

Café at LearningHub@LIBRIS

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Welcome to the new Café at LearningHub@LIBRIS!

The LearningHub@LIBRIS was set up last year with the idea of providing an interactive and collaborative environment for our users. To this end, the latest in educational technology and ICT (Information and Communications Technology) facilities were installed, including a touch screen interactive white board and two plasma screens for viewing videos, VCDs, DVDs, etc. Wired and wireless technology enabled students to plug into the campus network to carry out research or group projects at the LearningHub.

However, we had always planned to include that essential feature of the Singapore lifestyle (whether wired or not) – food! After exploring various means of café operation on a self-service basis, ranging from the honour system of payment to coin or cash-operated machines, LIBRIS decided to out-source the service. A tender was called, and in July 2003, the Café at LearningHub began operating.



To attract customers, coupons were given out for a free cup of cappuccino for every cup of coffee purchased. This promotional period lasted till the end of the month. Business has been brisk, with customers averaging about 100+ daily, although traffic is lower during the evenings and on Saturdays.



So, what are the most popular items on the menu? Besides coffee, the operator, MiniYummi, serves tea, fruit juices, cakes, pastries, sandwiches and other snacks. A little survey was conducted amongst staff and students, and of the beverages, the cappuccino came out tops: “Best in town, better than Starbucks,” said one respondent. The sandwiches and muffins were also popular. However, serious work was also carried out at the LearningHub; most of those surveyed said they did use the café for project work and as a meeting point for brainstorming. Some lecturers have also conducted lessons/tutorials at the LearningHub, thus providing a refreshing change for trainee teachers.

And, finally, what other items did respondents wish to see on the menu? There were requests for hot meals, pasta, sweeter café mocha, ice cream, and, believe it or not, French fries!

MiniYummi promises that there are plans afoot to introduce more “trendy” drinks and greater snack variety. Also, if you need a cake for a birthday or other celebratory occasion, you can place an order at the café.

The only reminder from MiniYummi is: please do not “cheop” (hog) seats at the café! Other than that, come, enjoy yourselves at the only legal snacking section in the Library!