

Social Media & Midwifery

Twitter as a collaborative learning tool: a research proposal by Charlene Cole

BACKGROUND

- Twitter: the #SoMe go-to for academic learning
- Analyses of twitter communications showed that students and faculty can both be highly engaged in the learning process, more so than traditional classroom activities (Junco et al. 2010)
- Twitter can be an innovative learning tool in higher education (Blessing et al. 2012)
- Despite this evidence, there has been little uptake of Twitter to support learning among students (Evans 2013).
- Twitter has been shown to provide an excellent basis for collaboration, information sharing and community building, facilitated by using common hashtags (#) (Lackovic et al. 2017)



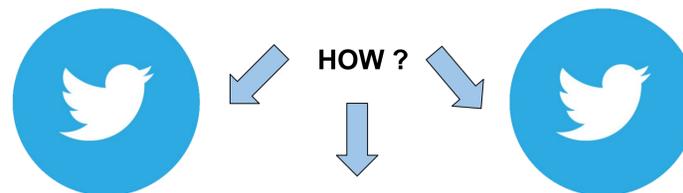
“Any fool can know. The point is to understand” – Albert Einstein

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

More midwifery students should benefit from the power of Twitter, what factors affect students using Twitter in Midwifery education?

More research is needed (Lackovic et al. 2017):

- Q1** No. of final year midwifery students that use Twitter as a learning tool?
- Q2** How is this affected by which year they are in?
- Q3** What training is given on the use of #SoMe in HEI's?



METHODOLOGY

- Ethical approval will be requested from University Ethics committee gaining consent to contact midwifery staff and students
- The population and sample has been identified as midwifery students at host university, it is hoped to extend this to all HEIs across the UK. The aim is to receive responses from at least 15 students per academic year
- Following successful ethical approval - a questionnaire will be sent out via email to all current student midwives

RATIONALE FOR QUESTIONNAIRE

- Some twitter polls showed interesting results
- Although not rigorous research methodology, they showed need for further exploration
- Questionnaires can elicit information from samples at particular points in time (Aveyard 2015)

RQ 1. Do you use Twitter as part of your academic studies?

1. Yes, frequently
2. Yes, infrequently
3. Yes, very occasionally
4. I am unsure
5. No, I have never used it for academic purposes

RQ 2. If you answered yes, would you be more likely to use Twitter for academic purposes if this was encouraged by your lecturers and faculty?

1. Much more likely
2. More likely
3. Neither more or less likely
4. Less likely
5. Much less likely

RQ 3. Do you use Twitter for networking purposes within the midwifery sphere?

1. Yes, frequently
2. Yes, infrequently
3. Yes, very occasionally
4. I am unsure
5. No, I have never used it for networking purposes

RQ 4. If you answered yes, would you be more likely to use Twitter for networking purposes if this was encouraged by your lecturers and faculty?

1. Much more likely
2. More likely
3. Neither more or less likely
4. Less likely
5. Much less likely

RQ 5. If you answered No to RQ 1 and/or RQ 3 was it because (tick all that apply)

1. I use Twitter for social reasons only
2. I am afraid of being in trouble with the faculty
3. I do not think Twitter is a useful learning tool
4. I do not think Twitter is a useful networking tool

RQ 6. Would you like your faculty to integrate the use of social media into the curriculum?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree or disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA?

- Involving the RCM and NMC in important debates on a platform like Twitter means wider participation and involvement at student level
- The diagram below left shows how widely Twitter is used each minute
- Gaining understanding into why students do/not use #SoMe for learning will inform on how better to engage with the educational sector
- My goal is to embed social media as a learning tool into curricula nationwide

CONCLUSION

- More research is needed into what affects students' professional / educational use of twitter
- A straightforward questionnaire approach will elicit new light on this and inform strategy to improve engagement.



“It’s not just about consuming content, but sharing it, passing it on and adding to it...” @ariannahuff

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CONTACT

For further information and discussion:

- @CharleneSTMW
- charlenemcole@gmail.com
- mystudentmidwife.co.uk
- facebook/mystudentmidwife
- Instagram: CharleneSTMW

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