

A Free-Text Audience Response System

A Web-based, Open Access ARS to Facilitate Team Learning

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Background of Free-Text

- Many types of Audience Response Systems are available
 - <http://www.audience-response-solution.com/vendors-2>
- Typical ARSs force choice responses
 - Limit complexity of the answer
 - Require the instructor to plan the question in advance
- Clickers and show of hands require all learners must be in same room
- Admittedly newer commercial systems reduce these problems
 - Use cell phones rather than clickers
 - Some ability to accept free text
- Even new systems have difficulty with
 - Ability to create questions and determine correct responses on the fly
 - Ability to accept unanticipated responses to free text
- The UT Responder was initially developed for use in February, 2006 for an evidence-based medicine class that used team and distance learning. The class was split between San Antonio and Harlingen (Rio Grande Valley).
 - Even with team learning, there was terrible engagement at the remote classroom
 - Local classroom students got bored waiting on remote site
- It was named UT Responder, sometimes called Free-Text, in September, 2008.
- The Free-Text system is an audience response system that allows
 - Instructors to create questions on the fly, and
 - Students to answer questions with short, text-based answers

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<http://utxr.org>

Details at

<http://medinformatics.uthscsa.edu/ars-public/>

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Disclosure: UTHSCSA is applying for a patent for planned enhancements to the UT Responder