Card catalogue



Kardex



Print indexes and abstracts

The dawn of computer-aided search



Mediated online search



The "New Online Catalogue" for end-user searching in 1986

CD-ROM Search workstations in 1988



Learning space still mainly dedicated to **shelves**
and **quiet reading**



1912

1961

1991

1995

1998

2007

The New Library Building

What happened in...



Evolving learning space @ Main Library (HKU)

A new breakthrough!



Atrium on G/F., New Library Building dedicated to **user search workstations.**

1912

1961

1991

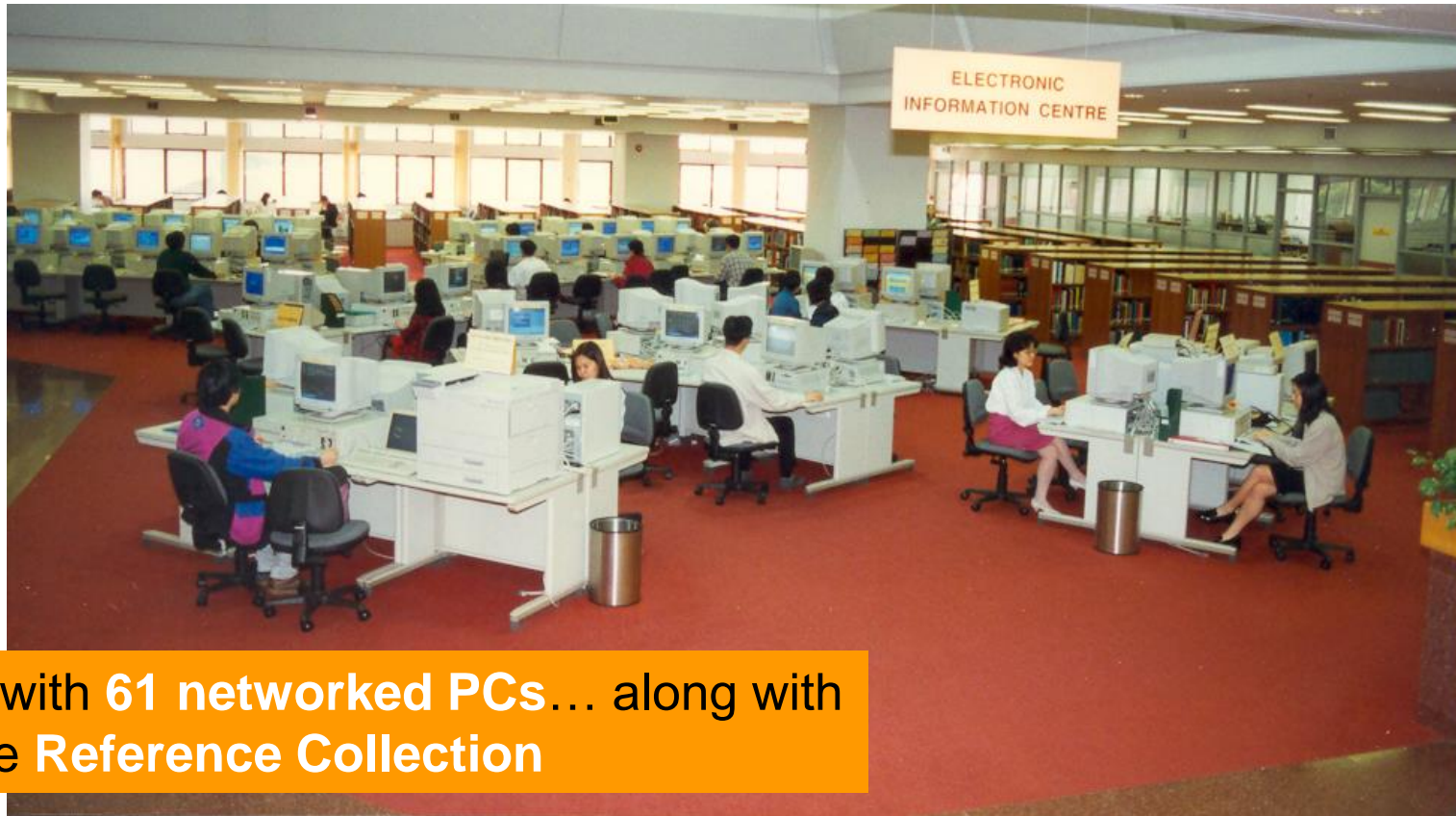
1995

1998

2007

What happened in...

