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If they won’t turn them off, we might as well use them: Using mobile ’phones in information skills sessions

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If they won’t turn them off, we might as well use them.

Using mobile ‘phones in information skills sessions.

Andrew Walsh, University of Huddersfield
Why I’ve been trying mobiles

- Active Learning
- Large classes
- Unresponsive students
- Basic Functionality vs High end technology
A few facts and figures

- Around 9 in 10 adults use a mobile phone
- 116.5 ‘phones per 100 people in the UK!
- 99% of mobile phone users make calls
- 95% of mobile phone users send texts
- 35% of mobile phone users use mobile internet
- 217 million texts a day (mobile data association)

A paid for service first...

https://www.hudsms.co.uk
Text HUDUNI LIB followed by your message to 81025
Now for some freebies...

- Moblog – www.moblog.net
- Jaiku – www.jaiku.com
- Twitter – twitter.com
- Gabcast – www.gabcast.com (just changed!)
- Lots of others – plenty of web 2.0 tools can be updated by mobile.
Moblog – www.moblog.net

Anyone that’s registered with moblog:

“would you be brave enough to use this in a session?” -

Please text IL09 plus YES or NO to 07786201241

(if you’ve signed up!)
Jaiku – www.jaiku.com

The LibraryThing channel: http://jaiku.com/channel/LibraryThing
From a school maths lesson!  http://olliebray.typepad.com/olliebraycom/2009/02/i-got-a-phone-call-from-a-teacher-in-the-maths-department-on-friday-saying-that-their-class-had-been-studying-direct.html
Gabcast – www.gabcast.com
QR Tags
Problems...

- With web 2.0 tools: Getting them to sign up
- With paid for tools: Getting permission
- In general: signal strength; engagement; high risk!
Summary

• Choice of free or paid for tools

• Best for distance learning or series of sessions

• Can be problematic, not a “mature” set of tools
Going forward

- Introduced “text a librarian” service
- Using QR tags
- Use text services to help distance learners improve IL
- If time – do dual podcast / text tip in Autumn term
Feedback

- Text (HUDUNI LIB as the 1st words of a message to 81025)
- Moblog (text IL09 plus comments to 07786201241)
- Email (a.p.walsh@hud.ac.uk)

Any questions?

My contact details as a QR tag