

# **LDRS 101**

TWU Online

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# Welcome

This is the course book for **LDRS 101**. This book is divided into thematic units of study to help you engage with the materials. The course resources and learning activities are designed not only to help prepare you for the course assessments, but also to give you opportunities to practice various skills.

- i** Please read the full course syllabus located on the Course Home page in Moodle. It includes key information about the course schedule, assignments, and policies.

## Course Activities

Below is some key information on features you will see throughout the course.

### Learning Activity

This box will prompt you to engage in course concepts by:

- Viewing resources and reflecting on your experience and/or learning.
- Checking your understanding to make sure you are ready for what follows. Ways to check your learning might include self-check quizzes or questions for discussion.

Working through course activities will help you to meet the learning outcomes and successfully complete your assessments.

# **1 Introduction To Digital Literacies for Online Learning**

## **Overview**

Welcome to Unit 1 of Learning with Technology! This course will introduce you to some ideas related to living, learning, and working in our digitally saturated society. It is our intent to equip you with an emerging set of skills and literacies related to digital tools for learning. Within your academic pursuits, you will encounter a vast amount of information—integrating digital tools into your learning journey, though challenging, is essential for harnessing the ample learning possibilities offered by your chosen discipline. This course will give you a head start on using digital tools to build a workflow, enabling you to stay organized and to make your learning process visible to both you and your instructors. We will also lead you through readings and discussions on topics such as digital identity, privacy, security, and ethical ways of sharing newfound knowledge.

There will be two primary branches of the course, each focusing on specific tools that we will introduce to you. The first branch will be a workflow that is private to you because it takes place primarily on your own computer, and the second branch is shared as publicly as you are comfortable sharing. You will have control over how public your work is, but we will think about the importance of sharing knowledge and how to do that easily and in ways that preserve your “ownership” over your work.

In this first unit, there will be both theoretical and practical work for you to do. We start with some basic instructions and advice on technology and learning online. Then, in order to build a theoretical understanding of digital tools for learning we will explore the idea of “the digital” in the context of contemporary society. At the same time, there are some important practicalities to manage in order to get set up for the course, so we will lead you through installing some apps on your computer that you will use extensively in this course, and which hopefully will become the backbone of your digital workflow throughout your time in higher education and beyond.

## **Topics**

This unit is divided into the following topics:

- Learning online
- Understanding the digital
- Starting your workflow
- Digital literacies
- Digital privacy and safety

## Unit Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Explore common digital tools used at Trinity Western University
- Describe your engagement with digital technology
- Apply digital tools to support learning in an academic environment
- Explain what digital literacy means to you
- Examine privacy concerns related to various platforms and tools
- Describe how to protect yourself and others in the digital environment
- Identify the literacies you plan to improve and the steps you will take to achieve your goals

## Activity Checklist

Here is a checklist of learning activities that will benefit you in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### Learning Activity

- Reflect on why you chose TWU and share your expectations with your peers.
- Write an introduction post on [the Learning Hub](#) in Discourse.
- Search online for learning tools to help with note taking, project management, writing, and so on. Share your findings on Discourse.
- Download and install [Obsidian](#).
- Download and open the course vault in Obsidian. Activate the plugins that came with the Obsidian vault.
- View the resources provided on the 21st century learner.
- Create a Visitors and Residents diagram.
- Get a password manager.
- Use the [Terms of Service: Didn't Read](#) (n.d.) website to look up each of the apps we will learn in this course.
- Write a reflection on digital literacies in your journal.

### Notes:

- You will be directed to complete these activities as they come up in the unit.
- The learning activities in this course are designed to prepare you for the graded assignments in this course. You are strongly encouraged to complete them.

Working through course activities will help you to meet the learning outcomes and successfully complete your assessments.

### Assessment

- Please see the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details.

## Resources

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

### 1.0.1 Activity: Why TWU?

#### Learning Activity

Before we dive into some digital tools you may use in your academic studies at Trinity, let's pause and think about what TWU means to you. Why did you choose TWU? What do you hope to achieve during your time here?

- **Watch:** To give you some idea of what life is like at TWU, and why people choose TWU, watch the following video: [Discover Undergraduate Studies At Trinity Western University\(2021\)](#)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Xlqpgb\\_3cR4](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Xlqpgb_3cR4)

- **Questions to Consider**

What do you think? Consider the following prompts:

- I'm excited to join the TWU community because ...
- I have questions about TWU: ...
- I am confident that ...
- I am concerned about ...

### 1.0.2 Activity: Join the Hub!

#### Learning Activity

Head over to [the Learning Hub](#), which is an app called Discourse that we use to build community among learners in online courses. Find the Leadership 101 category and respond to the Welcome forum. As you introduce yourself, share your thoughts and questions you have about TWU.

