

TEACHING RESOURCE PLATFORM: MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF FULL TIME TEACHERS HAVE USED IT

Since TKU exerted great effort to promote “Teaching Resource Platform” in 2003 academic year, the usage percentage has grown steadily. More than 80 percent of full time teachers have used the platform by the fall semester, 2008 academic year. Among them there are 115 teachers from College of Management, which rates as the number one. The second place is College of Engineering, 113 teachers; the third place is College of Business, 80 teachers.

The usage percentage of the Platform has risen in the fall semester, 2008 academic year, comparing to that in the fall semester, 2006 academic year. There were 66 percent of teachers, 497 persons, used the platform in 2006, while there were 81 percent of teachers, 647 persons, in 2008.

Dr. Chen Kan-nan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, pointed out that the main purpose to promote the Platform is to expect teachers to upload the handouts on the Internet, to add some information beyond the textbook, to let students learn new things by reviewing the old ones regardless of the limit of time and space, to compensate the insufficiency of actual teaching, and to help introverted students express their ideas through the Platform, and increase their interaction with teachers. Along with the abundance of information on the Platform, students can develop their professional capacity, while teachers can use it to examine their own improvement. Teachers and students can easily access the Platform because using Internet is very popular nowadays. In addition, “Teaching Resource Platform” can give a bonus point to the “self-improvement” item in the department evaluation, which also increases the usage percentage of the Platform.

There were 96 percent of full time teachers in College of Management using the Platform, which rates as the number one among all colleges. Dr. Chen Dun-Ji, Dean, College of Management, indicated that he has to give the credit to all their teachers for they make use of the Platform actively, place importance on the course and students' need, and raise teaching quality continuously. However, to the current system, some teachers said that there is still room for improvement in the aspect of website structure. For instance, the interface of the website is not so common and not so easy to handle. They hope that the Platform can cooperate with the Cyber University (CU), a system constructed by Ministry of Education, so that the users can get the hang of it more easily. Responding to this question, Mr. Huang Ming-ta, Director of Information Processing Center, expressed that the software of the "Teaching Resource Platform" is designed by IBM. The company is currently testing the new version of the software, which will replace the old one in the near future. They have no intent to integrate with CU in the present stage; after all, there are fewer teachers using this system.

Tsai Pei-chuan, a sophomore of Dept. of Business Administration, indicated that the "Teaching Resource Platform" connects students with professors beyond the class. Apart from downloading the handouts, it is also convenient to upload the assignments. In her opinion, the platform of Dr. Huang Man-chin, Associate Professor from Dept. of Business Administration, is very good. The information on the platform is complete and updated fast. Moreover, Dr. Huang also set up a bulletin board to remind students the things they have to notice, which is very thoughtful.

Dr. Huang felt happy for students love her platform. She indicated that one of the advantages of the platform is she can adjust her handouts on the platform according to the progress of the course. However, it seems

that there is no sufficient broadband network, so she suggested the school authority to upgrade the hardware. Mr. Hsu Hsiang-Lung, Section Chief of Project Development Section, is the person responsible for running the "Teaching Resource Platform," and he responded that since the infrastructure of school have reached certain level, he supposed that the problem is related to the user' s computer condition and derived from too many people going on the website at the same time. (~Shu-chun Yen)

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