



## ReMarksPDF – Advanced Electronic Assessment Feedback

**Professor Stephen Colbran**  
Law School  
University of New England

**Michael Garner**  
Learning & Teaching Systems, Division of Information Services  
Griffith University

ReMarksPDF is an ALTC project designed to significantly improve electronic assessment workflows in the tertiary sector and enhance student engagement. The project is concerned with summarizing the literature on e-assessment workflows, the policy implications for universities, relevance to TEQSA data collection, moderation and monitoring learning standards, new mechanisms for moderation within marking teams, and integration with Learning Management Systems. ReMarksPDF provides tools for timely feedback, embedding feedback throughout student assessment submissions, criterion-referenced assessment, and advanced moderation and quality assurance tools. The poster summarises the current state of development of the project and the free availability of this advanced cross-platform marking software for Australian academics. Case studies of ReMarksPDF Blackboard integration at Griffith University and ReMarksPDF Moodle 2.0 integration will be displayed. Technologically based methods of providing quality student feedback is an essential paradigm shift towards faster, simpler and more efficient assessment workflows for the benefit of both academics and students.

Keywords: Electronic Feedback, Electronic marking, ReMarksPDF, Electronic assessment

### Introduction

Assessment drives student learning and effort (Kendle & Northcote, 2000) and in turn influences the direction and quality of student learning (Maclellan, 2004). Numerous literature reviews have revealed that feedback is critical to improving the standard of student work and learning (Black & William 1998a; Hattie 1999; Heinrich 2006, Huber & Mowbray 2011) and that both formative and summative assessment directly affect student engagement. Assessment designs often include formative feedback aimed at enriching student engagement and understanding of the subject matter. Effective feedback should focus on the individual, outlining strengths and weaknesses and avenues for self-improvement (Linn & Miller, 2005; Heinrich 2006).

Timely feedback is essential for students to use feedback to improve later assessment submissions and focus on learning not marks (Fish & Lumadue 2011; Holmes & Papageorgiou, 2009; Ramsden, 2003). Students prefer

feedback embedded throughout the body of their assessment submission (Wolsey, 2004) and the use of criterion-referenced assessment (O'Donovan, Price, & Rust, 2004).

Electronic feedback management systems, such as ReMarksPDF offer opportunities for improvement in assessment practice and outcomes for students and academics, including:

8. E-submission, allocation, marking, moderation and assessment return via a learning management system
9. Efficient electronic assessment workflows built on enterprise level system deployment
10. Extensive annotation and commentary features, including rubrics, audio, video, stamps, electronic dashboards and charts
11. Links to electronic portfolios classified by learning outcomes or graduate attributes
12. Quality management including consistency, reporting, and self-reflection

## The ReMarksPDF Project

ReMarksPDF is a feedback management system, available free to Australian academics, designed to operate standalone or as part of an enterprise learning management system. The aim of the project is to significantly improve the quality, quantity and timeliness of assessment feedback whilst decreasing the workload and time commitment of academics associated with the marking of student assessment. ReMarksPDF provides rich media features such as auto text, sound and video comments, colour coding with assigned meanings, self-populating drag and drop graphs and charts, extensive moderation facilities (based on questions, marks, criterion, markers or combinations of these elements), style libraries, advanced rubrics and cover pages. The software is available in English, French, Modern Chinese and Arabic.

The intention is to improve student engagement with their studies through timely detailed feedback embedded throughout their assessment submissions, linked to criterion-referenced requirements.

Trials of the software are currently being undertaken at Griffith University, the University of Western Sydney and by numerous academics nationally and internationally.

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**Author contact details:**

Stephen Colbran [stephen.colbran@une.edu.au](mailto:stephen.colbran@une.edu.au)

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