

**READ@PolyU Speech by Steve O'Connor, University Librarian  
on 8 September 2011, at the Exhibition Hall, Pao Yue-kong Library**

**Honorable Guests, Council Members, Colleagues and Students**

This University Library contributes much to the academic life of our community. The newly completed social, learning and literacy spaces in the Library building are a physical manifestation of that involvement.

Read@PolyU is an initiative which seeks to extend and vitalize our intellectual life on campus by encouraging reading for enjoyment while also enabling our staff and students to discuss issues together, outside their curricula confines. The University Library strongly believes that it is a vital linking mechanism between programmes such as this and the furthering of our reading skills and personal development. The creation of a Read@PolyU app for the iPhone as well as a Face book page embeds this programme in the digital social lives of our student population. Already over <sup>660</sup>~~500~~ students have collected their books with most of them also signing up with the Read@PolyU Facebook Fan page. They LIKE the programme. I would encourage all of our Facilitators and readers to download the Read@PolyU app and to actively participate in the Facebook

activities around our programme. These dimensions will take this programme into a wider community 'space'.

I would like to thank the Read@PolyU Committee and my co-chair Dr Bruce Morrison for their energy, drive and commitment to this initial programme.

*I would also like to thank Professor Walter Yuen for his support.*

~~I would like to~~ Congratulate Christina Chau, our e-Learning Librarian, on leading the programme and to Sam Lam for her excellent promotion of this programme as our Marketing Manager.

The revitalised University Library <sup>always</sup> ~~very much~~ always welcomes the opportunity ~~to continue~~ to work closely with our PolyU community and, in the case, to make Read@PolyU a real vibrant success.

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