

Appendix E: *Expanding Anytime,
Anywhere Learning*. An article about
mobile learning at AU

Expanding Anytime, Anywhere Learning



AU has implemented a [mobile library website](#) that automatically detects whether a student is using a mobile or desktop device and converts web pages to the appropriate display format.

The new system will accommodate users of mobile and handheld devices such as personal data assistants (PDAs) and smartphones.

The website is the product of a research project, **Building an Effective M-Library to Support Mobile Learning**, led by Dr. Mohamed Ally of AU's School for Computing and Information Systems.

Co-investigators were instructional media analyst Billy Cheung, electronic resources librarian Tony Tin and course production co-ordinator Maureen Hutchinson.

The development project for the new system received the 2006 Canadian Library Association Library [Research and Development Grant](#) in addition to mission-critical research funding from AU.

"This new system provides opportunities to increase the boundaries of anytime and anywhere learning for students," said Tin (left).

"Very little research has been done so far from the student's perspective to explore which mobile technologies are best to employ or what constitutes an effective m-library and how to support m-learning and teaching."

Access to digital library resources is increasing ...

As the demand for access to post-secondary education grows, so too does the need for new technologies to facilitate distance learning, and AU is a leader in the research and development of distance education delivery methods through existing and emerging technologies.

Because none of AU's 34,000 students study on campus, development and maintenance of effective supports for distance students is essential.



"With the proliferation of pocket mobile learning devices, many current students, and definitely future students, are expecting functionality with devices they are used to and familiar with," said Steve Schafer, director of library services at AU.


Access to digital library resources is increasing province-wide.

In the 2005 throne speech, the Government of Alberta announced the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library ([LHCADL](#)) as a tribute to former Lieutenant-Governor Lois Hole.

This initiative is a \$30 million continuing investment in electronic and digital resources.

It will bring content rich collections to post-secondary institutions, including AU, and it will deliver those resources dynamically using state-of-the-art technologies.

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