The atrium transformed to an **Electronic Information Centre...**



...with 61 networked PCs... along with
the Reference Collection



Search workstations for **fulltext CD-ROMs**

1912

1961

1991

1995

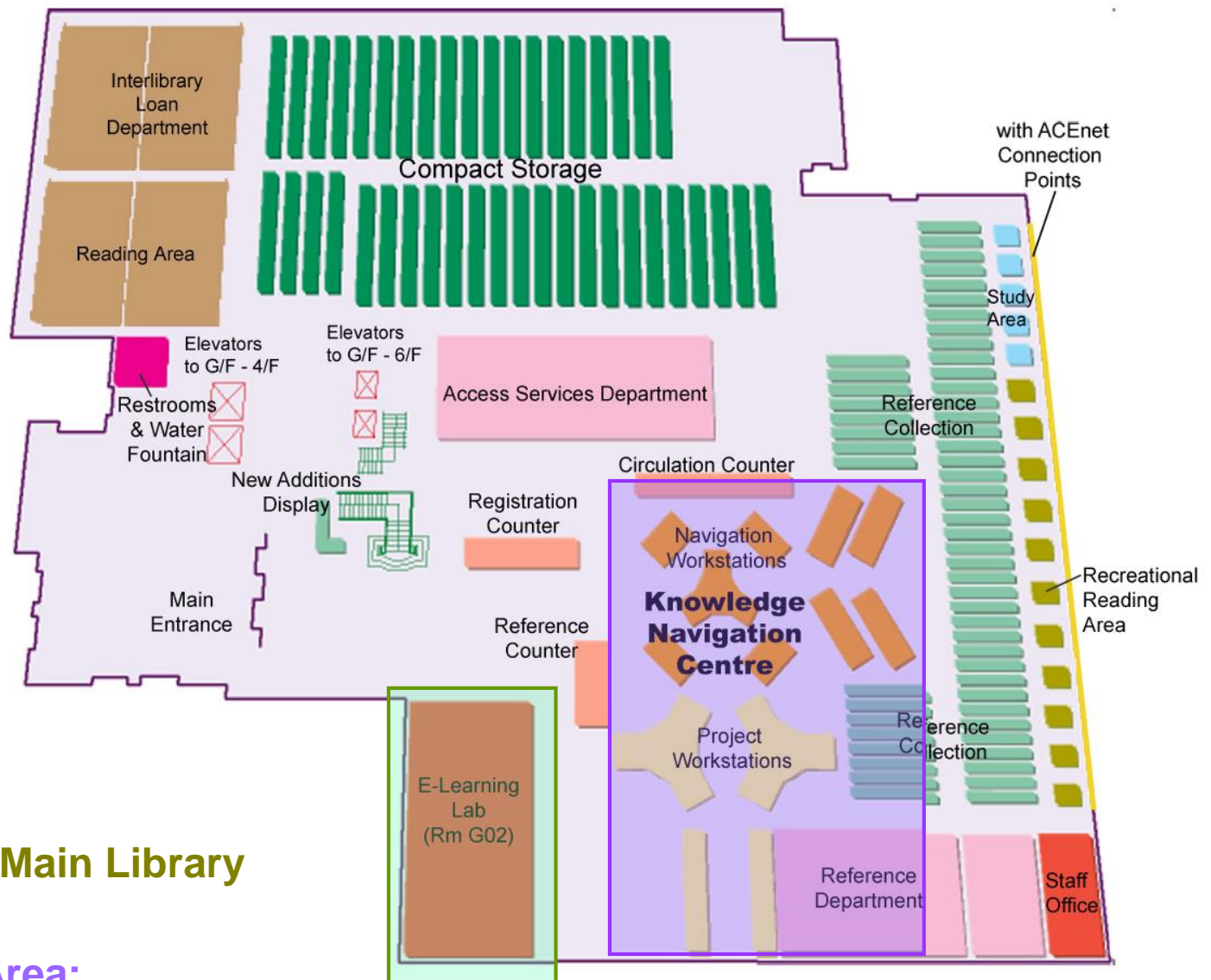
1998

2007

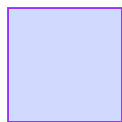
KNC opened in December 1998

What happened in...

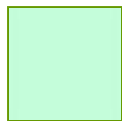




Floor Plan, G/F., Main Library



Student Area:
302.31 sq. m.



E-Learning Lab:
107.85 sq. m.

A photograph of students in a classroom or computer lab. In the foreground, a young man with glasses and a grey shirt is looking at a computer monitor. Next to him, a young woman with glasses and a blue jacket is also looking at the screen. To her right, another young woman with long hair, wearing a dark blue jacket with 'GLACIER' written on it, is writing on a piece of paper with a yellow pencil. In the background, another student is visible at a desk. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

From KNC
to LC

**What's so special
about KNC?**



**LOOK AT THE
LIBRARY**

IT'S A CATALOGUE!



**IT'S AN INFORMATION
RESOURCE CENTRE!**



IT'S A LEARNING CENTRE!



A background image showing several students in a library or classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue jacket, is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another young woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue jacket, is writing on a piece of paper with a yellow pencil. In the background, other students are visible, some looking at books or papers. The overall scene is brightly lit and appears to be a modern educational environment.

From KNC
to LC

What's so special?

