

Assessment

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Planning

The Rubric Machine

<http://www.thinkinggear.com/tools/rubrics.cfm>

Price: Free

Recommended for trial.

The Rubric Machine is a tool which guides the user through the creation of rubrics (multi-category, graduated sets of descriptive criteria) for assessment and instructional purposes. The Rubric Machine website suggests that the rubrics can be used for a number of assessment activities including self-assessment, peer assessment, feedback on lessons or projects. The process “will help you to: Set learning goals, review models, identify learning criteria, generate descriptions of high and low quality work, provide and customize feedback, and finally view the rubric.”¹

Assessment Generator

[Factsheet](#)

Trial site <http://generator.flexiblelearning.net.au/>

Price: Free

Not Recommended for trial

“The Assessment Generator is a prototype web-based tool that assists registered training organisations (RTOs) who have the necessary technical requirements to construct, develop and store assessment plans and tools. The system concepts are driven by the need to provide easy access to assessment resources, to assist in Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) compliance and to facilitate the



sharing of resources.”ⁱⁱ This prototype has been developed with funds from the Flexible Learning Advisory Group. Within the tool, there are assessment and best practices guidelines which could be helpful resources in the development of assessment for short courses. The Assessment Generator’s source code, installation guide and user guide are available for free on CD. However, IT support will be required to install it on a server.

Creation and Delivery

The tools in this section aim to simplify the process of creating and/or delivering (online) assessment activities for students.

HotPotatoes

http://www.halfbakedsoftware.com/hot_pot.php

Price: Free for educational purposes if materials remain accessible to anyone on the web. \$120 USD (Single user) to \$1500 USD (50 users)

Recommended for trial

HotPotatoes is a suite of 6 interactive content and assessment tools (e.g. multiple-choice, short-answer, jumbled-sentence, crossword, matching/ordering and gap-fill). Created by the same company as Quandry (see the *Educational Games and Activities* section of the *Other Learning Tools and Utilities* report), this package of tools also does not require the user to be adept in the creation of web pages. The user simply enters text into a specially designed interface. One disadvantage is that the activities/quizzes do not appear to be secure so they could only be used as informal self-check points. It is not clear from the available documentation whether previously created test bank items could be easily imported into HotPotatoes.

Questionmark Perception

<http://www.questionmark.com/uk/home.htm>

Price: available upon request

Questionmark Perception “assessment management system enables educators and trainers to author, schedule, deliver, and report on surveys, quizzes, tests and exams”ⁱⁱⁱ. The lecturer can create question banks and group them into learning objectives or topics. Quizzes, Surveys or tests can be created with 20 different question types and delivered securely if necessary. The Questionmark website provides a lot of support to its users through regular online seminars and a learning café. However, this suggests there may be a high level of complexity in using the tool. Questionmark Perception can import QML, ASCII (tagged) and IMS QTI XML test items.

ExamView

<http://www.fscreations.com/examview.php>

Price: \$139 (single licences), \$1,275 (15 licences), site licences available upon request.

Recommended for trial.

ExamView is part of a suite of tools with which you can create test banks of questions, generate assessments (for paper or electronic use), manage the delivery of tests and create reports of class results. A number of question types can be created using text and various types of multimedia. The questions can be used to produce tests or with other tools within the suite - QuickTake Presenter, MindPoint Quiz Show, StudyView – to create interactive presentations, game show quizzes and PC or mobile self study materials. For example, QuickTake Presenter allows you to import questions into a presentation for your students to answer and can even be used with infrared response pads (similar to the KeePad system) so that the lecture can get instant feedback on how well students are grasping the lecture concepts. Exam View has a utility to assist the user in importing test items from word processor files.

Respondus

<http://www.respondus.com/>

Price: \$79 (single user licence), site licences starting at \$1249 (for 2,500 students)

Recommended

Respondus is a Windows based tool for creating and managing assessments and surveys. The user can create over 9 different question types which can contain mathematical and scientific symbols, images or other multimedia items. The test items can be imported from Rich Text Format files or eLearning platforms such as WebCT. New items can also be uploaded to eLearning platforms for online assessments or printed for use in class. The tool claims a wide user base (3000+ institutions) and large test bank which is contributed to by leading textbook publishers, which users can draw on if using one of the participating textbooks. Respondus can also compile assessment reports and statistics. At the time of writing, UNSW Kensington had a site licence for Respondus.

