


twitter

Trivial Pursuit or Serious Academic Tool?

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What can you possibly say in 140 characters?



Watching from the outside, Twitter is like the dumbest thing you've heard of "Why would anyone want to tell others what they are doing in 140 characters."

And yet to dismiss Twitter is a mistake because it's an incredibly powerful tool for your personal learning and connecting with others



Suewalters.com

As it turns out...quite a lot!

Sharing the latest news...





The coming of age of Twitter...





With members of the media kicked out of Iranian cities, millions joining in on protests, and violence erupting all across the troubled state, Iranians have been turning to Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and other social tools to get the word out about what's happening on the ground.

Well, it looks like Twitter may have had someone pushing for it not to go down last night, during peak Iranian hours: **the U.S. State Department**

Sharing personal/professional activities...

RonOwston

Working on upcoming presentation "Twitter, Trivial Pursuit or Valuable Academic Tool". <http://nit.yorku.ca/#fb>

Testing Facebook update from Twitter #fb

Excellent article on problems/issues with media comparison studies in Teachers College Record #e-learning #edtech <http://bit.ly/9WELU>

Real-time results for #elearning

- jenisecook** RT @ethankunijoshi: GoogleVoice for easy audio/text recording for #elearning <http://snipurl.com/s-408>
- RonAlexshan** #Online #elearning Programs <http://bit.ly/1VZRts> #collaboration #elearning

Follow leaders in a field...

mashable Twitter Funding Confirmed, Amount Dubbed "Significant" - <http://bit.ly/kZc7e>

TLTGROUPE Faculty support: Support strategy. Help a few faculty. teach one new technology after another. The topic of <http://bit.ly/UuMjL>

rayschroeder Social skills of online high school students? WSJ article on efforts to address distance in online learning <http://bit.ly/1aVW> #edtech

MindShareLearn Near to our prize pack--All expenses paid trip to ISTE 2010 Denver. Co. for 3 lucky winners. courtesy of ISTE #edtech #Canada

google Jump to the information you want straight from the search snippet <http://bit.ly/N1s1C>

edUCAUSE Emerging Technologies in Higher Education (October 2 free web seminar w/John O'Keefe) <http://met.educause.edu/ly...>

Conducting polls...

twtpoll

Do you think Twitter will be useful for your teaching?

Total: 2 votes

- Yes, definitely! (100% of votes)
- Possibly
- Definitely not!

Sharing media...

vidly The best way to share videos on Twitter

Twisten.fm

What are you listening to?

Twilight by Melody Gardot

Message Preview: Listening to Twilight by Melody Gardot on Twisten.FM - <http://twisten.fm/464>

twitpic

Creating art with Portwiture.com



Even updating Facebook/Myspace automatically!



Tweeting from your cell phone



Top Sites in Canada
The top 100 sites in Canada.

1. Google.ca
2. Facebook.com
3. Google.com
4. Youtube.com
5. Windows Live
6. Yahoo.com
7. MSN.com
8. Wikipedia
9. MSN.ca
10. Blogger.com
11. Kijiji.ca
12. Twitter

The nuts and bolts: How to use Twitter...



Setup an account at twitter.com

A screenshot of the Twitter website's account creation page. The page is titled "Join the Conversation" and includes a sub-header "Already use Twitter on your phone? Press setup now". Below this are input fields for "Full name", "Username", "Password", and "Email". There is a checkbox for "I want the mobile browser phone and my email address!". A CAPTCHA image shows the words "ferr" and "ascala" in a stylized font. Below the CAPTCHA is a "Create my account" button.

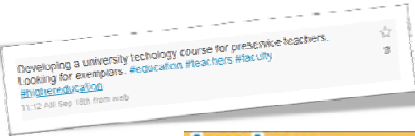
Start tweeting...

A screenshot of the Twitter home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home Profile Find People Settings Help Sign out". Below this is a text input area with the placeholder "What are you doing?" and a character count of "140". To the right of the input area is a profile card for "RonOwston" with "19" followers, "29" following, and "43" tweets. Below the input area, there is a tweet from "Teachers College Record" about problem-solving with media comparison studies, dated "5 days ago".

