"And the Answer Is..." Using Audience Response Systems in Library Instruction
Tiffany Hebb, Kathryn Mills, and Krista Knapp - DePauw University Libraries

Looking for a way to incorporate more active learning in your instruction sessions, and get quick assessments of your students' knowledge and skills? An audience response system (ARS) can do the work. ARS technology allows instructors to ask questions, collect feedback, and instantly receive results. DePauw University librarians are using an ARS and finding that students are more engaged in the sessions, quiet students are more likely to be heard, and it’s an excellent way to do quick poll results, pool results, and general progress checks throughout the class. It helps the librarian determine what the students do and don’t know, and grab the attention of students who sometimes realize that they did not know everything that they thought they did.

And the Answer Is...

How much fun was this library instruction season?

A. More fun than a poke in the eye
B. I didn’t fall asleep!
C. Better than a Super Bowl halftime show!
D. Most fun I’ve had all year!

Brilliant!

This makes learning fun!

I really like it!

Advantages
- Makes lectures more engaging
- Gives us instant feedback on what students are learning
- Gives quiet students a voice equal to other students
- Provides easy statistics to document instruction needs and effectiveness
- Helps students recognize their gaps in knowledge
- Everyone has to have control of the remote

Disadvantages
- Creates potential for more technology glitches
- Takes time out of already busy classes
- If questions aren’t meaningful, students see it as busy work

DePauw uses this infrared system. Now, more systems are radio frequency – better for larger rooms.

See the game in action!

Sample Game Questions

Production Equipment

 Audiences are Raving!

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"I really liked using the remotes. Instead of tuning out the librarian, I wanted to participate. When I answered a question incorrectly, I wanted to figure out why I was wrong.

I think they are a fun way to participate. I like it without anyone knowing what I answered. It is also a good way to easily and quickly check everyone’s understanding.

Most people just ignore what is going on and check email or do other work, but I felt this changed that. I thought it was a fun way to keep students focused and on task.

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They aren’t the only ones — I feel a lot of times people in class don’t understand something. If more classes do this, the teacher will know what people got and don’t get.

EVERYONE IS A WINNER!