Marking

Marking students work is often a time consuming process and any tool which can make this a more efficient and accurate process is welcomed by most educators. The tools in this section all try to do this in some way.

Markin

<http://www.cict.co.uk/software/markin/>

Price: \$34.20 USD (single user) and \$14.70 (each additional copy)

Recommended

Markin is a tool for marking and annotating students' written work. It can be adapted to marking reports, essays and papers from a range of disciplines. After a student's work has been imported or pasted into the program from a word processor, the marker can give feedback to the students in four ways: pre-defined annotations, specific comments, more extended feedback and grades. The annotations are easily applied by highlighting the item and then choosing a message, such as "Subject-verb agreement error" or "Excellent point" from the list of annotations. Markin comes with a set of annotation templates which focus on grammar, content, vocabulary and editing; however, you may create your own set of annotations to suit your particular purposes. Markin has XML support, can create statistics for sets of marked papers, and can 'auto-mark' occurrences of the same error. After the student's work has been marked, you can export the work and all feedback either as an rtf file or a web page that can in

turn be emailed, uploaded to a website or printed for the student. This software has been used by a member of the ETS team and found to be useful for marking class sets of essays.

Questionmark Scoring Tool

http://www.questionmark.com/us/perception/scoring_tool.htm

http://www.questionmark.com/us/perception/scoring_tool.pdf

Price: available upon request

The Questionmark scoring tool is an additional component of the Questionmark Perception set of tools which can be used for the creation, scheduling, delivery and reporting of assessments. Much like Markin, the documentation suggests that the Questionmark scoring tool allows the marker to provide in-line annotations, overall comments and grades. The marker can also define a scoring rubric with up to 12 different dimensions. The marked assignment can be emailed back to the student by the system. The one drawback to this tool is that it cannot be used as a stand alone tool; therefore, you must be running Questionmark Perception, Windows 2000 or 2003 server and your Perception database needs to be SQL or Oracle (not Microsoft Access).

Electronic Feedback Software

<http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/cis/software/feedback.asp>

Price: Available upon request

A trial of this software in comparison to Markin would be useful.

The Electronic Feedback Software uses word and excel templates to generate feedback on students written work. The four types of comments can be created by the user: grade comments specific to the overall standard of work; general comments (for the whole class); personal comments, for individual students; and standard comments, which target specific comments that are likely to be repeated a number of times (perhaps similar to Markin's annotated comments). According to the software's website "as well as generating feedback, the software can also be used to analyse the distribution of both marks and standard comments. It can also be used to detect instances of plagiarism between pairs of students."

Reporting

Classmate

<http://www.classmategrading.com/clasmate.htm>

Price: \$37.95 (single user), site licence available upon request

Recommended for trial.

The Classmate web based grading system aims to automate the calculation, organization and reporting of grades. The system can be set up for use with multiple markers, to assign different weightings, track attendance, assign extra credit, graph results and produce pdf/html reports to email to students. A paper by Penny Baillie

(2004)^{iv}, describes its successful use within a “Programming in C” course at USQ. A free 30 day trial version is available from the website.

E-Portfolios

ePortfolios are a web-based collection of materials, evidence, projects and/or reflections on learning often used to show learner progress or achievements. They are being considered in various ways:

- a collection of assessable work in a course
- a demonstration of “graduate attributes” and/or subject competencies
- an ongoing record of achievements and benchmarks through a student’s academic career (from primary on)
- a professional record of ‘best’ work for job or promotional applications
- a personal record of a learning journey

PortfolioMaker

<http://portfoliomaker.ca/>

Price: free

Recommended for trial

ⁱ from Flexible Learning, Cool Tools, viewed 30 Nov, 2005,

<http://nw2004.flexiblelearning.net.au/webx?13@94.ajIOaeUnaV0.297674@/cooltools.html>

ⁱⁱ from <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/productsandservices/index.htm#assessmentgenerator>

ⁱⁱⁱ from the Questionmark site <http://www.questionmark.com/uk/home.htm>

^{iv} Baillie-de Byl, P n(2004). An online assistant for remote, distributed critiquing of electronically submitted assessment. *Educational Technology & Society*, 7 (1), 29-41