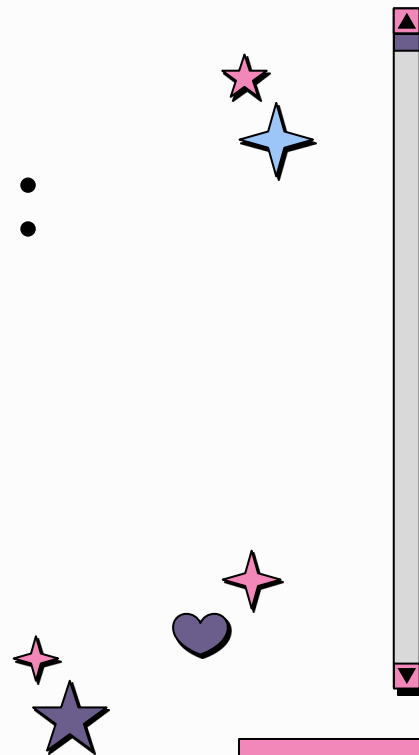


# Getting Walter White Into a CS Conference: Examining Privacy Behaviors in Online Fandom

Dan Bially Levy



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# Fandom

- Transformative works
  - Fan art, fanfiction, etc.
- Long-existing community
  - Making friendships
  - Expressing creativity
  - Having fun



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Archive of Our Own <sup>beta</sup>

Fandoms Browse Search About

41 - 60 of 132,577 Works in Supernatural (TV 2005)

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 -4999 5000 Next

**Power Rangers Or Power Puff Girls?** by twotalkinghorses  
Supernatural (TV 2005)  
16 Jul 2023

No Archive Warnings Apply. Dean Winchester & Sam Winchester. Dean Winchester, Sam Winchester, Winchesters | Child Winchesters (Supernatural), Dean Winchester Takes Care of Sam Winchester, Dean Winchester is Sam Winchester's Parent, Tooth-Rotting Fluff, Blood and Injury, Pre-Canon, Drabble  
Sam scrapes his knees and Dean gives him the choice between two bandaids.

Part 6 of SPN Drabbles

Language: English Words: 100 Chapters: 1/1 Kudos: 4 Hits: 45

**Confession 2.0** by donormil  
Supernatural (TV 2005)  
16 Jul 2023

Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings, Castiel/Dean Winchester, Fluff, Post-Canon, One Shot  
Draft

Language: English Words: 255 Chapters: 1/1 Kudos: 3 Hits: 24

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# Privacy

- Hard to define!
  - Protection & Security
  - Sharing & Openness
- Studying what people do with information
- Important for law, for website design, etc.
- Fandom's longevity suggests *something* about fandom privacy is working!



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# Carrrds

- Free website-maker
- Used in fandom due to word limitations in Twitter bios
- Often provide identity markers (age, pronouns, gender, orientation,...)
- Often establish *boundaries*



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The screenshot shows a Carrrds profile for a user named 'lan'. The profile includes a profile picture of a man with glasses and a beard. Below the picture is the name 'lan' in large red letters. To the left of the name is a list of interests, each preceded by a red heart icon: 20, he/she/ze, bi aceflux, genderqueer, pisces, entp-t, eng/fra, and cst. To the right of the name are three columns of text, each with a header: 'BYF', 'DNI', and 'Likes'. The 'BYF' column lists various topics with red heart icons. The 'DNI' column lists topics with red X icons. The 'Likes' column lists various topics with red heart icons. At the bottom right of the profile is a small image of the Genshin Impact game cover.