Integrate learning, research,
printing and digital publishing in
one convenient place

Types of computers available in KNC:

Access to web resources

Navigation PC



Presentations in multi-media format

Project PC



Video Digitization PC

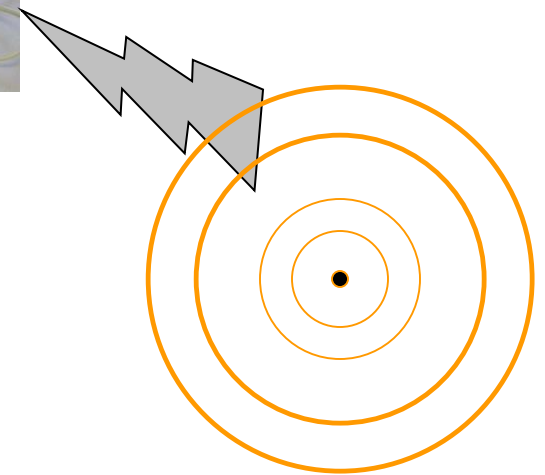


Students can go online with their **notebook PCs** in the library



ACENET nodes

Wireless LAN



A photograph of students in a classroom or computer lab. In the foreground, a young man with glasses and a grey shirt is looking at a computer monitor. Next to him, a young woman with glasses and a blue jacket is also looking at the screen. In the background, another student is visible, and a woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a piece of paper. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern educational environment.

From KNC
to LC

What's so special?

Foster and support
collaborative learning

Special furniture to facilitate group discussion and collaborative work



More **group projects** with collaborative learning, problem based learning

A background image showing a group of students in a library or computer lab. In the foreground, a young woman with glasses and a blue jacket is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another young woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a piece of paper. In the background, other students are visible, some looking at books or papers. The overall scene is brightly lit and focused on academic work.

From KNC
to LC

What's so special?

Assistance in information
search and software usage

Reference Counter

Library staff handles enquiries on information search and provides assistance in software usage.



