

Highlight



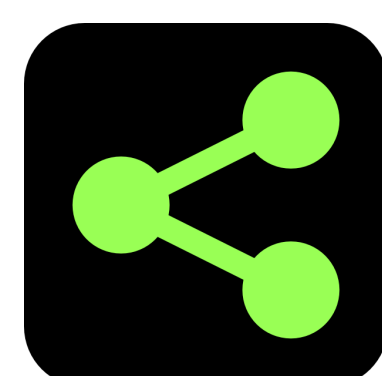
Discuss



Tag



Search



Share

eMargin is a web-based tool for the annotation of electronic texts down to **individual word level**. It provides a digital equivalent of handwritten notes in the margins of a book but with a new collaborative element, allowing students and teachers to share annotations within or beyond the classroom.

Designed originally for the close reading of literary texts, eMargin is now being used in a **wide variety of disciplines**, at school and university levels.

eMargin is hosted at Birmingham City University and free for academic use. The interface is also compatible with tablets and other touch-screen devices.

individual word level X

John Smith said:

eMargin allows colour-coded highlights (like this one) at any level, from word to text. Users can decide what the colours mean and label them.

Sarah Jones said:

Users can take part in discussions linked to individual highlights.

wide variety of disciplines X

Andrew Kehoe said:

Law, Education, Theology, Social Sciences.... Being used in rehearsals at Birmingham School of Acting.

Features

- Use in class, for homework, for project work
- Insert texts (paste, upload, fetch from web)
- Create user groups & manage permissions
- Use colour- and/or word-associations (tags)
- View only annotations with specific colour/tag
- Search annotations by colour, tag, user, date
- View annotation history
- Look up words automatically in OED, Google, etc
- Link to a specific annotation
- Create printable version of annotated text

Student Feedback

Feedback from BA/MA English students at the University of Leicester:

- 96% found word-level commenting useful
- 88% found highlighting useful
- 92% agreed "reading others' comments helped me formulate my own ideas"
- 96% found eMargin 'easy' to use

Digital equivalent of hand-written notes in the margin

Phase 2: Embedding Benefits

Integration with Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) using IMS LTI:

- Single sign-in for seamless transition from VLE to eMargin
- Easier group management - import class lists from VLE
- Compatible with all major VLEs (Moodle, Blackboard Learn, WebCT, etc.)
- Explore potential of eMargin as an e-assessment tool

eMargin is being developed in the Research & Development Unit for English Studies at Birmingham City University with funding from JISC

emargin.bcu.ac.uk