



Guide to using social media in learning

This exemplar is relevant to Digital Student challenge:

Prepare and support students to study successfully with digital technologies

Staff from the libraries of the Universities of Leeds, York and Manchester have worked together and with students from their institutions to produce an interactive guide to social media. This can be used at any stage in a course of study but is particularly being targeted at newly arrived students.

A range of social platforms are covered, including the obvious google+ and Facebook but also LinkedIn and Academia.edu, Twitter, Slideshare, YouTube, blogs and social bookmarking sites. Users can also search by task rather than by platform. The focus is on the opportunities to enhance learning, so as well as exploring 'what is it' and 'why use it', in each case students are encouraged to practice 'using it well', whether they are finding current information for their course, expanding their learning networks or refining their online identity. This resource is now available for use and reuse under a Creative Commons licence.

How does this meet the challenge?

- The resource takes an unpatronising look at social media, encouraging students to see them as legitimate tools for learning.
- The format is well designed, easy to browse, and can be accessed at any time.
- Students are encouraged to experiment and 'find their own balance' in their use of social media.
- The guide includes a list of 'do's and don'ts' which covers basic safety and ethical behaviour, but this is framed in positive terms.

Find out more

- [Social media guide](#)
- [Version available to download from Jorum](#)

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