

SAC Getting Its Popularity



By Ching Lam

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SAC, the best place for self-enrichment in HKUST

More students are getting to spend their time at SAC where they can find much information about languages, but also other information that is available in the Internet via computers.

SAC – Self Access Centre is an area that provides both materials and spaces for HKUST students and staff to learn languages themselves. SAC is managed by Language Centre, it is also regarded as one of the element of the department.

SAC has a comparable length of history with HKUST. It is established in 1994 and now it is 2008. Therefore, its history is over 13 years. The last summer, SAC has been “rebuilt” internally. The structure and the organization of SAC are completely redesigned. The New SAC is thought to give a leisure environment for studying. Furthermore, some language instructors’ offices are embedded in SAC. Therefore, it is easier for students to find their instructors during their office hour.

Apart from the environment, the facilities and equipment are also greatly improved. You can find more up-to-date computers and all of them have been installed with language learning softwares, such as Gong, browser embedded dictionaries. There are some groups learning areas in both the open area and seminar rooms. In each seminar room, you can also find computers and a wall-mounted LCD display. Actually, it is good for having discussion or presenting ideas. The bookshelves are more well-organized than before, You can easily find the materials that you want. Not only English and Chinese materials, but also Japanese German, French etc.

By the way, if you have any problems of learning languages outside your language class, you can directly go to the Adviser Desk to seek for help. English, Putonghua. Cantonese, Spanish, even French and German are available for suggestions.

At the beginning of this semester, a growing number of people are getting to SAC and use the facilities that are provided. In the afternoon of each day, the area is nearly half-filled now. You can find quite a lot of students are discussing their group assignment or project. Some of the others are putting on the earphones and listening to English programs and scripts. It is glad to see people using the resources more frequently. As the view of Language Centre, they may even feel happy about the self learning motion generated by the students themselves.

It is thought there are two reasons that make SAC getting its popularity - peer influence and quality of services. Students may bring their friends and classmates as they find that SAC is an ideal environment for studying Languages and other things. The services provided by SAC are definitely excellent. There are support units that can help students to solve problems of using facilities and materials. If there are no any scheduled usages of seminar rooms, students can use them directly if they need.

Last but not the least, take you first trial of using SAC and experience the benefit that it brings to you.