BYF	DNI	Likes
♥ i am an adult so i post 18+ content sometimes!!!	✗ basic dni criteria (racist, homophobic, etc.)	♥ Breaking Bad
♥ i tweet a lot about breaking bad	✗ under 18	♥ Hannibal
♥ i try my best to put spoiler warnings but sometimes i forget	✗ dsmp fans, dream apologists	♥ Stranger Things
♥ i love talking to people so please don't feel afraid to talk to me even if we're not moots!	✗ support bi/pan lesbians	♥ Genshin Impact
♥ if you are going to unfollow please softblock me first	✗ proshippers/ships problematic ships	♥ FNAF
	✗ ships waltjesse	♥ Hannigram
		♥ Steddie

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# lan

- ♥ 20
- ♥ he/she/ze
- ♥ bi aceflux
- ♥ genderqueer
- ♥ pisces
- ♥ entp-t
- ♥ eng/fra
- ♥ cst

## BYF

- ♥ i am an adult so i post 18+ content sometimes!!!
- ♥ i tweet a lot about breaking bad
- ♥ i try my best to put spoiler warnings but sometimes i forget
- ♥ i love talking to people so please don't feel afraid to talk to me even if we're not moots!
- ♥ if you are going to unfollow please softblock me first

## DNI

- ✗ basic dni criteria (racist, homophobic, etc.)
- ✗ under 18
- ✗ dsmp fans, dream apologists
- ✗ support bi/pan lesbians
- ✗ proshippers/ships
- ✗ problematic ships
- ✗ ships waltjesse

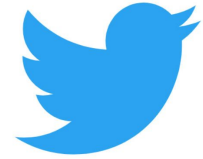
## Likes

- ♥ Breaking Bad
- ♥ Hannibal
- ♥ Stranger Things
- ♥ Genshin Impact
- ♥ FNAF
- ♥ Hannigram
- ♥ Steddie



# Twitter 's Privacy Features

- Private Account
  - Discourages interaction
- Blocking + Muting
  - Only after having problems
- NSFW Warning
  - Assumes it's used
  - May block too much



Block



**Content warning: Nudity, violence, and sensitive content**

The Tweet author flagged this Tweet as showing sensitive content.

Show



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# Part 1: Getting the Data

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# What we were working with

- 5,280 Carrds scraped from Twitter
  - In 2022, when API was public
- Screenshots of each Carrd
- Raw text of each Carrd
- Raw HTML of each Carrd



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```
<div data-index="0" data-groups-index="0">
  <div class="component-wrapper is-first" data-
    viewport=""><div>
    <div class="component-wrapper" data-type="te-
      <div class="component-wrapper is-last" data-
        ::before
      <div class="component">
        <div id="--text03" class="--text">
          <span class="--p">
            ♥ 20
            <br>
            ♥ he/she/ze
            <br>
            ♥ bi aceflux
            <br>
            ♥ genderqueer
            <br>
            ♥ pisces
            <br>
            ♥ entp-t
            <br>
            ♥ eng/fra
            <br>
            ♥ cst
          </span>
        </div>
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
  </div>
  </div>
```

Ian ♥ 20 ♥ he/she/ze ♥ bi aceflux ♥  
genderqueer ♥ pisces ♥ entp-t ♥ eng/fra ♥ cst  
BYF ♥ i am an adult so i post 18+ content  
sometimes!!! ♥ i tweet a lot about breaking bad  
♥ i try my best to put spoiler warnings but  
sometimes i forget ♥ i love talking to people so  
please don't feel afraid to talk to me even if  
we're not moots! ♥ if you are going to unfollow  
please softblock me first DNI ✗ basic dni  
criteria (racist, homophobic, etc.) ✗ under 18 ✗  
dsmc fans, dream apologists ✗ support bi/pan  
lesbians ✗ proshippers/ships problematic ships ✗  
ships waltjesse Likes ♥ Breaking Bad ♥ Hannibal  
♥ Stranger Things ♥ Genshin Impact ♥ FNAF ♥  
Hannigram ♥ Steddie Created with Carrd.co

Next



# Searching for Identity

- Tried using keywords and regular expressions
  - Up to 80% false positives in some categories!
- Switched to hand coding
  - Age, Pronouns, Gender, Sexuality

Ian ❤️ 20 ❤️ he/she/ze ❤️ bi aceflux ❤️  
genderqueer ❤️ pisces ❤️ entp-t ❤️ eng/fra ❤️ cst  
BYF ❤️ i am an adult so i post 18+ content  
sometimes!!! ❤️ i tweet a lot about breaking bad  
❤️ i try my best to put spoiler warnings but  
sometimes i forget ❤️ i love talking to people so  
please don't feel afraid to talk to me even if  
we're not moots! ❤️ if you are going to unfollow  
please softblock me first DNI ❌ basic dni  
criteria (racist, homophobic, etc.) ❌ under 18 ❌  
dsmtp fans, dream apologists ❌ support bi/pan  
lesbians ❌ proshippers/ships problematic ships ❌  
ships waltjesse Likes ❤️ Breaking Bad ❤️ Hannibal  
❤️ Stranger Things ❤️ Genshin Impact ❤️ FNAF ❤️  
Hannigram ❤️ Steddie Created with Carrd.co

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# Searching for DNI/BYF

- Narrow down using HTML structure
  - Headers!
- Keyword searching
  - Manually find keywords
- Didn't need to hand code - much more accurate
  - 4% false positives overall

