

Mission Audacious: Level 3 Reimagined as Quality Space for Quality Learning”

The Libraries have always been at the centre of knowledge advancement. They form a trusted community for teaching, learning and knowledge exchange. As a key strand in the university infrastructure, the Libraries continue to prove their relevance in an age when technology-enriched education is at the forefront of many teachers’ mind.

Right before the Chinese New Year in late January, the Technology-Enriched Learning Initiative (TELI), who has been supporting flipped classes in a Tort Law course (<http://bit.ly/fliptort>), realized that they could not hold the 260-student class on February 7 in Loke Yew Hall as planned due to unforeseen circumstances. There were no other options on the Main Campus, given that having a large flat space with configurable furniture is the most important requirement for this group-based, discussion-intensive class.

Having watched the Library’s video about *Level 3* in the Main Library on U-Vision for a number of times, TELI approached the Librarian for rescue at the eleventh hour. Under crushing time pressures, the library colleagues across different teams (Administration, PRD, TSS, etc.) reviewed the experience of using the Multi-purpose zone for community events; explored the hidden opportunities in maximizing the utilization of space in that area; and assessed the actions need to be taken to make things work. As a result, they made one of the most successful flipped classes ever.

Challenges (overcame)

- looking for a flat space to accommodate a class of 260 students working in 48 small groups
- securing appropriate furniture (i.e., one small desk per group, and one chair per student)
- designing a good layout to facilitate tutor-student interaction and crowd control (i.e., taking into account safety issues and time constraints)
- minimizing the inconvenience to other library users



■ 260 students gathered in the Multi-purpose Zone on Level 3, Main Library for team-based discussions on real-life tort law cases.



■ Professor Rick Glofcheski provided a briefing before discussions started.



■ How the class was held in Loke Yew Hall.



■ The Librarian visited the class. (from left to right: Professor Rick Glofcheski, teacher of LLAW 1005; Mr Peter Sidorko, University Librarian; Ms Melissa So, Administrative Services Manager)

“Secret sauce” to make things happen

- a team of colleagues who believe that they can make the audacious achievable
- thorough testing and site examination before class; risk management
- a clear objective that the Libraries is a space for learning opportunities and the advancement of knowledge
- empathy for existing library users

So what did the students say? “This library is actually better than the Loke Yew Hall, because the tables are much larger,” one student said. “We can sit in a more spacious arrangement,” another commented. The teachers and tutors also felt that *Level 3* is an ideal place for interactive learning. They hope they could use the space again in the future.

TELI looks forward to envisioning the use of space for teaching and learning with the Libraries. In every small experiment we do and every new creative connection we make together, we see even more possibilities of the Libraries.

To learn more about TELI, please get in touch via enquiry@teli.hku.hk or visit our website at <http://teli.hku.hk/>.