**Tuesday 31st of October**

I am currently getting together articles for my literature review, I have read about 7 so far and I have collected another 9. I've found that in the crossover area of Twitter and sport there seems to be a 'core' group of articles that everybody references.

For assignment 2 I will be doing the qualitative one so I am also reading the course units on qualitative analyses and the SPSS survival manual.

I am using RefWorks for my references and that has been a big help as I have found in previous years that I end up having to track down loads of references for articles and putting them in Harvard format just before I submit an assignment...that is a nightmare.

Next week I hope to get started on assignment 2 and have read most of the articles that I have saved.

**Tue 7th of November**

This week I have started to put together my literature review. I needed to start putting it together as I found that it helped me focus on specific topics in my research area and therefore be more selective in the papers I was reading.  I decided on subheadings for the review and focused on papers that related to those areas. Prior to this approach, I found that it was easy to end up reading papers that were only connected to my area in the loosest sense and the number of papers to read was growing exponentially.

I have also started on assignment 2. I found this to be very interesting and has helped me think more about my research project and how I will categorise and analyse the data.  e.g. will the data be categorical or continuous as this will affect what tests I can perform on the data.

By the end of this week I hope to have the bulk of assignment 2 finished and have a draft of the literature review.

**Tuesday 14th November**

Spent most of last week getting the draft literature review read to submit. Really not too sure if I am doing this correctly or not.

There are so many papers that you could include and it's hard to know what to include and what to leave out.

Plenty of people have done literature reviews in this area so I hope I am not just re-hashing the same stuff as everyone else.

Even though I started off using RefWorks I have abandoned it in favour of just typing out the refs in the document as I go along.

**Tuesday 21st November**

I put up the literature review earlier this week. Having to put a draft up really focused me and helped me sort out all that I had read.

I've spent the last two days getting the research proposal document ready. After a few emails to Mary Galvin, she steered me out of the maze (and potential trouble) to a point where I'm happy with the direction of my research. Having been someone who has done all the modules with next to no interaction with tutors / supervisors I assumed I would take the same path with this one. I soon found out that this was a dangerous plan. I have found Mary's advice to be invaluable (as was John McCarthy's at the initial workshop) and having listened to fellow students it seems that this is one module where you really need to keep in contact with your supervisor / tutor.

Next week I plan to finish the last part of assignment 2 and tidy up the SPSS output file...at the moment it's an absolute mess.

**Tuesday 28th November**

Spent a good bit of time trying to tidy up the output file for the SPSS assignment. That did not go too well...there was just too much 'junk' in it

from my practise efforts to be able to clean it up properly.

Decided to start the assignment again with a clean slate. Got through it fairly quickly but of course I got to one part where I simply couldn't remember

how I had done it the first time and ended up having to go back and re-read the text books and have a few goes before I got it right.

Finally finished the assignment and the SPSS output file looks clean enough to submit.

**Tuesday 5th of December**

Last week was all about submitting the research ethics and proposal forms. As is always the case, you think it's all done and then you tweek something, then before you know it you're rewriting the whole thing and questioning your sanity. Anyway, I finally got it submitted and received ethics approval.

Then I had to get assignment 2 submitted. I was doing the statistics part and I had most of it done some time ago but hadn't got back to it until last weekend. I submitted it on Monday after another bout of last minute changes and additions.

This week college work has had to take a back seat but now I plan to get stuck into the literature review again. I am pretty happy with it as it stands but I feel that I should make some reference to the methodology that I'll be using to analyse that data. I know that I'll cover this in detail in the methodology section of the final paper but as there's very little research on 'self-presentation' on social media I feel I should at least address it.

The Christmas break can't come soon enough...but there's the draft lit review to have in by January 2nd. It'll be an interesting Christmas.

**Tuesday 12th of December**

Had to submit a second draft of the literature review this week. There were only a few changes to the first draft and I added in a section

on the motivation behind self presentation. I realised that I am actually quite happy that one of the assignments is to submit your draft lit review.

