Twitter 101:
Are You Twitterized Yet?

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January 22, 2020
By Aimee Whyte, @aimistar

What’s All The Twitter About?

Twitter, whassat?! If you check the dictionary, you will see that it defines the chatter of birds or people, giggling, or excitement flutters. However, visiting www.twitter.com will bring you to Twitterverse, where you are offered the best way to discover what’s new in your world. It’s a place where everyone is twittering. Just follow the blue bird.

Twitterverse: An Open Network

On the web, Twitter is defined as “a real-time information network powered by people all around the world that lets you share and discover what’s happening now.” It’s free, it’s convenient, and you can get instant updates and access or “follow” information that most appeals to you. It’s a service that allows you to broadcast short bits of text which is 140 characters or less. When a tweeter posts text, it becomes a tweet.

Twitter is based in San Francisco, but it’s open to anyone around the world who has access to the Internet. Currently, Twitter allows tweets to be in English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. The people behind Twitter probably don’t know it, but sign language can be used on Twitter – Deaf people can post videos in sign language via web links that can be opened.

All Twitter accounts are made up of a username that are prefixed with “@”. For example, @SIGNewsEIC, is the username of SIGNews’s Editor in Chief, Jennifer Dans-Wille. You will see words in Twitterverse that are prefixed with a hash symbol, “#” which is known in Twitter as a “hashtag.”

Deaf-Friendly

Twitter is like a “Deaf radio,” meaning Deaf people can now access the latest up-to-date information and know things, even before a hearing person, anywhere with a pager (Internet access). Information about almost everything is first found through Twitter. For example, tweeters were the first to find out Michael Jackson died. This news was broadcast on Twitter before television.

The National Association of the Deaf utilized Twitter at their 50th Biennial conference last July via the username, @NADConf. They set up this account almost a month prior to the conference and advertised conference information and events. #NAD10 was the hashtag used. @NADConf currently has 274 followers. If you didn’t make it to the conference and haven’t yet seen their tweets, do so to get close-up information – it’s not too late. The account is still tweeting, as of September 9, 2010.

@NADConf was not the only account that was keeping track of the NAD conference. Several other deaf tweeters (whether at the conference or not) were tweeting and retweeting about conference happenings as well including @deafread, @Esposito2024, @foundinblank, @juliest, @joshmend, @KelbyBrock, @MDADeaf, @MinnDeaf, @njbnad, @SeanGerlis, @tatephoto, and several more.
What's All The Twitter About?
Aimee Whyte, a.la@smistert
SIGNews staff writer

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All Twitter accounts are made up of a username that are prefixed with “@”. For example, @SIGNewsIEC is the username of SIGNews’s Editor in Chief, Jennifer Davis-Wiley. You will see words in Twitterverse that are prefixed with a hash symbol, “#”, which is known in Twitter as a “hashtag.” An example may be #Deaf (hashtags are not case-sensitive). The purpose of the hashtag is to make it easier for tweeters to search for tweets that may have a common topic. It is similar to other web tags and purposefully adds tweets to a category.

Twitter is typically used for friends. Like Facebook, where you search for friends and make friends requests, with Twitter you may find friends and other people or organizations to follow and vice versa. You can easily follow or unfollow people. If a Twitter account has been made private, however, a request to follow needs to be initiated. The easiest way to find and follow tweeters and to look at a fellow tweeter’s list of followers and those their list that interest you.

Very Deaf-Friendly
“Twitter is like a ‘Deaf radio,’ meaning deaf people can access the latest up-to-date information and know things, even before a hearing person, anywhere with a pager (Internet access). Information about almost everything is first found through Twitter. For example, tweeters were the first to find out Michael Jackson died. This news was broadcast on Twitter before television.

Twitter is a social network that limits users to 140 characters or less. Twitter is also considered as a "real-time" information central for many people and businesses.

The National Association of the Deaf utilized Twitter at their 50th Biennial conference last July via the username, @NADConf. They set up this account almost a month prior to the conference and advertised conference information and events. #NAD50 was the hashtag used. @NADConf currently has 274 followers. If you didn’t make it to the conference and haven’t yet seen their tweets, do so to get close-up information — it’s not too late. The account is still tweeting, as of Sept. 9, 2010.

@NADConf was not the only account that was keeping track of the NAD conference. Several other deaf tweeters (whether at the conference or not) were tweeting and retweeting about conference happenings as well including @ deafreads, @ FossilSidneY, @ foundinblank, @ juliett, @ joshmend, @ KellyBrick, @ MDADeaf, @ MinnDeaf, @ mbrad, @ seanjeriites, @ tinyphot, and several more.