## 1.1 Learning Online

In face-to-face teaching environments the requirement to physically attend class, coupled with community accountability, makes a learner's individual learning skills less relevant for academic success. However, when learning online there is less instructor oversight, motivation, and accountability, requiring the student to have the skills required to learn effectively. While a face-to-face instructor might notice that their student is absent, confused, or falling behind, and will check in on their well-being and offer support for their success, an online instructor often has less opportunity to do this. The learner is therefore required to have strong learning skills, recognize their responsibility as a self-directed learner, and practice these skills accordingly.

Online learning requires additional skills differing from face-to-face learning, and since online learning is often self-paced, an absence of these skills will make a student's learning experience difficult. According to Crozier and Lake (2020) these skills include:

- Time management (i.e., effectively managing deadlines, schedules)
- Organization (i.e., creating a dedicated study space, ability to easily access material)
- Self-motivation (i.e., scheduling set times for coursework, peer study accountability)
- Self-regulation (i.e., strategies can include breaks, physical activity, meditation)
- Strong written and oral communication (i.e. technical writing skills, ability to communicate with others and ask for assistance if needed.)

Here are a couple more ways you can hone your online learning skills:

- **Active participation:** Actively engage in online discussions, forums, and virtual class sessions to enhance your understanding and connect with peers.
- **Regular communication with instructors:** Establish clear lines of communication with instructors, seeking clarification when needed and participating in office hours or virtual meetings.
- **Utilize online resources:** Take advantage of digital resources provided by the university, including online libraries, research databases, and academic support services.
- **Tech preparedness:** Ensure your computer and internet connection are reliable, and familiarize yourself with the required software tools for the course.

- **Active reading and note taking:** Develop effective reading strategies and take concise notes to enhance comprehension and retain key information.
- **Collaborate with peers:** Foster virtual collaboration with classmates through group projects, study groups, and peer discussions to enrich your learning experience.
- **Regular self-assessment:** Reflect on your progress regularly, assess your understanding of the material, and adjust your study strategies accordingly.

Remember, flexibility and adaptability are key in the online learning environment. Tailor these tips to your individual needs and the specific requirements of your courses. Note also that you will have opportunities to practice these skills throughout the course.

Here is some additional advice from TWU students.

- **Watch:** *Learning Online: Student Tips for Success* (2020)

[https://player.vimeo.com/video/493206161?badge=0&autoplay=0&player\\_id=0&app\\_id=58479](https://player.vimeo.com/video/493206161?badge=0&autoplay=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479)

### 1.1.1 Activity: Learning Online Effectively

#### Learning Activity

There are thousands of websites that offer advice such as “tips for online learning” or “how to succeed in your online class,” and some of those sites are good (see here, [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)). Some of them are also connected to shady people who want less than your best interests. One of the shining examples of a great resource is the *Liberated Learner* project, which was created primarily by university and college students like you. There are four main sections in the *Liberated Learner* resource—we will explore “The Learner” in this activity.

- **Read:** Take some time to work through [The Learner \(2022\)](#). It begins with a short video and includes activities that you can complete. These are for your reflection.
- **Write: Questions to Consider**
  - Having worked through The Learner, consider the ideas you think would be most beneficial for your online studies. To record your thoughts, you could create a list of your top ten study tips for online learning, or maybe write a message to a friend or sibling who is considering attending TWU next year.
  - Following this, reflect on how you can work to ensure your own success in your online courses. What are your goals, and what specific steps will you take to achieve them?

### 1.1.2 Activity: Online Discussions

Participating in discussions with your peers (what higher education folks like to call *discourse*—a verb), is an essential aspect of effective online courses, facilitated through platforms such as Moodle discussion forums, WordPress blogs, Discourse posts (in this case, a noun—referring to the app called Discourse), and others. We all know that discussion forums can sometimes be tedious, especially when they are assessed in the same way a formal paper is assessed. However, the benefits of using asynchronous technologies (where your interactions with others are time-delayed) in well-designed activities can be significant.

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Here is an article that will introduce you to some key ideas about discussion forums:  
*Students' Engagement in Asynchronous Online Discussion: The Relationship Between Cognitive Presence, Learner Prominence, and Academic Performance* (2019)

You may need to sign in to the TWU library to access this article. [You can find help here.](#)

- **Write:** Make notes, while you read, and create a summary.
- First of all, don't get too bogged down in the "Method" section of this article, but carefully read sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and the Appendix.
- While you read, jot down some notes, either in a notebook on paper, or in a file on your computer.
- Once you are done, write a two to three sentence summary *in your own words* of the article and how it relates to you and your experience. Do not hesitate to look up words that you don't understand, and include the definitions in your notes.
- Include at least one question that you have about the article in your notes.

