1.0 Objective

MyLinE (Online Resources for Learning in English) aims to provide a virtual platform for tertiary education level students to learn English and learn in English, with the aim of bridging the gap and meeting the academic needs at university level. MyLinE portal was designed for students to develop independent and lifelong learning skills through the provision of self-access learning opportunities that encourage them to be responsible for their self-development in the pursuit of excellence. MyLinE offers users a variety of activities and learning resources to improve language proficiency for academic and professional purposes. The activities and resources cover academic reading, writing, speaking and listening, study skills, grammar, forum, information related to various fields of study and profession, daily RSS feeds on a variety of topics and other resources for learning in English.

http://myline.utm.my
2.0 Approach

a. MyLinE encourages mentoring and authentic learner-learner collaboration

MyLinE is accessible by all registered students in 20 public universities in Malaysia. Via participating in common activities and resources, students are able to interact in a relaxed, active peer-learning environment online where they can choose from 8 fora listed under ‘Lounge’. The ‘Lounge’ creates various communities of learners, bonding students from different disciplines across regions and campuses in the country with a common goal of improving English language proficiency.

b. MyLinE adapts to diverse, student-focused learning styles

MyLinE embodies various features to accommodate diverse learning styles. The instructional materials and activities include not only resources for learning English, such as input and exercises on grammar and language use, but also informative resources in English on various disciplines and professions, such as information on the career path of a specific profession.

Unlike other language learning websites, the pattern of information presented in MyLinE contains input on a topic, exercises to reinforce understanding of the input and answers with explanation to provide feedback on students’ performance. The provision of self-explanatory language feedback promotes learner autonomy which further improves users’ level of English proficiency.

Resources are presented in a variety of media including text, audio and video, to accommodate multiple learning styles. Contents are multi-disciplinary in nature and the input is prepared by experts from various disciplines.

c. MyLinE utilises innovative methods of assessment

In efforts to encourage self-directed learning, the MyLinE team creates regular online quizzes. The Learning Management System, Moodle in which MyLinE operates on enables our team to design quizzes with automated feedback which our users find very interesting. This distinguishes MyLinE from other English learning sites.

Students are allowed to attempt quizzes multiple times to improve their grades and ranks amongst all MyLinE users.
To encourage learners to write in English, students are given marks based on the number of words used in their post without scrutinizing their grammar.

d. MyLinE involves major employers and community partners with clear outcomes

MyLinE has joined forces with TalentCorp (Talent Corporation Malaysia, a government-linked corporation) to design Ready4Work portal with materials specifically aimed to prepare graduating students with the skills needed to join the workforce. TalentCorp collaborates with 10 major industry players and founding partners to provide authentic materials and career guidance advice.

National collaboration

Each public university is assigned a page of their own English Language Support Programme (ELSP) for them to create their own language learning site. The MyLinE team trains language instructors from all these institutions to develop online language learning materials to be parked in their respective sites.
3.0 Demonstrated Results

a. Student participation in MyLinE

For the current year ending in August 2014, MyLinE has recorded 3,147,355 hits from students with a total of 18,266 active users. Google Analytics shows the average time spent on the site is 20:31 minutes per user.

b. Improved outcomes in student performance

At Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), for example, all first year students who are registered for English Language courses are required to participate in online quizzes in MyLinE as part of their coursework marks. Students are required to complete a certain number of activities according to levels, however, the majority of the students made attempts beyond the minimum requirements. In addition to the credit bearing coursework activities, students are encouraged to participate in weekly Easy Whizzy quiz and National Online Quiz (once a semester) which offers attractive prizes.

Students need to complete:
1 Online Quiz
1 Test & Rank
28 - 30 Short Quizzes
But they completed....
c. Outstanding new inventions, programmes and businesses emerging as a direct result of the course

Emboldened by MyLinE success with students, the Human Capital Development (HCD) office of UTM has requested MyLinE Team to extend MyLinE accessibility to the non-academic support staff to enable them to improve their English language skills. In this programme, all non-academic staff are required to complete five English activities and participate in a forum monthly. By using MyLinE portal, UTM hopes its staff to upgrade their English language skills in line with the university’s aspiration for internationalisation.

4.0 Lessons Learned

MyLinE has evolved over the years from an English language unit placed under UTM E-learning site and was used voluntarily only by UTM students.

As of 16 September 2008, MyLinE was launched as a national English language learning portal for all public institutions of higher learning in Malaysia.

MyLinE now trains trainers of English language instructors from all public universities in Malaysia to develop and manage their own language learning sites in MyLinE.

With the extension of MyLinE usability to support staff of UTM, the materials designed were broadened to suit the language needs at the workplace.
Our Future

2006 UTM

2008
20 public universities in Malaysia

2009
ELSP@XUniv + Lounge + World of Challenges

31 October 2012
Collaboration with TalentCorp for Ready4Work portal

16 September 2008
Participations of 20 public universities

July 2006 - August 2008
E-Learning Course

April 2014
English for Human Capital Development

Our Projection

2015
South East Asian Universities

2006
20 public universities in Malaysia

5.0 Our Future