```
<div data-index="0" data-groups-index="0">
  <div class="component-wrapper is-first" data-type="image" data-id="image01" data-visibility="" data-in-viewport=""></div>
  <div class="component-wrapper" data-type="text" data-id="text01" data-visibility=""></div>
  <div class="component-wrapper is-last" data-type="text" data-id="text03" data-visibility="">
    ::before
    <div class="component">
      <div id="--text03" class="--text">
        <span class="--p">
          20
          he/she/ze
          bi aceflux
          genderqueer
          pisces
          entp-t
          eng/fra
          cst
        </span>
      </div>
      ::after
    </div>
    ::after
  </div>
  </div>
```

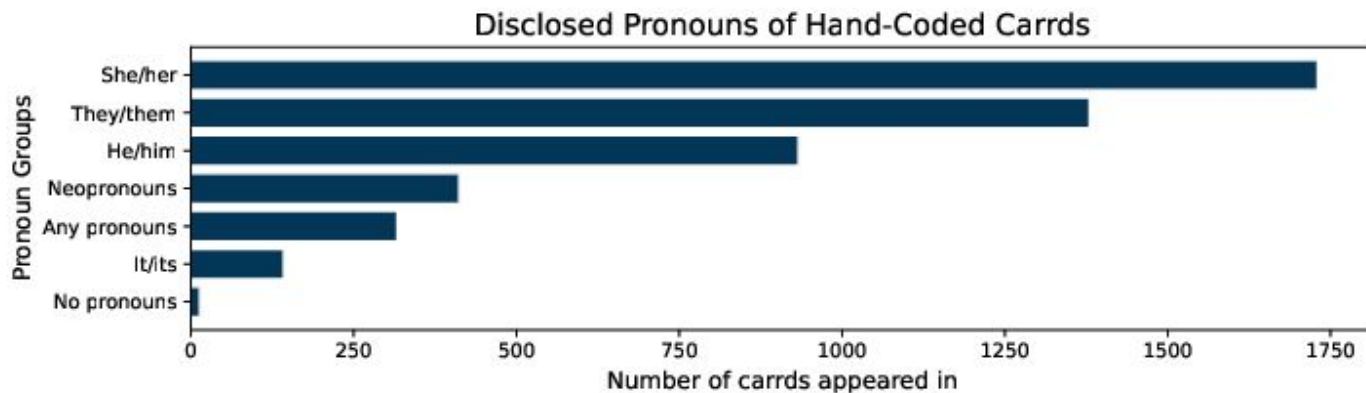
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# Part 2: What We Found

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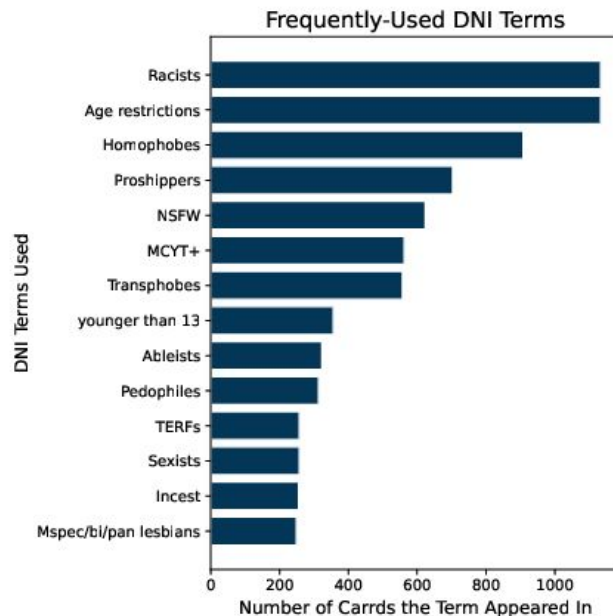
# Understanding the Population

- 69.7% shared identity information
  - 81.5% disclosed age
  - 86.9% disclose pronouns
- Lots of young people - 41.6% minors!
- Lots of queer and trans people

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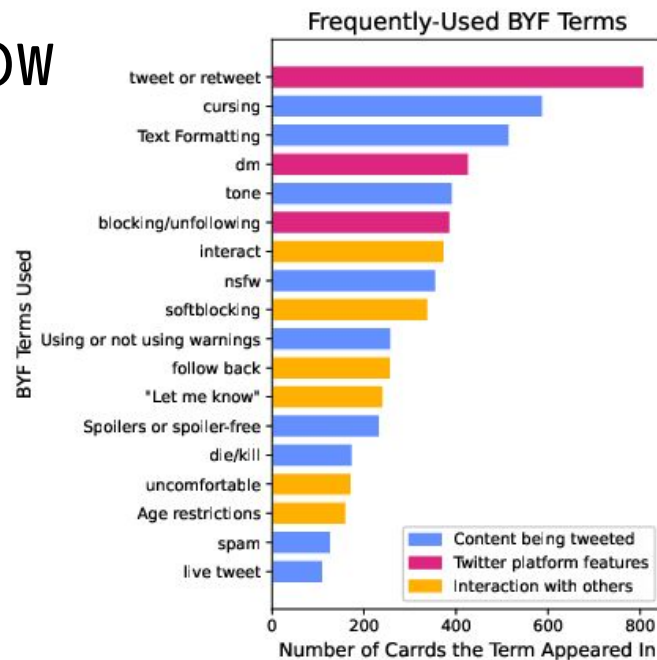
# DNI/Do Not Interact

- 50% had DNIs
- Bigotry, age restrictions, and fandom-specific terminology
- “Basic DNI” – assumes bigotry
- Age restrictions
  - Especially common for minors!
- Fandom terms like “Proshippers” are surprisingly prevalent!

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# BYF/Before You Follow

- 43.1% had BYFs
- Content being tweeted most common
  - Blue
- References to Twitter features
  - Pink
- Discussing interaction with others
  - Yellow
- Establishing norms!

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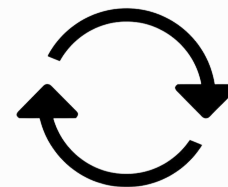
# Part 3: Where It All Led To

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# New Theory of Privacy

- People are sharing vulnerable things! Identities and boundaries/needs
  - Requires trust
- Lots of community norms and in-knowledge (i.e. basic DNI, BYF guidelines)
- Community privacy as a cycle

1. Disclosing info and setting boundaries creates community norms
2. Norms create an environment of trust
3. Trust creates the safety to allow expose vulnerabilities in step 1



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# Thank You!

Contact me at: [dbiallyl@macalester.edu](mailto:dbiallyl@macalester.edu)  
Research to be published in CHI 2024!



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