Jared Evans, an avid tweeter and deaf tech guru known as @ jreek, sees Twitterverse as a world of digital literacy. According to him, "the 140 characters limit per tweet forces one to get creative and distill truths as much as possible into tasty morsels of choice words. While there is a smaller community of deaf tweeters compared to the massive deaf community on Facebook, short texts are more easily consumed and quicker to reply to. Interesting information often emerges and spreads much faster than other mediums such as Facebook, blogs, or news.

Become a Twit-Twit!
The online Urban Dictionary defines a twit-twit as “someone who insists on using his or her smartphone to tweet,” continued on page 18

Twitter continued from page 17
or any Internet device to look up information on whatever is being discussed, no matter how trivial or casual the subject matter is. The word can also be used as a verb, such as when someone posts meaningless and trivial information online and insists on telling someone about it” (www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=twit-twit).

Anything can be posted on Twitter by anyone — one person or organizations — be it funny, important, newsworthy, sarcastic, loud, subtle, or even poetic. Some people use Twitter to promote their work, business, or organization. Others use it to inspire, inform, educate, or gather opinions. Twitter is also used for networking, developing friendships and collaborations. Tweeters even have conversations with one another with or without individuals together.

Additionally: Twitter can be used to fundraise. @NADConf seemed to be successful in their fundraising during their conference as evidenced by their tweets. They tweeted about the donations they received and named donors. I am an example of a tweeter who donated online after being inspired by their tweets.
Hussein Chahine: Interactive means shared, common.

Priscilla Acosta: Pretzel Crisps bag. Versatile is able to adapt in many different functions or activities.

Christina Myers: Fusion: process or result of two different think join or combine into one thing.

Aimee K. Whyte: Believe them. Believe that they were abused. Tell them you believe them. Tell them they did not deserve the abuse they experienced.

Taylor Harris: I would like to know of any trigger words or actions so that I can avoid them.

Aimee K. Whyte: Amenity= comfort or pleasure; manner or civility

Jilllan: Hey guys, I'm Jillian. I can't wait to learn more new information like mental health and different topics in Abnormal Psychology.

Bella Araujo: Hey guys, Bella here. I'm excited to learn more about mental health in general and how it affects the world.

Jenai McKeen: Hey guys, I'm Jenai and I'm really looking forward to Abnormal Psychology. We should show our support of their work.
This workshop is perfect for those who are curious about Twitter and are interested in setting up a Twitter account. Twitter is a free online social networking, news, and microblogging service that can be used for different purposes, and its use among professionals in higher education is skyrocketing! Some of the main purposes for using Twitter will be highlighted, with emphasis on how it can be an asset for professionals in academic affairs and student affairs. Participants will learn the basics of Twitter and how to use it, including: how to set up a Twitter profile and choose a username, how to decipher the anatomy of a tweet, how to start following other people (and who!), how to understand Twitter language (easy peasy!), and how to craft a tweet. Participants will leave this workshop Twitterized!

Feel free to bring your laptops, if you are a hands-on learner.
Twitterize - Urban Dictionary

twit·ter·ize —verb (used with object), -ized, -iz·ing. 1. The act of enabling a person/object to access Twitter. 2. To show a person the wonders of Twitter.


Twitterized

The act of being proficient in the language of Twitter. Some people have achieved this, some have not, and some will never want to achieve this because they only like facebook.

Wesmosh is slowly becoming proficient in the #language of @twitter. Afick is not even close to becoming "Twitterized" at this moment in time.

#twitter #language #twitter-lovers #twitter-haters #technology

by aficker April 11, 2011

Twitterize – Aimee Whyte’s Dictionary
[twit-ter-ize] – *verb*

1. To establish a Twitter account/handle.
2. To experience Twitter.
3. To see the benefits (*wonders*) of Twitter.
Who has Twitter?

Who wants to set up Twitter?
So, what is it?

• A free online social networking, news, and microblogging service that can be used for different purposes

Source: https://about.twitter.com
• You can have a public or private account ("protected tweets").

• You can view anyone’s public tweets (timelines) without a Twitter account.

• You can tweet texts, links, and media.

• Media = up to 4 photos, a video, or a GIF.
Tweets =

How many characters?
Twitter has a 280 character limit. See, here, I am typing to reach 280 characters, or at least I am trying to, so I can demonstrate the character limit. I am even going to copy and paste this into word after I am done, to get a word count, you know, just in case. So let's see....
To edit or not to edit –
that is not an option

All we wanted was an edit button
All we wanted was an edit button
All we wanted was an edit button
All we wanted was an edit button
All we wanted was an edit button
All we wanted was an edit button
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All we wanted was an edit button

— KEEPER (@Sushimibelle) November 8, 2017
“Most educators who learn to use Twitter effectively say they learn more from their personal learning network (PLN) on Twitter than any other forms of professional development or personal learning” (Waters & Morris, 2018).
PI Prime Time: “Partnering with NTID’s Communication, Marketing and Multimedia Services Group to Publicize Your Work” (October 25, 2019) with Peter Hauser, Professor and Director of NTID Research Center on Culture and Language, and Suzi Murad, Director of Public Relations & Technology Transfer, CMMS

RIT Branding Portal: https://www.rit.edu/marketing/brandportal/brand-elements/our-identity
1) Go to: www.twitter.com/signup

2) Sign-up process = enter your name and email

3) Select a unique username = your Twitter handle ( @______ )

4) Complete your bio

5) Add a profile picture

6) Add a header photo
Personalize
Follow your interests.

