

Microblogging

MAALLT-SEALLT

10 MARCH 2010

A definition

Bloggging, but shorter, easier*
and (usually) more frequent.

* This is debatable!

How does Twitter work? (Demo)

Why does Twitter work?

Simplicity
Presence
Attention
Organization

Simplicity

- 140 character constraint
- Multiple ways to post
- Simple relationships
- Local social norms govern posting

Presence

- Feeling of copresence with others
- Not as focused on interpersonal relationships as other social network sites (e.g., Facebook)
- Identity articulated via postings over time

Attention

- Ability to calibrate your stream of information via following/unfollowing
- “You can step in and out of the flow of information as it suits you.” *

* “Isn’t Twitter just too much information?” <http://twitter.com/about>

Organization

- Users use #hashtags to mark tweets as belonging to a certain topic or data type
- Hashtags can be planned in advance or emerge spontaneously

How can microblogging be useful in teaching & learning?

Large classroom knowledge production/organization

Monica Rankin, University of Texas at Dallas

Presence tool for American Studies thesis writers

Garrison LeMasters, Georgetown University

E-twinning with Italian high school Twitterers

Enza Antenos-Conforti, Montclair State University
Seth Dickens, Martino Martini