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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)

- Figures from Mintel, October 2007 & www.cellular-news.com/story/30548.php

A paid for service first...

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.
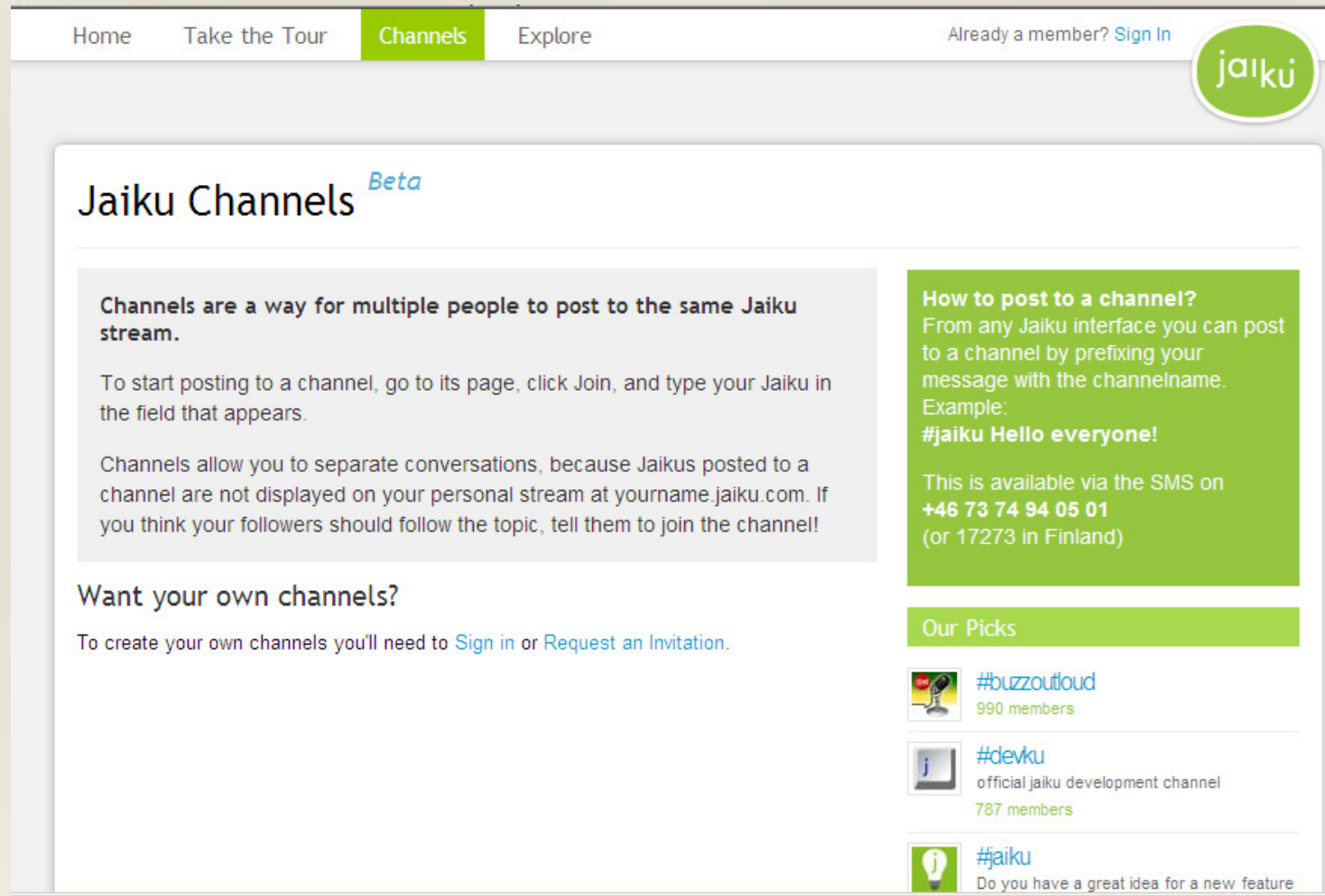
Moblog – www.moblog.net

- 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

Twitter – twitter.com

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