

Amazon Alexa: A Tool to Compliment Teaching in Education

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May 22, 2019
KCPDC




Amazon Alexa Overview


- Created by Amazon in 2011 (Kim, 2016)
- Sold over 100 million Alexa devices (Matney, 2019)
 - Echo Dot, Echo Plus, Alexa Show
- Listening to music, weather forecasts, fun questions are most popular (Montag, 2018)



Park University Alexa Skill




- Launched in April 2018
- Over 400 Commands
- 4,000 users



First-Year-Seminar Alexa Pilot

- LE100 during Fall 2018
- Students received Echo Docs/Class received Echo Show
- Use cases
 - Campus events
 - Flipped classroom
 - Listened to class lectures in advance of in class activities/homework
 - Getting to know my campus scavenger hunt
 - Scheduling advising appointments
 - Library research for Core Assessment



Pirate SEARCH

Alexa Staff Commands

- Library Support
 - EBSCO Search
 - Email students top twenty articles from a given search term
- Prospective Military Students
 - Military Command
 - Estimate credits for military training and graduation term
- Student Retention
 - Student Success
 - Help students schedule advising appointments

Departments with Alexa Commands

- Academic Support
- Accounting
- Admissions
- Athletics
- Career Development
- Counseling Center
- English Language and Culture Institute
- External Relations
- Financial Aid
- Food Pantry
- Information Technology Services
- International Center for Music
- International Education
- Library
- Online Operations
- Payroll
- Special Events
- Student Accounts
- Student Employment
- Student Life
- Student Success

Alexa Small Group Activity



- Break into small groups
- Discuss the following and add your top ideas to Padlet using the link below.
 - How can Alexa help your organization?
 - What departments can benefit the most from Alexa?
 - What services cannot be provided using Alexa?
 - How would you share Alexa with students, faculty, staff, and alumni?

Padlet link: <https://padlet.com/mkinney4/fmts423s83f>
 You can access the link above from any device with an internet connection.

Alexa Academic Roadmap



- Greater access to student services
 - Distance or nontraditional students
 - Greater connectivity across University
- Growth in Alexa devices and jobs
 - Alexa show enables video streaming
 - Alexa app development positions
- Meet students where they are
 - Students are coming to campus with echo dots
 - Millennials and Generation Z

Alexa Staff Roadmap

- Automating Processes
 - Focus on higher level tasks
 - Increase efficiency
- Greater Responsiveness
 - Provide student services faster
 - Serving a new generation of students
- Machine Learning
 - Machine learns responses



References

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