

MyLibrary Calendar@HKBU

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Abstract

"*MyLibrary Calendar*" (<http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/lib/electronic/libdbs/mycal.html>) is Hong Kong Baptist University Library's effort to:

1. Let patrons use their own personal calendar computer applications as a single, one-stop-shop personal platform to collect and manage library calendar events/records;
2. Strengthen the publicity of HKBU Library's services, facilities and outreach activities;
3. Streamline library-patron communication, especially in the distribution of circulation records, library emails/notices, and records of library facilities reservation in an efficient and centralized channel.

Two calendars are available in "*MyLibrary Calendar*":

1. "Library Event Calendar" is for any person who is interested in getting the latest news on HKBU Library's services, facilities, opening hours and outreach activities.
2. "Personal Library Calendar" is designed solely for HKBU Library borrower card holders. It allows patrons to collect and manage the data of their library circulation records, interlibrary loan requests and group study/viewing room bookings.

"*MyLibrary Calendar*" uses Innovative Millennium Patron API and an in-house developed computer program for data extraction and conversion to iCalendar files. Patrons can subscribe to these free services in any calendar application (e.g. Apple iCal, Google Calendar, Microsoft Outlook 2007¹, Windows Vista, Mozilla Lightning/SunBird) that supports the open and standard iCalendar² format, without giving any additional personal data/notification to the Library. They are free to choose their own information receiving platforms, no add-on/plugin program or special training/instruction is required. It is user-friendly, can support simultaneous subscriptions on multiple platforms; and allows patrons to activate Google Calendar SMS notification option freely.

With "*MyLibrary Calendar*" patrons' "Library life" events are integrated into and become an integral part of their personal calendars for efficient time-management.

"*MyLibrary Calendar*" is also a Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 compliant tool which enables the library to proactively publicize its services/facilities efficiently and to bring about a shift in power and new library-patron relationship smoothly.

¹ Outlook 2003 can support iCalendar with a plug-in, see <http://remotecalendars.sourceforge.net/index.html>.

² A definition of iCalendar is available in Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICalendar>.