ITSA (Information Technology Student Ambassador)

assists students in computer related matters.
(12 noon to 2 pm Monday to Friday).



New service in November 2007!

A photograph of students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a woman in a blue jacket is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a piece of paper. In the background, a man in a grey shirt is looking at a computer screen. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern educational environment.

From KNC
to LC

What's so special?

User education facility at the
e-Learning Lab

Renovated in 2001, the **e-Learning Lab** is equipped with 46 student notebook PCs for hands-on exercises.

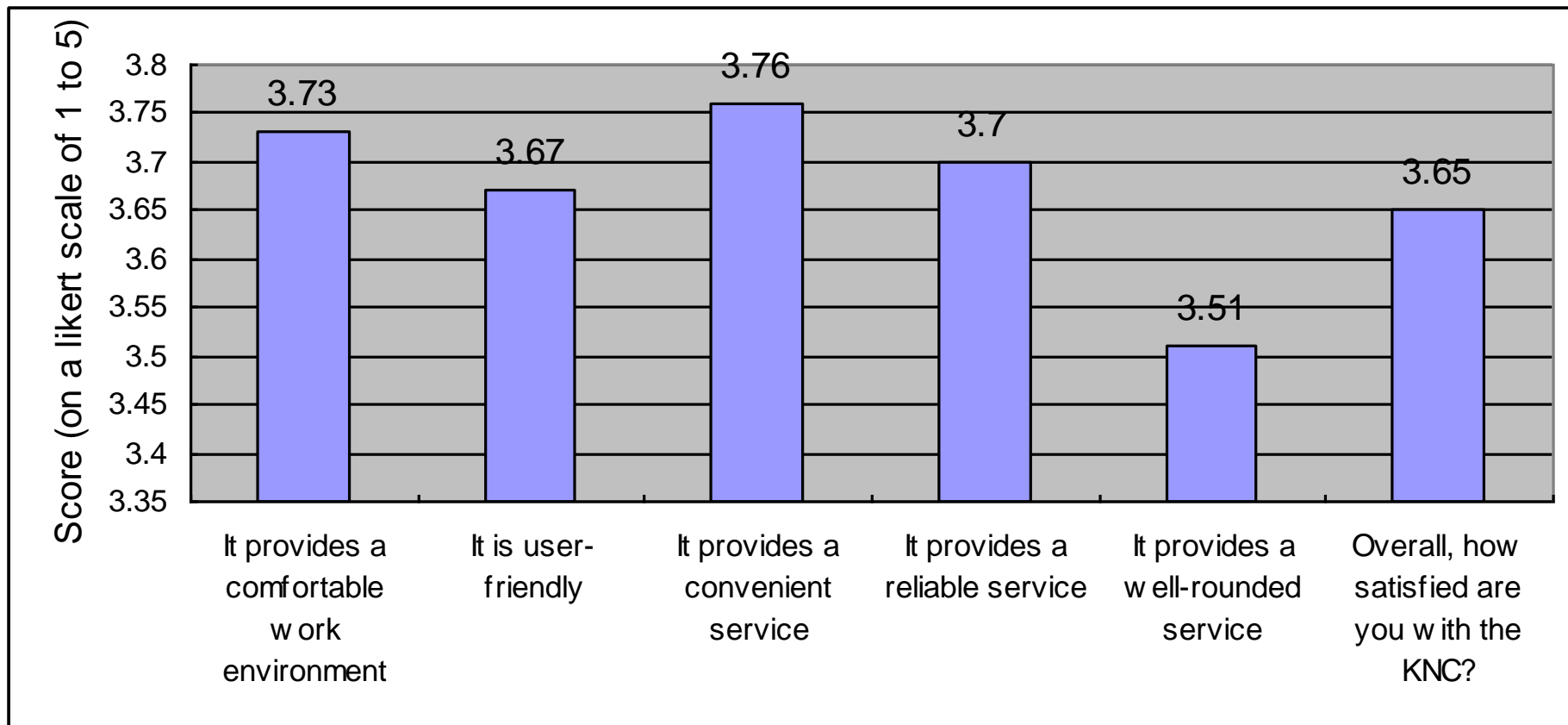




From KNC
to LC

Do users like KNC?

