

CPCE Librarian: “The future is bright”

New facilities and activities are planned for the CPCE Libraries that will not only broaden the scope of their materials but also promote improved and potentially life-enhancing reading habits for students. Ms Donna Tam, who joined as College Librarian last September, firmly believes that current student reading habits concentrate too much on achieving good results in assignments and exams. While that focus by students may be understandable in a highly competitive learning environment, Ms Tam says most library users are too passive. Students could derive considerable benefit for their future lives by extending their reading to materials related to subjects such as leisure activities, personal development and interpersonal skills.

The good thing about such reading is that it encourages students to seek knowledge outside their studies. “The more you read, the more you think you are not getting enough,” she said. Broader reading also helps develop good citizens with positive attitudes and values, with good reasoning and judgement. Students should look beyond exam results, which are just means towards the end of creating a happy life.

So Ms Tam is planning to set up a library corner not for reference or textbooks, but

just for leisure reading of magazines and similar materials. There will also be space for Book Crossing, the practice popular in Europe and the United States in which people leave books to be picked up and read by others, who then do likewise.

Ahead of these new plans the libraries have been busy with organising stimulating activities on an ongoing basis. These include book fairs and displays focusing on topics such as personal finance management, youthful entrepreneurship and living a positive life, etc. Organised in collaboration with the faculty, movie-sharing workshops, book essay writing competitions as well as reading awards programmes are also among the new initiatives launched by the CPCE Libraries.

Looking ahead, Ms Tam believes “the future is bright” for the CPCE Libraries. Further enhancements are planned, not only in technological aids to acquiring accurate information rapidly, but also with the addition of human resources: well-trained library professionals who provide the vital service of guiding library users through the complex labyrinth of information available in the digital era.

Of the many myths created by the arrival of the Internet, Ms Tam rebuts the claim that libraries are not needed because so



much information can be obtained at home at the click of a mouse. “The opposite is the case,” she remarked, “The raw information on the Internet is too much to digest properly, and you don’t know whether it is reliable.” By contrast the whole stock of published items in the libraries has undergone a rigorous editorial and quantitative analysis process. The importance of CPCE Libraries also rests on their extensive value-added services, including careful selection and payment for subscription-only academic papers and journals, which are then accessible free of charge to staff and students. As Ms Tam said, “The fact is that the library is irreplaceable.”

CPCE 圖書館館長：「前景一片光明」

CPCE圖書館計劃提供一系列新設施和活動，除了擴充藏書外，還積極培養同學的閱讀習慣，豐富他們的人生經驗。去年九月加入學院的圖書館館長譚靜儀女士，明白在競爭激烈的學習環境，同學希望爭取理想的成績，借閱的書本大都以應付功課和考試為中心，閱讀習慣漸趨被動。譚女士認為，同學閱讀學科以外的書籍，如休閒活動、個人發展和人際技巧等，對未來發展大有裨益。

課外閱讀的好處在於鼓勵同學尋求學科以外的知識。譚女士說：「當你閱讀得越多，就越會自覺知識不足。」此外，廣泛閱讀有助培養具正面態度和價值觀、有良好推理和判斷能力的公民。她笑謂考試只是人生路上的小挑戰，唯有把目光放遠才能創造美好的將來。

譚女士正計劃在圖書館設立休閒閱讀區，區內擺放的並非參考書或教科書，而是雜誌和其他資料。圖書館亦將設置空間作「漂流圖書」用途——漂流圖書在歐洲和美國相當流行，書友將自己的書本投放到不同場所，捐贈予他人閱讀；拾取者閱讀之後，再以相同的方式傳閱書本。

最近，圖書館亦推行了多項充滿啟發性的活動和計劃，包括定期舉辦書展及展覽，以及與教員合辦電影工作坊、徵文比賽和閱讀獎勵計劃等，藉此與同學分享正向人生觀、個人財務管理技巧和青年創業知識等。

展望未來，譚女士相信CPCE圖書館的「前景一片光明」。圖書館將繼續提升技術設施，改進系統檢索資訊的速度和準確度。

另外，面對訊息繁多的網絡時代，圖書館將加強圖書館管理人員的專業培訓，務求為用戶提供更多指導服務，協助他們有效率地搜尋知識。

隨著互聯網的普及應用，有些人認為足不出戶也能知天下事，圖書館不再是必需的。譚女士卻持不同的觀點：「互聯網的訊息太多，豐富得令人難以消化，或辨別資料的真偽。」相對地，圖書館的藏書文獻均經過嚴格的編輯和分析；此外，CPCE圖書館提供了全面的增值服務，包括嚴謹地篩選學術論文和期刊，付費訂閱後再供教職員和學生免費瀏覽等。譚女士說：「圖書館的角色是無可替代的。」