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SELF-ACCESS: HOPES AND HESITATIONS

ABSTRACT

The idea behind self-access - to learn how to learn - has been around for many years. However, the educational goal of self-access has been enhanced in recent years by the easy accessibility of computers, the innovative ability of some classroom teachers to produce learning software, and the rapid increase in volume of print and audiovisual materials. In Hong Kong, despite a high-level of know-how among tertiary students, English learning through self-access remains a challenge. Practical considerations such as learners' workload and their perception of language learning will always confront language teaching experts. This paper considers the problems and challenges of implementing an effective self-access centre in a Hong Kong tertiary environment.