Post-Graduate Research Association Conference 2013

The Accessibility of Research

Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, UK - 13.06.2013

Openness and the Networked Researcher

Wayne Barry
Who am I?

Wayne Barry
- Learning Technologist
- PGCLT(HE) Tutor
- Change Agent
- Blogger
- EdD Student

e-mail: wayne.barry@canterbury.ac.uk  |  web: www.waynebarry.com  |  twitter: @heywayne
Overview

- Definitions
- Statistics
- Networked Researcher
- Social Media Tools
- Issues & Tensions
- Best Practice
- Key Messages
- Resources
- Question Time
A Show of Hands...

How many of you are currently using some form of social media to support your research and scholarly activities?
Some Definitions...

...an exact statement or description of the nature, scope, or meaning of something. (OED, 2012)
The ‘Open Movement’

Open Standards

Open Access

Open Data

Open Content

Open Formats

Open Source

Open Cloud

Open Education

Open Content
What is Openness?

- widening access;
- greater choice;
- encompassing inclusivity and diversity;
- content that can be used, reused, revised, remixed;
- being shared with others;
- being participatory;
- being transparent;
- being flexible;
- being a common good.
What is Social Media?

...is a means to broadcast or share information with a wide audience. Everyone has the opportunity to create and distribute content like blog posts, photos, videos, music, wiki entries through Internet-based applications and technologies.

Some Statistics...

...the practice or science of collecting and analysing numerical data in large quantities, especially for the purpose of inferring proportions in a whole from those in a representative sample.

(OED, 2012)
At the end of 2011, there were 6 billion mobile cellular subscriptions globally.\(^1\)

6 BILLION

That means 87% of the world’s population have mobile phones! 87%

22%

22% of these mobile subscribers access the web at least monthly.\(^2\)

By 2014, mobile internet usage is predicted to take over desktop internet usage.\(^3\)

34% USA

34% of Americans and 28% of Europeans use their mobile devices to access applications.\(^4\)

GROWING 7-9%

Across regions, mobile browsing and application usage is growing at a rate of 7-9% per year.\(^4\)

28% EUROPE

30 BILLION DOWNLOADS

At the end of 2011, nearly 30 billion apps had been downloaded worldwide.\(^5\)

22 APPS

The average smartphone user in the US has 22 mobile apps downloaded.\(^6\)

THE MOBILE WEB RECEIVES 217 NEW USERS.

WORDPRESS USERS PUBLISH 347 NEW BLOG POSTS.

571 NEW WEBSITES ARE CREATED.

FOURSQUARE USERS PERFORM 2,083 CHECK-INS.

FLICKR USERS ADD 3,125 NEW PHOTOS.

INSTAGRAM USERS SHARE 3,600 NEW PHOTOS.

TUMBLR BLOG OWNERS PUBLISH 27,778 NEW POSTS.

BRANDS & ORGANIZATIONS ON FACEBOOK RECEIVE 34,722 "LIKES”.

APPLE RECEIVES ABOUT 47,000 APP DOWNLOADS.

GOOGLE RECEIVES OVER 2,000,000 SEARCH QUERIES.

FACEBOOK USERS SHARE 684,478 PIECES OF CONTENT.

Twitter users send over 100,000 tweets.

Consumers spend $272,070 on web shopping.

EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY

A **key skill** for the 21st century researcher is building and maintaining their networks, whether within their institution or beyond.

The **Networked Researcher** makes critical use of a full range of tools and services that are available to support and facilitate their research and scholarly collaborations and communications.
Some Tools...
Using a Blog

The accidental technologist

- record reflections on research, or events attended;
- receive early feedback on research ideas;
- develop a personal voice;
- to publicise and promote research, or for public engagement;
- network for funding and employment opportunities;
- build a community of researchers with similar research interests;
- recruit participants for research;
- share personal resolutions with readers;
- keep social connections with family and friends.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)

In some sense, this blog article is my contribution to that “Open Learn” activity as well as a reflection on the essay that I wrote for my EdD.
Using Twitter

