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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](http://www.cellular-news.com/story/30548.php)

# A paid for service first...

The screenshot shows a web interface for sending messages from the University of Huddersfield. The top navigation bar includes links for Departments, Users, Contacts, Templates, Messages, 2Way, My Profile, and Logoff. The main content area is titled 'Send Messages' and is divided into two columns. The left column, 'Create Message', contains a 'Message Details' section with a text area for the message, a 'Select Template' dropdown, and a character count of 480. Below this is a 'Scheduling Info' section with options for 'Now' or a specific date and time, and a 'Send with' section with an 'Alpha tag' option. The bottom section, 'Recipients details', includes input fields for 'By Mobile Number', 'By Contacts', and 'By Groups'. The right column, 'Quick Contacts Selection', shows 'Contacts Type' with radio buttons for 'Personal' and 'Global', and a 'None found.' message. A 'Send' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Departments | Users | Contacts | Templates | Messages | 2Way | My Profile | Logoff  
Send Messages | Message Archive

University of HUDDERSFIELD

Andrew Walsh Logged  
15 January, 2009 G

**Send Messages**

**Create Message**

**Message Details**

Message to send

Select Template

480 characters remaining

# of messages about to send : 0  
( 0 messages X 0 recipients )

**Scheduling Info**

Message to be sent on

Now   @  Hours  Minutes

Send with

Alpha tag

**Recipients details**

By Mobile Number

By Contacts

By Groups

**Quick Contacts Selection**

Contacts Type

Personal  Global

None found.

Send

<https://www.hudsms.co.uk>


Text HUDUNI LIB followed by your message to 81025

# Now for some freebies...

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

# Moblog – [www.moblog.net](http://www.moblog.net)

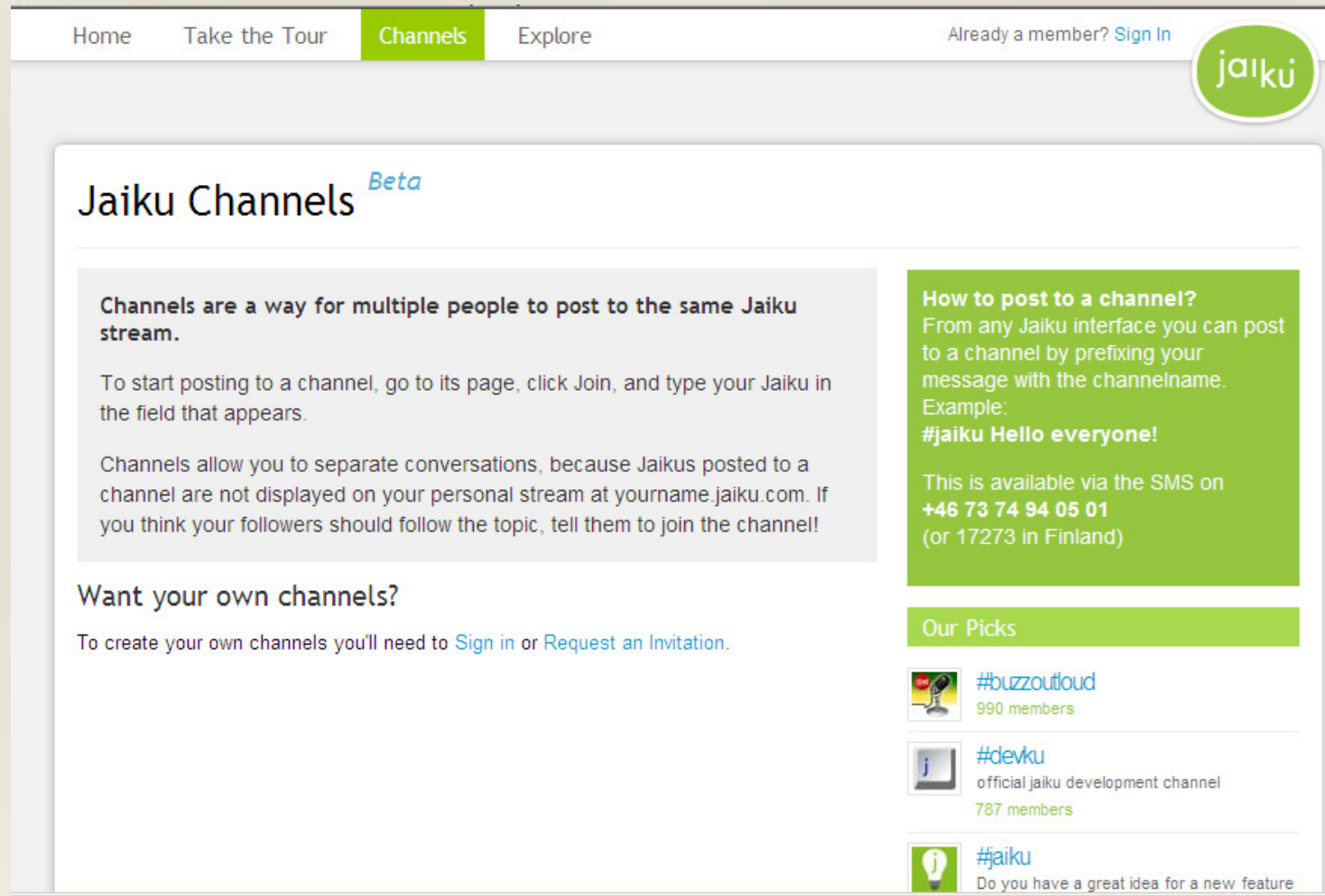
 Anyone that's registered with moblog:

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


Please text ILog plus YES or NO to 07786201241

(if you've signed up!)