KNC User Satisfaction Survey (2005)





What do users say...

“ **Not enough** computers during busy periods. ”

“ KNC is a nice system but needs **more** printers and scanners. ”

“ Number of workstations for project with MS office should be **increased.** ”

Our response:

	1998	2007
Navigation PCs	68	72
Project PCs	24	44
Video Digitization PCs	0	2

But...



More computers, **less** working space!

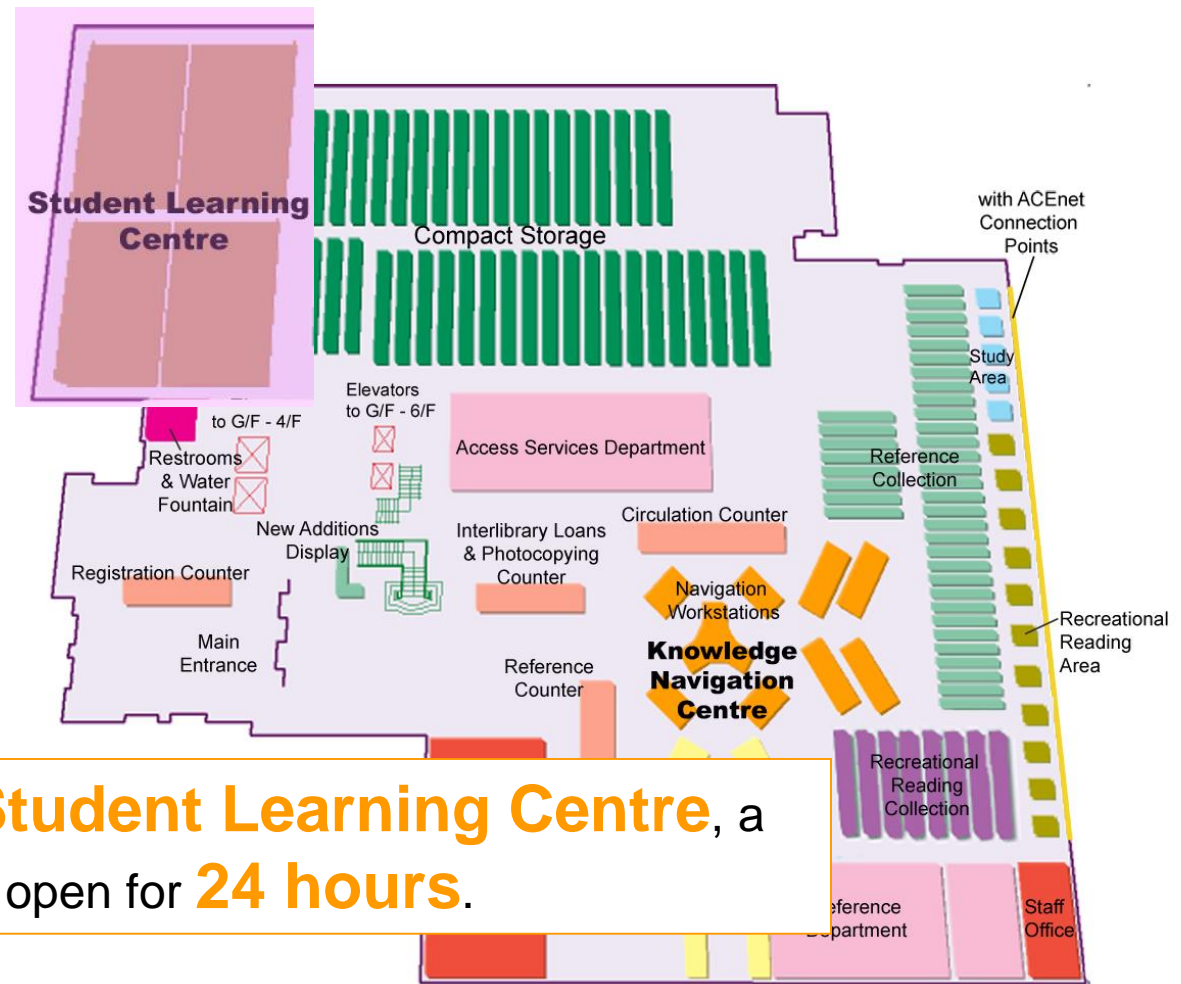


“ I am satisfied with everything only when the users aren't **noisy**. ”



Difficult to cater for both **collaborative learning** and **individual work** given the size and fitting-out of the KNC.

Our response:



The establishment of the **Student Learning Centre**, a **noise tolerant** facility open for **24 hours**.



Self-service space for study and discussion.

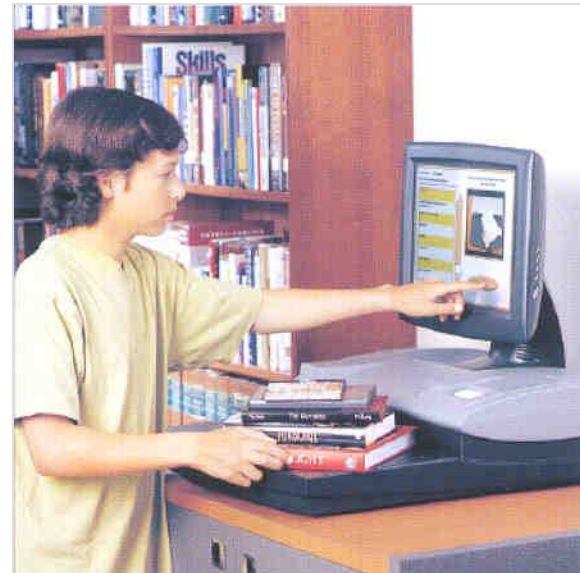
The driving forces

1. **Impact of technology** to library operation, collections and services
2. **Paradigm shift** in teaching and learning
3. **Higher education reform** in HK
4. **An aging library building** that needs upgrades and renovation

Driving Force 1: Impact of technology

(A) **RFID** Technology:

- Self-service in handling loan transactions.
- Further help **automate library routines** at Main Library in 2008



Space utilization

Rethink on the size and location of the existing centralized **circulation counter**. It may need to be shrunk and relocated, releasing space to other functions



Self-check machines will take up space and be located at **convenient spots.**

Driving Force 1: Impact of technology

(B) Ever growing **electronic collections**

- Survey on print reference collection in 2006

