Social Network Sites: Definition, History, and Scholarship

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Abstract Introduction Social Network Sites: A Definition A History of

Social Network Sites Previous Scholarship Overview of this Special Theme

Section Future Research Acknowledgments Notes References About the

Authors.

Abstract Social network sites (SNSs) are increasingly attracting the

attention of academic and industry researchers intrigued by their

affordances and reach. This special theme section of the Journal of

Computer-Mediated Communication brings together scholarship on these

emergent phenomena. In this introductory article, we describe features of

SNSs and propose a comprehensive definition. We then present one

perspective on the history of such sites, discussing key changes and

developments. After briefly summarizing existing scholarship concerning

SNSs, we discuss the articles in this special section and conclude with

considerations for future research.