

Enabling Technologies : Video 4

Transcript

- Can you remember what life was like
- for you before social media?
- Before social media, it was very hard for me to connect with people.
- Yeah and it was so hard to socialize outside of when you were in their presence, I guess.
- Yeah.
- Yeah.
- Boring.
- Yeah.
- Isolating.
- It really was. I think, for me, Facebook offers a community and a support that isn't otherwise there, especially when a lot of the time you might be in hospital or bed-bound.
- It's good now because I don't have to talk on the phone
- Yes, that sometimes it's just easier just to pick on someone on Messenger, and just say; Hey, how's it going? Just type it out and use your iPad to do that, as well,
- Yes.
- which is really accessible for you.
- Social media is a life saver more than you know.
- What are your favorite
- social media apps?
- Facebook, I love Facebook.
- Facebook.

- Facebook.
- Mich has a Facebook.
- I usually Facebook.
- Instagram?
- Instagram.
- Instagram.
- Oh yeah, Instagram.
- He has Instagram as well.
- Snapchat, Grindr. Tinder, I'm on a few dating apps. Being out in the country, you gotta keep your options open.
- My favorite app is Pinterest.
- [Christina] I know how much you love Pinterest.
- YouTube, Messenger and Whatsapp.
- And Whatsapp. I think Whatsapp's probably your favorite, and FaceTime.
- I love FaceTime.
- Instagram, I think he posts a picture occasionally of the things he gets up to, but Facebook is something he uses to stay connected to some of the groups he's in. Normally it is assisted, so he doesn't go into it himself but his support might tap into it with him and they'll read it together. I haven't actually gone through your Facebook very much, but I'm guessing you would have messages from friends and family as well, commenting on what's the goings on in your day.
- So what do you like most
- about social media?
- Hmm, I love swimming.
- No, not activities, on those apps.
- Oh, apps. Listen to music.
- It's a way for me to connect with people in an accessible way.

- And a quick way as well.
- Yeah.
- It's not just accessible and then you're waiting on them to reply two days later or something.
- Yeah.
- Have you made friends on social media
- that you wouldn't have otherwise met or connected with? Oh yeah.
- Oh yeah, so many.
- Definitely
- Really? People like who?
- There's this one girl who I met once or twice She's very nice and she's got a similar disability to me
- Okay.
- And we met on Facebook
- And I guess you can connect with people with similar experiences
- Yeah.
- and relate in that sense if you'd like.
- Yeah.
- Yeah.
- So many, but not just in the disability access or the LGBT, everyone. People in walks of life that I would never have met or never have come across, ever.
- It's also that six-degrees of separation, as well. People find people with the health communities, like disability, but also the illness communities, then advocacy as well and the modeling, all of that. I've met a ton of people that I would never have met. A lot of people I haven't even met in person.
- I make friends on Facebook, it's Chris.
- You met Chris on Facebook?

- Yes, and Kim.
- And Kim, on Facebook?
- Yeah.
- Nah, you went to David House with Kim.
- Yeah I did, but I call him on Messenger.
- Ah, you call him on Messenger?
- Yeah.
- Technology is such a lifesaver. It's fantastic. Have you ever used social media
- or specific apps for dating? I don't think so, no.
- Don't think so.
- No, no dating, all in real life. Go to talk to girls in real life. Maybe we'll get him on Tindr one day.
- Yeah.
- Yeah.
- I wish I have a girlfriend.
- Maybe one day soon.
- It's just not my thing, yeah. So you know, single for five years.
- Yay.
- Yay.
- I've used a lot, frequently, all the time. I'm on Grindr, Tindr, because I'm in such a small community and isolated, I try to put myself out there as much as I can. Using those apps is... it's a blessing and a curse at the same time, because yeah, you can put yourself out there and put out who you are as a person and they can see that and if they really, really don't like it they're not gonna respond. So you don't have to deal with that backlash or rejection, or whatever. But, on the other scale of that, there's people who are wanting to talk to you purely because you are different.
- Interest.
- And you are...

- Yeah.

- You're weird.

- The first time I started using dating apps, I think I steered clear of having a disability, using a wheelchair, but then I realized, at some point, I was gonna have to share, because you can't really... you gotta ask about access. Oh yeah, we're going out for coffee. Does the coffee place have any steps or anything like that? And then it's there and so, I think I found that sharing all that from the start, as much as it was annoying to have that as part of my identity, and it did open cans of worms from just interested people, it was better to be open from the start, but it sucks to have to be.

- That's it, yeah, my motto with dating apps and stuff and putting yourself out there is being unapologetically you. Being open, honest, being up front and saying; Look this is me, I may have these problems, if you are still interested, would you like to go on a date? I think my tagline on Grindr is; Country Town Dwarf taking life one meter at a time. I thought that was funny. What do you think are the risks on social media, especially for disabled people?

- And how do you think some people can avoid these risks?

- If I'm not sure about something I might ask someone

- I know on my social media, sometimes I see very ableist posts.

- Yeah.

- Do you find that's an issue?

- Yeah.

- So I think then some negative that could come out of it is it's very, perhaps, one-sided for some people?

- Yeah.

- That another perspective or another different perspective is shown, it's not really widely accepted, perhaps?

- Trolls are one thing, that's a risk of exposing yourself, putting yourself out there and then having people question your motives, your disability, your sexuality, your passions, just every aspect of your life. I share my medical journey on Facebook, because I want to make people aware of that part of my life.

- Social media can be so risky. It can be. It's a scary world for people who are vulnerable. If there is something happening, if there is someone hounding you, harassing you, really bothering you, make sure someone else knows about that and make sure that you are taking steps to protect yourself. Social media doesn't need to know everything about you. Sometimes the world isn't safe.

- Yeah.
- And that's just the way it is sometimes. It sucks, but social media is the same.
- So over all, would you say that social media is
 - good or bad for connecting people and especially disabled people? 'Cause it doesn't just connect with us, who you talk to, our cousins overseas now?
- Yes.
- Keep up with everything? When we travel, we can still talk, FaceTime.
- Yeah see, that's what I like.
- That's right. When mum's out at the supermarket, you can harass her?
- Yeah, sometimes.
- Yeah.
- Yeah. Especially for people like me who may not be able to speak very well or speak at all It's a good communication tool.
- Yeah, absolutely.
- Yeah.
- Yeah, giving you guys a voice, yeah.
- How do you?
- Watch all your shows?
- My favorite show's Supernatural. I love that show.
- Yeah.