# Jaiku – www.jaiku.com



The screenshot shows the Jaiku website's 'Channels' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Take the Tour', 'Channels' (which is highlighted), and 'Explore'. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a link for 'Already a member? Sign In' and the Jaiku logo. The main content area is titled 'Jaiku Channels *Beta*'. It contains several sections: a grey box explaining that channels allow multiple people to post to the same stream, instructions on how to start posting to a channel, and a note that channel posts are not on the personal stream. To the right, a green box titled 'How to post to a channel?' explains that messages should be prefixed with the channel name, giving the example '#jaiku Hello everyone!'. Below this, it states that the service is available via SMS on the number +46 73 74 94 05 01 (or 17273 in Finland). Further down, a green bar titled 'Our Picks' lists three channels: '#buzzoutloud' with 990 members, '#devku' (official jaiku development channel) with 787 members, and '#jaiku' (Do you have a great idea for a new feature).

Home Take the Tour **Channels** Explore [Already a member? Sign In](#) 

## Jaiku Channels *Beta*

**Channels are a way for multiple people to post to the same Jaiku stream.**




To start posting to a channel, go to its page, click Join, and type your Jaiku in the field that appears.

Channels allow you to separate conversations, because Jaikus posted to a channel are not displayed on your personal stream at yourname.jaiku.com. If you think your followers should follow the topic, tell them to join the channel!

**How to post to a channel?**  
From any Jaiku interface you can post to a channel by prefixing your message with the channelname.  
Example:  
**#jaiku Hello everyone!**

This is available via the SMS on  
**+46 73 74 94 05 01**  
(or 17273 in Finland)

**Our Picks**

-  **#buzzoutloud**  
990 members
-  **#devku**  
official jaiku development channel  
787 members
-  **#jaiku**  
Do you have a great idea for a new feature

**Want your own channels?**  
To create your own channels you'll need to [Sign in](#) or [Request an Invitation](#).

The LibraryThing channel : <http://jaiku.com/channel/LibraryThing>



# Twitter – twitter.com



[iusher](#): hello A2 - I'm in Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. [#mgsmaths](#)

1 day ago from *twirl* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)



[daibarnes](#): [@olliebray](#) [#mgsmaths](#) Good morning! London calling. Hope Mr Bray is cheerful :O)

1 day ago from *TweetDeck* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)



[olliebray](#): Just about to start [#mgsmaths](#)

1 day ago from *TwitterFon* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)



[tarannau20](#): [@olliebray](#) [#mgsmaths](#). I am in Birmingham today, but I live in Shropshire.

1 day ago from *Tweetie* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#)



[GeoBlogs](#): [@olliebray](#) [#mgsmaths](#) hi to class A2 from Norfolk - used to teach maths a few years ago

1 day ago from *twirl* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#) · [Show Conversation](#)



[lisibo](#): [@olliebray](#) - hi everyone in [#mgsmaths](#) from Sutton Coldfield near Birmingham. I'll not send my bugs via Twitter.

1 day ago from *web* · [Reply](#) · [View Tweet](#) · [Show Conversation](#)

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



The screenshot shows the Gabcast website homepage. At the top is a blue header with the Gabcast logo (a speech bubble) and the text "gabcast™". Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for "Welcome", "Overview", "Listen", and "Sign Up". To the right of these buttons are input fields for "e-mail:" and "password:", a "Login" button, and a "remember me" checkbox. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image featuring a woman with vibrant, multi-colored hair (orange, pink, purple) talking on a mobile phone. The background of the banner has abstract, colorful circular patterns. Below the banner, on the left, is a list of features:

- record using your phone or VoIP
- create podcasts
- post audio to your blogs
- create audio greetings
- host conference calls
- tell me more

Below the list is a blue button that says "Sign Up Now!" with the subtext "get loads of free features". To the right of the list is a search box with the text "Search episodes on Gabcast" above it, a search input field, and a "Go" button. Below the search box is the text "or browse gabcast episodes". Further down is a section titled "Featured Gabcast channel" which highlights "GreenBiz Radio". This section includes the GreenBiz Radio logo (a green leaf inside a blue circle), the text "with your host: GreenBizRadio", and a smaller version of the logo. Below this is a paragraph of text: "GreenBiz Radio offers interviews with newsmakers and thought leaders in the world of business and the environment. Hear from some of the corporate world's green leaders about how they do what they do – and why they do it – and from experts in a wide range of topics offer insight and inspiration to help companies go green."

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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