- to publicise research, and to share ideas, news, breakthroughs;
- to solicit comments on a topic;
- to inform others about a new blog-post;
- to connect with others who have similar research interests;
- to help build and sustain your face-to-face networks;
- helps to introduce you to new people with shared interests;
- to search for specific ideas using keyword searches;
- to keep up-to-date with research funding opportunities, calls for papers, projects – “ambient collegiality” (McNeill, 2009);
- to participate in discussions with other postgraduate researchers using the hash-tag: #phdchat.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Using RSS Feeds

- to monitor journal content pages;
- to check for conference updates;
- to receiving updates from relevant blogs;
- to receiving updates from websites of related research projects;
- to monitoring funding opportunities;
- it offers a means of filtering and managing information;
- to monitor search engines for specific keywords associated with a research area.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Using SlideShare

- an online repository for your presentations;
- to share with the community;
- to publicise and promote research;
- to receive feedback on research ideas;
- to network for funding and employment opportunities;
- to join groups to connect with SlideShare members who share your interests;
- to be able to view presentations and other documents by other researchers.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Using Delicious

- to develop and maintain a web-based library of bookmarks;
- to share bookmarks with your supervision team and other colleagues;
- to keep up-to-date with resources that are being bookmarked by others;
- to 'tag' the bookmarks helps to identify the keywords and better understand the resource.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Using Academia.edu

- to create a **publically-available professional profile** displaying experience and specialities;
- to **keep connections** with past colleagues and to build professional relationships;
- to **promote visibility** for jobs, consulting opportunities and collaborations;
- to **promote your research publications, papers and presentations**;
- to receive from and provide **recommendations to connections**;
- to **publicise and promote research**;
- to receive **early feedback on research ideas**;
- to **network for funding and employment opportunities**;
- to **recruit participants for research**.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Issues & Tensions

- a reluctance to engage with new technologies or new methods of dissemination;
- a lack of recognition of digital scholarship as an activity that is worthy of appreciation;
- there are tensions around the types of access... open vs. closed;
- there are tensions around intellectual property... attribution vs. copyright;
- how to recognise and measure the quality of these new types of outputs and activities in widely varied formats.

Source: Weller (2011)
Best Practice

- create and maintain a consistent professional online presence;
- be selective on tool choices – ensure these are ‘fit for purpose’;
- regularly evaluate the tools you use;
- if a particular tool is not providing value, then give it up!
- keep your purpose and audience in mind;
- take care not to overload your followers;
- be aware of IPR, copyright and other legal issues and risks when using social media tools;
- schedule time for using social media to support your activities;
- develop a “critical filter” (Barry, 2013) to assess & assimilate new information;
- REMEMBER: social media is not the only form of communication.

Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)
Some **Key Messages...**

**Social Media and other related technologies:**

- can offer a **complement** to traditional research practices;
- can **extend and enhance** your ‘personal research network’;
- can accelerate the **sharing** of information;
- can facilitate **interaction and collaborative dialogue** around your ideas;
- can reduce the cost of **participation and co-ordination** of resources and actions;
- can enable your research to be more **open and accessible** – it is democratising information & knowledge.

*Source: Minocha & Petre (2012)*
Some Resources...


Open Access and Open Practices for the Connected Researcher

By Brian Kelly • 22 October 2012

Background

Today, Monday 22 October 2012, sees the start of Open Access Week, #OAWeek. As described on the Open Access Week Web site:

Open Access Week is a global campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

In my work at UKOLN, University of Bath I have a responsibility for supporting the UK's higher education sector in maximising the potential of the Web to support key institutional activities which, of course, includes supporting research activities.

My work includes writing peer-reviewed papers and giving talks at conferences about emerging innovative practices: I have a particular research interest in Web accessibility and additional interest in Web standards, Web preservation, open practices and Web 2.0. Clearly making use of Open Access approaches can help to maximise awareness of my ideas and can help to increase citations by other researchers and adoption of the ideas by practitioners.

Making Research Publications Available in an Open Access Repository is Not Enough!

Promoting Research

Promoting research involves more than just making research available online.
Some Questions?