This will at least let me know where I stand on the part of the paper. Even if my review is wide of the required mark I can use the feedback to

get things on the right track...it'll be painful but at least when I submit the final paper I'll be more confident of that part. I hope.

**Tuesday 9th of January**

I was working on the draft literature review last week. I had originally covered the frameworks for analysing self-presentation but I added a part to cover the motivations behind it.

Baumeister (1982) believes that there are two types of motivation behind self-presentation. One is to match one's self-presentation to the audience's expectations and preferences. The other is to match one's self-presentation to one's own ideal self.

To achieve this, Jones and Pittman (1982) show how people use self-presentation to elicit emotions such as affection, fear, respect, guilt or nurturance. They try to elicit these emotions to be seen as either likable, dangerous, competent, worthy or helpless.

I am still quite unsure if my literature review is on the right lines or have I gone off track or missed something big. I'm expecting that the final review will be quite different to the draft one I submit. So I'll be interested to see the feedback and then work on the areas that need it.

**Tuesday 23rd of January**

This week I finished off the code to 'clean' the twitter data. Lots of time spent dealing with how emoji's are represented with ansi and utf-8 characters.

 I then started doing some cluster analysis but I've found that you can almost 'force' the analysis down different paths. You can't magic up something that isn't there but you can definitely influence the direction it takes by removing certain words from the analysis and you can have even more of an influence by starting with different 'seed' values. (Essentially the seed value is the point around which a cluster will be formed). The clustering method I am using is K-means++ as the original k-means method 'is known to be highly sensitive to initial seed selection of cluster centres. K-means++ has been proposed to overcome this problem and has been shown to have better accuracy and computational efficiency than k-means.' (Khan. 2016). I am still experimenting with seed values as I am not happy that the results are not arbitrary.

I am also having an issue as to how best to deal with non-English text as 3 of the people I am getting tweets from, communicate almost exclusively in Spanish and Portuguese. Do I  translate these tweets, discard them or get them translated? None of the options is ideal so I'm discussing it with my supervisor at the moment.

**Tuesday 30th of January**

I've come down with a cold and I am really not in the humour of this! Sorry Eve / Mary but manflu has claimed another victim!!!

**Tuesday 13th of February**

Received my feedback on the draft literature review and I was happy with it. My supervisor said that there were a few things that need to be tightened up and another item or two to keep in but in a different way. Overall I was very happy / relieved with the feedback. I really worried that I may have to tear up most of the work and start again.

At the moment I am analysing my data using k-means clustering but I am looking at analysing the data using a LSTM(Long Short-Term Memory) network as well. LSTM is well-suited to classifying problems so I am looking at seeing what results this will give me and comparing them with my k-means analysis. I plan to do a quick run to see if there is any point in going further with it...I don't want to complicate my work anymore than is necessary.

**Tuesday 13th of March**

I managed to get my initial draft of the dissertation in, although I don't know how to feel about it. I found it rough going trying to get a cohesive flow through all the parts. At times it just felt like a brain dump and I pity my supervisor for having to sift through it! The feedback will be invaluable but I hope that there isn't too much of a rewrite needed.

I did find myself back reading more papers as at this point of the process I am much more comfortable with the topic and have a clearer idea of where things fit in. In fact I am reading things now that I probably should have read at the start!

**Tuesday 27th of March**

Received my feedback on the draft dissertation and it was favourable. The relief! My supervisor provide me with extensive comments on areas that needed to be tightened up or needed a slight rewrite but nothing too drastic. As least I can go ahead and know that the back of the work is broken.

The main part that needed a rewrite was one where I had had referenced new literature...the literature that I probably should have read at the start. I will have to go back and put these in to the literature review and then rewrite the section that links the results with the literature.

**Tuesday 9th of April**

Trying to get the assignments from this and the other module I am doing finished.

I amended the literature review to include the new literature I had references later in the final paper. I then rewrote the section on the relationship between the results of my research and the literature. I have sent this off to my supervisor as I am struggling to get this part of it to flow smoothly. I decided to send it off as I needed to know if I am on the correct track.