

Sending SMS (Short Message Service) to library patrons by using Google Calendar Data API

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Abstract

Nowadays, mobile phone is emerging as the most popular personal communication device. In this regard, short message service (SMS) becomes efficient and effective messaging tool to alert persons with the latest information. In order to improve the communication with library patrons, many libraries have started to send SMS to alert library patrons. However, sending SMS is not a free service. The sender is required to pay for the messaging fee. The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) Library has attempted to make use of Google Calendar mobile technology to send SMS to library patrons. "Google Calendar" is a product of Google, which allows registered users to send SMS free for events notification. It provides Web Service interface (i.e. Google Calendar Data API), which allows development partners to automatically feed new events to the Calendar. By taking advantage of Google Calendar, the HKIEd Library can automatically convert library patrons' email notices into Google Calendar's event by using Google Calendar Data API. Ultimately, the Library has made communication with patrons in a very convenient, timely and cost-effective way.