Using Twitter for Research

You can create a Twitter account at www.twitter.com and use it to keep up to date with current topics of discussion in your field, keep abreast of the news, and connect with other professionals.

When you log in you will be taken to your ‘dashboard’. When you choose to follow people, their posts will show up here.

You can choose to follow profiles (by clicking the ‘follow’ button underneath their name) via the recommendations in the left hand pane. If you hover the mouse over the name you will get a brief description of the profile – open in a new tab to view fully.
You can also search for profiles which may be of interest by typing key words into the search bar.

Twitter will make suggestions based on your initial search, you can select any of these (if they are what you are looking for), or continue with the basic search by pressing return or clicking the magnifying glass.
Your search results will display as a list of Tweets (messages sent from profiles), as well as photographs, and user accounts. You can sort through these using the bar at the top, or clicking “view all” next to a specific section. Your search term will always show at the top of the page.

Select “Accounts” to view the accounts relevant to your search term.
You will see a list of accounts with their descriptions listed below. Click on the account titles to view the full account, or the “follow” button to see their Tweets on your dashboard. If you have already followed an account the “follow” button will be blue, and read “following” so you know you are already seeing their Tweets.

Once you have found pages to follow, you can search for tweets on specific topics using the same search bar. Your search will bring up ‘top’ results, but you can select ‘live’ to view the most recent Tweets on your topic.
The word you search for will be bolded, so you can see what has caused the tweet to be one of your results.

From here, you can use different combinations of words, or Boolean logic to alter your search.
Searching for ‘Alzheimer’s Dementia’ instead of ‘Alzheimer’s’ has brought up a different set of results. The words ‘Alzheimer’s’ and ‘dementia’ must both be in the Tweet, but do not have to be written as a phrase.
This is equivalent to using AND in Boolean logic, but it is automatically done, so you do not need to type the word AND.
To search for one term or another you type the word “OR”.

https://twitter.com/NWASLibrary/status/943708550310934016

NWIASLibrary @NWASLibrary Dec 16

NWAS/LOS/Paramedics: "Pediatric cardiac arrest: time to 'stay and play'" via Journal of OES API - articles http://bit.ly/1YJg9mJ

https://twitter.com/HarvardPublicHealth/status/943708837449405952

HarvardPublicHealth @HarvardChanSPH Dec 16

While there has been progress in battling pediatric HIV/AIDS, researchers say that many challenges remain hard to overcome.


Progress, challenges in tackling pediatric HIV/AIDS
December 7, 2016 — Since the first World AIDS Day in 1988, the first day in December has been a day to remember those who have died in the ep...
To search for one term but not another add a ‘−’ sign to the word you don’t want to include. In this case ‘Dementia −Alzheimer’s’ for results about dementia, which do not include the word ‘Alzheimer’s’.
To search for two, or more words in a phrase place quote marks around them ‘“care home”’ will only produce results which contain the words ‘care home’ next to each other, but will not produce results for ‘home care’.

Another way of searching Tweets on Twitter is using hashtags. This can be a single word, multiple words, numbers, or acronyms prefixed with the ‘#’ symbol. Such as #nursing.
This search will bring up all posts which have been hashtagged with your searched term. These hashtags are keywords, and therefore should all be relevant to your search, however sometimes you will be shown multiple tags. It’s worth searching the other ones to see if they are also relevant to you. You can do this by clicking any of the tags – which will be a red link (your searched tag will be bold red).
Another useful Twitter feature is ‘Lists’. This allows you to create a targeted stream of information – such as your Twitter feed, but with more narrow fields, or with Tweets from pages you don't directly follow.

Access lists from any page by clicking your icon, and selecting ‘lists’.

From here you can view how many lists you’re subscribed to, and part of...
At the bottom of this section is an option to ‘create a new list’

This will produce a box with space for you to enter a name, and description for your list, as well as adding privacy settings for it. Click ‘save list’ when you have added all your details.
Once your list is created, you will be able to see how many members you have (people you’ve added to your list), how many people subscribe to your list, and the option to edit it. You will also have the choice to “find people to add to your list.” Enter names directly into the box and search for accounts to add.
This is the same as a general search on Twitter, and will show up the same way as the previous searches you’ve done using the top bar.

If you decide to add an account, click the wheel beside the ‘follow’ button.

And select ‘Add or remove from lists...’
This opens a box with all of your current lists in it, as well as the option to create a new one. Just tick the box next to any list you wish to add the account you have selected to. The same account can be used for multiple lists.

Once you have added accounts to your list, you can return to lists, and view the updated information.

We hope you found this guide useful. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to enable us to gather feedback:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B2MN556

Thank you – Keyll Darree Library team

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