Shortening URLs with bit.ly

A screenshot of the bit.ly website. The page has a header with "bit.ly" and navigation links for "Home", "Tools", "Search", and "Blog". Below the header is a text input field for "Enter your long link or file here:" with a "Shorten" button. Below this is a "History" section showing a list of shortened URLs. The list includes: "Welcome to Google Docs" (shortened to bit.ly/4D5E4), "TCRecord Article" (shortened to bit.ly/4E5U0), "finalreport.pdf" (shortened to bit.ly/4K9v6), and "Open Virtual Usability Lab - Fluid Project Wiki" (shortened to bit.ly/4MPT8).

Some Twitter conventions...hashtags



RT and @username

RT (re-tweet) – not an ‘official’ Twitter command but handy for passing on good or important tweets to your followers. For example:

RT @mslwalker 9 Reasons Why Teachers Should Use Twitter
<http://bit.ly/jva5H>

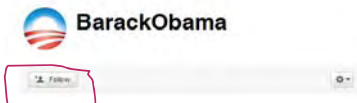
passing on a handy tweet and mentioning the source. But

@mslwalker 9 Reasons Why Teachers Should Use Twitter
<http://bit.ly/jva5H>

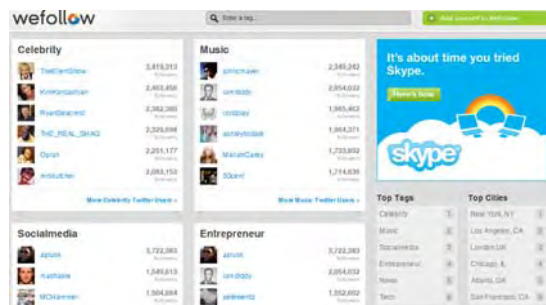
is a public reply to mslwalker.

How to “follow” someone

- Do a search for a topic or person and find someone you’d like to follow
- Click on the person’s name then click the Follow icon.



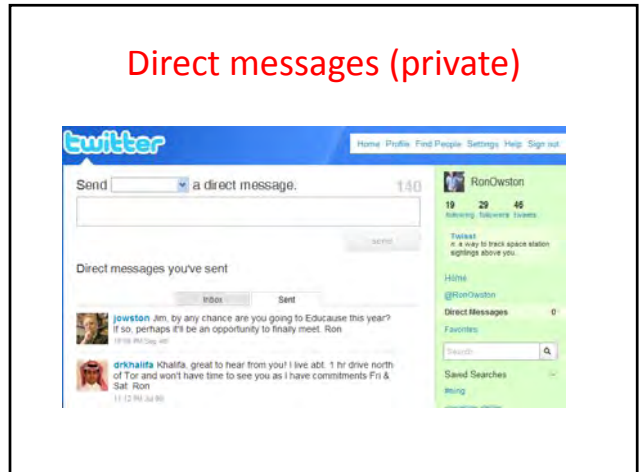
But how do you find interesting people to follow?



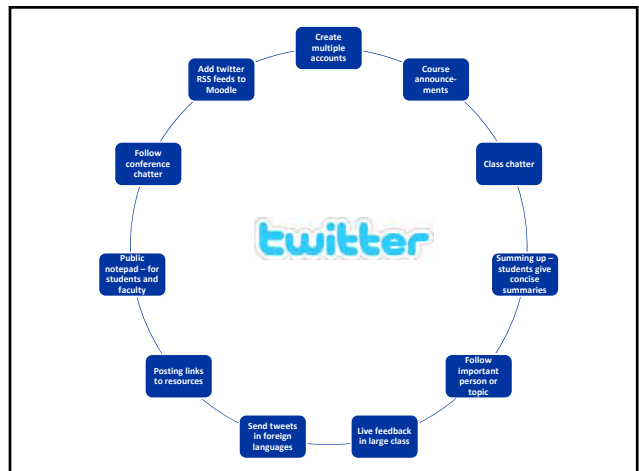
Real time Searching with Twitter (in real time)



Direct messages (private)



Ideas for using Twitter in your courses



Thanks and tweet you later!

<http://twitter.com/RonOwston>