

Non-LMS Tools - Reviews

Doodle Poll posted by Sandra Dailey 

Link: <http://doodle.com/>

Doodle Poll is designed to be an event-scheduling service, that lets the user poll a group of individuals. It's very useful for setting up social activities. However, it is also a great little non-LMS tool, and can be used for a class poll, easily allowing organization of student opinion and choice. To use Doodle, you just "log onto their website, create your questions/categories, add in the email addresses of the people you want to invite, and hit send. The people that you have invited will get an email with the Doodle link. When individuals click on the link can see the options and they can make their choices.

Video Demonstration: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_TldmjR0J8

Pros

- very simple to use
- free
- eliminates the need to track email responses from people
- information can be seen at a glance
- lots of option spaces
- rollback to previous version in case of problems
- it's already familiar to many people
- works on many different devices

Cons

- doesn't have a 'confirmation' setting
- is not anonymous
- sometimes initial message goes to 'spam'
- initial email message is not that well explained so there may be initial confusion
- no 'frills' (may be too simple)

Assessment of worth: This little non-LMS tool is too quick and too easy, to not be used. Although its usefulness may not be far-reaching, it works great for what it's designed to do, and I have used it, with satisfaction, for 3 separate activities since I was introduced to it only a short time ago.

Evernote as a Module (Course) Delivery System - Posted by Sandra Dailey

<https://evernote.com/>

Description: Evernote is a note-taking application, but it can also be used as a module or even a course delivery system. This is an intriguing way to present information to students, without the need for a formal LMS. You can create a lesson in Evernote, which has good formatting including links and graphics. Then, the lesson can be emailed out to students, preferably using an email auto-responder. Basically, your content takes the form of shared notes in Evernote, under the 'public link', which creates a separate url that is sent to your learners and synced to other platforms (phone, tablet, etc.)

This is a Steve Dotto brainchild, so the links below are his. The first is a link to an explanation document, and the second is to a video tutorial.

[Link to Document](#)

[Video Tutorial](#)

Pros

- Fast
- Free
- Administratively simple once it's set up
- Can be used on a variety of devices

Cons

- Can't do tests or quizzes
- There is a learning curve in regards to using Evernote to create content
- Needs a separate email tool to manage administration efficiently

Assessment of worth: I can see that this non-LMS tool has a lot of potential. However, I can also acknowledge that the user would need to set some time aside to really learn how to use this tool effectively. It is not a simple process, but if you have the time, it is worth exploring as a means of information sharing.