



Communication via Text Messaging: New Methods of Reference, Instruction and Outreach

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One of the most noticeable trends on college campuses is the abundant use of cell phones. Text messaging, also known as SMS (i.e., short message service), is a technology for sending and receiving messages via cell phones and other handheld devices. In the Spring of 2005, Sims Memorial Library at Southeastern Louisiana University initiated a "Text A Librarian" service that enables students, faculty and staff to send questions to and receive answers from reference librarians using the text message feature of their cell phones. In the Spring of 2006, the presenters received a grant to incorporate text messaging into their information literacy efforts. The plan is to use existing cell phone technology to increase student involvement and improve student learning. This presentation will include discussion on the use of text messaging technology in three distinct areas: reference, instruction and outreach.

Further Reading on Text Messaging Technology

"Focus on Effectiveness: Classroom Examples - High School." Northwest Educational Technology Consortium (NETC). 2005. NETC. 27 Sep 2006
<http://www.netc.org/focus/examples/messag.php>>.

Horizon Report. (2006), New Media Consortium and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. "The Phones in Their Pockets." Online. [Available: http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2006_Horizon_Report.pdf] 1 March 2006.

Liu, T.C., et. al, "Wireless and Mobile Technologies to Enhance Teaching and Learning." Journal of Computer Assisted Learning. 19 (2003): 371-382.

Pew Internet & American Life Project. (2005), "34 Million American Adults Send Text Messages on their Cell Phones," Online. 14 March 2005. [Available http://www.pewinternet.org/pwpress_release.asp?r=99] 10 November 2005.

Student Monitor. (2005), "Study Finds Record Number of Cell Phone Owners." 21 January. [Available: <http://www.studentmonitor.com/press/02.pdf>] 10 November 2005.

Wagner, Ellen D. (2005) "Enabling Mobile Learning." EDUCAUSE Review 40.3: 40-53.