

# Texting exam results



*“The system responds to requests sent from a mobile phone”*

**R**MIT is running a trial of a text-messaging system that will give students access to administrative information – such as class times and examination results – any time, anywhere.

The system responds to requests for information sent

from a mobile phone by using key words such as “lecture” or “tutorial”

Those words would attract answers via SMS with information on times, room numbers and required reading. Reminders on examinations, assignments and other work due, as well as assessment results, can also be obtained.

In late 2005 Pearson Education Australia innovation manager Cameron Craig and RMIT’s School of Business Information Technology’s Dr Joan Richardson discussed potential innovations for a number of technologies to augment digital media products generated by previous collaborations.

We looked at useful applications of technology for higher education students. As a consequence they designed Trigger, a Short Messaging Service (SMS) tool that enables ‘push’ and ‘pull’ access to student

administrative information, such as: reminders for work, assessment results and class times, topics and locations.

In semester two 2006 the SMS tool was piloted and students participating praised the technology as a vehicle to effectively and efficiently disseminate information.

A need to further test and develop the SMS application became evident and drove the creation of a team of staff from across the University and attracted funding in 2008.

Recommendations for modifications and improvements to Trigger will be made at the conclusion of the project based on staff and students perceptions of the usefulness of the technology application.

Already being considered is adding to the functionality to provide access to examination seat allocations. 



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