

The use of Facebook in tertiary education

Author: Staines, Zoe Renee; Lauchs, Mark

[ProQuest document link](#)

Abstract Purpose - This study aims to evaluate the usefulness of a university unit Facebook page, which was established to support a first-year university justice unit. The study pays particular regard to the Facebook page's impact on students learning outcomes and communications amongst students and between students and teaching staff. Design/methodology/approach - All students enrolled in the unit were asked to complete an online survey, which sought to determine whether they used the unit Facebook page and if so, the nature and extent of their use. Findings - The study found that the unit Facebook page was useful in achieving most learning objectives for the unit. This included enhancing students' knowledge and understanding of unit content, as well as their ability to critically analyse unit materials. **Students also indicated that they found the Facebook page better than the university's central learning management system across a range of areas.** It was particularly useful for **facilitating unit-related discussions.** Research limitations/implications - The survey results reported in this paper are based on a relatively small sample of students (n=67) from a first-year university justice unit. **Future studies should seek to garner evidence** from broader and larger samples that **transcend specific unit populations.** However, the findings of this study do indicate further support for the use of Facebook as a supplementary tool in university education. Originality/value - This study focuses on two aspects of social networking technologies that have not been previously researched and thus contributes to the growing literature on the uses and benefits of Facebook in tertiary education.

Links: [Check for full text via articlelinker](#)

Subject: Higher education; Social networks; Studies; Social research; Communication; University students; Distance learning; Methods;

Company /organization: Name: Facebook Inc; NAICS: 518210; Name: Queensland University of Technology; NAICS: 611310;

Publication title: Interactive Technology and Smart Education

Volume: 10

Issue: 4

Pages: 285-296

Publication year: 2013

Publication date: 2013

Year: 2013

Publisher: Emerald Group Publishing, Limited

Place of publication: Bingley

Country of publication: United Kingdom

Publication subject: Education, Technology: Comprehensive Works

ISSN: 17415659

Source type: Scholarly Journals

Language of publication: English

Document type: Feature

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/TSE-05-2013-0008>

ProQuest document ID: 1462482530

Document URL:

<http://ezproxy.aut.ac.nz/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1462482530?accountid=8440>

Copyright Copyright Emerald Group Publishing Limited 2013

Last updated: 2013-12-05

Database: ProQuest Central

Contact ProQuest

Copyright © 2015 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved. - [Terms and Conditions](#)