Read

Hear what people are talking about.

Join the conversation.
Choose Your Niche

I haven't twittered since yesterday. I will lose followers. I have to find something cool. "sitting at the computer, thinking about my next tweet"

The genesis of a tweet.

What to Tweet?

Anatomy of a Tweet

- **User**: Kathleen Morris
- **Avatar**: 
- **Link**: 
- **Hashtags**: #ISTE18, #GlobalGoals
- **Image**: The UN Global Goals in Education
- **Date**: 3:22 PM - 26 Jun 2018
- **Retweet**: Share with all your followers
- **Like**: 
- **Direct Message**: Contact tweeter privately
- **Options**: Copy link, mute, follow or unfollow etc.
- **Emoji**: Adds fun and engagement
- **Tags**: The tweeter may tag people who might be interested

• **Handle** = username.

• **@reply** = conversation with another tweeter.

• Use the **@username** of the person you want to reply to or direct your tweet to.

• **Note:** only **@replies** of people you are following will be visible to you (also, if they are public and you look at their timeline)
How to “Reply”

Reply
Add your public reply or read others' thoughts
• Mentions = tweets that contain @username.

• @username will be alerted to your tweet.

• You need to add a period before @username if you are starting the tweet with the @username – if you want your followers to see the tweet. Otherwise the tweet will be directed to only @username (visible in your “Tweets and replies” as opposed to your timeline).

• Example: @aimiedu
Twitter Lingo: “Retweets” (RT)

• **Retweets** = RT or a re-posted tweet.

• You can share a tweet made by others with all of your followers.

• You can also RT your own tweets.

• **Two ways to RT:**
  1) Use the RT symbol (two arrows) under a tweet.
  2) Use the RT with comment and type RT at the start of the tweet you are retweeting.
RT with Comment
Likes, DM’s, and Tags

Following and Followers

• **Following** = people you follow

• **Followers** = people who follow you

• **To find followers:**
  1) Use Twitter Lists
  2) “Search”
  3) Look at other tweeters’ followings/followers
  4) #FollowFriday
• Hashtag = Any word starting with #

  • Example: #DeafEd

• Hashtags make it easier to find tweets and Twitter conversations on specific topics
Twitter Lists

Aimee K. Whyte
@aimiedu
931 Following 510 Followers

- Lists
- Topics
- Bookmarks
- Moments
- Settings and privacy
- Help Center

Lists

Pinned

All

#AbPsych221 Spring 2020
Aimee K. Whyte @aimiedu

#DVcrim250 Spring 2020
Aimee K. Whyte @aimiedu

Abnormal Psychology
Aimee K. Whyte @aimiedu

Domestic Violence
Aimee K. Whyte @aimiedu

RIT/NTID
Aimee K. Whyte @aimiedu

#HipHopEd
@TheRealHipHopEd

- Turn off Retweets
- View Topics
- Add/remove from Lists
- View Lists
- View Moments
- Share @TheRealHipHopEd via...
- Mute @TheRealHipHopEd
- Block @TheRealHipHopEd
- Report @TheRealHipHopEd

Cancel
Twitter Cheat Sheet

RETWEET (RT): A Tweet you share publicly with your followers. Adding your own comment is optional.

REPLY: Respond to another person’s tweet publicly by clicking the reply icon under a tweet.

MENTION: Type the @ symbol before a username when addressing someone.

TWEET: An update with up to 280 characters and possibly media (images, GIF, video).

HASHTAG: Used to index keywords or topics on Twitter. Hashtags use the # symbol.

FOLLOWING: Subscribing to someone’s tweets and seeing them in your home timeline.

DIRECT MESSAGE (DM): A private message sent to someone who is following you (or a group of people).

• **About Twitter:** https://about.twitter.com


• **Getting Started:** https://help.twitter.com/en/twitter-guide

• **Using Twitter:** https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter

• **How to use Twitter Lists:** https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/twitter-lists
REFERENCES


→ 7 Free “Getting Started Worksheets” available: https://www.academia.edu/19607976/Twitter_for_Academics_Worksheets