**We are conducting a Reference Collection
Usage Study from January 1 to June 30, 2006.**

After you have consulted a reference book, please:



*put the book
on top of the
bookshelf.*



*put the book on
the "bookshelf
for re-shelving"
located next to
the Reference
Counter.*



*put the book
on the trolley.*



*put the book
on the table.*



do not resshelf.

Thank you for your cooperation.


The University of Hong Kong
Libraries
Caring Collaborative Creative
Your partner in intellectual excellence

Survey Findings:

- **6-month usage statistics** of the print reference collection – 1,553 volumes (out of 30,000) were used from 1 January to 30 June 2006
- **Face-to-face interview** with Faculty and students - respondents preferred print over electronic for biographies, handbooks and statistical handbooks only



Learning Space VS Collection Space

Driving Force 1: Impact of technology

(C) Students' anticipated information needs



Provide **computers** with **appropriate software** to assist users with research, examination and assignment preparation, and general study



Provide **information skills training**, in groups and in classes, to ensure users are able to use the technology effectively and to access online information successfully

Driving Force 2: Paradigm shift in teaching and learning

- HKU has introduced problem-based and student-centred learning to stimulate **active learning** among students. Students are also required to **work together in small groups**
- Also, increased use of **web-based** instruction tools and online information sources. Students need to be connected to the Internet.
- Many students use **Google** and/or **library online resources** and do not come to the library as often.

Where do students like to study?



Learning takes place **everywhere**

Food for thought...

- Provide the necessary **infrastructure**: computers, network points, power sockets
- Balanced provision of **private study** spaces and space for **collaborative learning**
- **Increase the library's attractions** by providing more variety of learning spaces and facilities
- Rethink the **traditional image** of a library: quiet study or noise tolerant?

Driving Force 3: Education Reform in HK

- Implement new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education (**3+3+4** new academic structure)
- **4-year undergraduate programme** to start in **2012**
- Also offer a **three-year programme** – for the **last time** – to those educated in the current academic structure in 2012.
- Student numbers at HKU will **increase by 40%**
- The government will put in **\$3.5 billion** for infrastructure at tertiary institutions and modifications in some schools

HKU responses

Undertook a comprehensive review of the University's need and exigencies



A major outcome of the review was the need for additional academic and other facilities and the development of the **Centennial Campus**, immediately adjacent to the University main campus to the west



The Centennial Campus will offer a variety of facilities and spaces, including a 6,000 sq m **learning commons**

The Centennial Campus LC

- Recently named as **Colin Lam Learning Commons** in recognition of **Dr Lee Shau Kee's** generous donation.
- A **student-centred LC** to support the new curriculum, to help student learn, to work collaboratively with others across disciplinary and geographic boundaries, and to improve student language and IT skills
- In terms of design and layout, the LC needs to be **flexible** and provide for group and individual use workstations, electronic classrooms, leisure reading, eating/snacking, a wide range of rooms/ areas for group study as well as space for student consultation with advisors/coaches and teachers
- Availability of many service agencies on campus to provide **“one-stop” learning support**
- **Populate LC** in other parts of the campus

Driving Force 4: Renovating and upgrading the library building



Renovation projects have been implemented over the past years to upgrade its facilities, but there is always **room for improvement.**

- The Main Library comprises two buildings: **Old Wing (1961)** and **New Wing (1991)**, with a total floor area of **15,500 square metres**.
- It is high time now to renovate the building and upgrade its facilities in response to the needs discussed earlier.
- The renovation project will **start with the ground floor**.

1912

1961

1991

1995

1998

2007

Where are we now?

- Set up a **task force** in 2006 to plan for renovation of Main Library G/F
- One of the key findings of the task force report is to set up a **1,000 square metres LC**, a **noise tolerant** facility catering for **different study modes** -- single computer workstations, small group study rooms, large discussion tables in support of interactive group study and collaborative learning
- A **architectural consultant** will be appointed shortly to help implement the project

Elements of the HKU Main Library LC

- **Not just a new name** given to a renovated KNC, or even Main Library G/F
- Provide a work/study/research environment where content, technology and services are **seamlessly integrated**
- Be **extremely flexible** in terms of technology, furniture, services, etc
- Allow users to **self-navigate** easily
- Provide different zones for **group/collaborative** and **individual users**
- Be **environmentally friendly**
- Listen to the **needs of users**

1912

1961

1991

1995

1998

2007



Concluding remarks

What will happen ...

- The above slides summarized the changes in learning spaces at HKU Main Library
- Changes in space allocation have been driven by **technology**, **content**, **services** and **needs** of the users.
- Much of the space at HKU Main Library is still being used for **private study** or doing homework
- More space has been allocated to group/**collaborative use** over the past few years
- **Impact** to its image, operation, services, cooperation with other service providers and contributions to university teaching and learning
- **What's next?**

A photograph of students in a library or study area. In the foreground, a woman in a blue jacket is looking at a computer monitor. To her right, another woman in a dark blue jacket is writing on a piece of paper. In the background, other students are visible, some sitting at tables. The image is semi-transparent, allowing text to be overlaid.

From KNC
to LC

Thanks!

Please come visit us:
HKUL Homepage: lib.hku.hk