#### Discussion Guidelines for LDRS 101

In this course, we will ask you to discuss ideas with your peers via Discourse, WordPress, and other social media platforms. These discussions are *ungraded, as your instructor will not give you marks per discussion. However*, they are an important part of this course and you will not be able to complete your assignments without discussing with your peers. Consider for example, two course learning outcomes that relate to online discussions:

- Develop personal and professional learning networks to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens

- Create inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality

Your discussion posts may be used as learning artifacts to demonstrate your understanding of the course learning outcomes (see Assignment details in Moodle).

In LDRS 101, you should write your posts in a way that shows you are communicating in an academic setting. While you don't need to adhere to all of the conventions of APA formatting, you should practice the principles of proper citation. For example, to cite an idea from the article in the previous activity, it would look like the following (Galikyan & Admiraal, 2019), and the bottom of the post would include a "References" heading, followed by the full reference (this part may be considered optional since we have included a link to the article in the in-text citation, but it is nice to have). Please consult the [APA Style website](#) for details.

It is **highly** recommended<sup>1</sup> that you begin using a reference manager—we recommend Zotero as it is a free and open source app with all you will ever need to cite properly in any style. We will lead you through some specifics of using Zotero in the next unit of LDRS 101, but you can [download Zotero](#) for free.

In short, similar to a live classroom discussion you need to be polite and professional, and you need to provide evidence for your views, but, as in a normal conversation, you won't have all of the formalities of academic writing. In LDRS 101, you should consider your forum posts as a time to practice and test your ideas. The stakes are very low, so it is fine to make mistakes.

In online discussion forums, learners are encouraged to respond *substantively*. What does this mean?

Substantive responses may include:

- Providing a new thought, idea, or perspective
- Citing an experience or example of what we are learning
- Adding a new twist on a perspective
- Critically thinking about an idea or concept
- Questioning or challenging a principle or perspective
- Asking a question or making a comment that shows you are interested in what another person says or encourages another person to elaborate on something they have already said
- Sharing a resource (a reading, web link, video) not covered in the syllabus that adds new information or perspectives to our learning
- Making a comment that underscores the link between two people's contributions and making this link explicit in your comment, or making a summary observation that takes into account several people's contributions and that touches on a recurring theme in the discussion

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<sup>1</sup>For real ... using Zotero will literally save you days of tedious work during your university career!

What substantive participation is NOT:

- Very basic comments such as “I agree” or “I disagree”
- Restating what has been said (unless there is a direct purpose in doing so)
- Disrespectfully disagreeing
- Pat answers that are not thought-provoking or do not move the dialogue forward

Here are some examples of how to stimulate your own and others’ thinking:

- What would happen if ...
- Other times it may be helpful to ...
- It is my understanding ... what is your experience with this?
- You might approach this from ...
- Is it possible that ...
- Would you consider ...
- Maybe ...
- Possibly ...
- Sometimes ...
- I’m wondering if ...
- Do you think ...

For more on substantive participation, read [\*Writing a Substantive Discussion Post for an Online Class Forum\*](#) (2016).

### 1.1.3 Activity: Start a Conversation!

#### Learning Activity

- **Discuss:** Head over to the Learning Hub on Discourse and find the *Leadership 101* category. Start a conversation about one of the following (or something else relevant):
  - Something that has interested you about learning online
  - Your goals for your academic studies
  - How will you stay motivated in this course?
  - What digital literacy skills do you hope to gain, and how will those benefit you in your academic and professional career?
  - A “Wow” and a “Wonder” about online learning

## 1.2 Understanding the Digital

Our next topic is an introduction to the idea of “the digital.” You may recognize that digital tools are deeply embedded in modern society. It is not uncommon for people of all ages to interact with apps and tools that claim to connect people in conversations or networks, or to perform complex tasks for work, or to control various systems in our vehicles. Digital technology is really everywhere we look. Thinking about these tools is one way to conceptualize how we interact with digital tools but we can also recognize that our social practices and norms have been impacted by digital tools. An example of this, at least in North America, is that the names of companies have become verbs. If people want to learn something about a topic, they *Google* it. Mobile phones are often essential tools for communication, social media, internet browsing, messaging, entertainment, photography, navigation, online shopping, mobile banking, productivity, two-factor authentication for some websites, and health and fitness

management. In some cases, such as in social media, it is almost impossible to participate in public discourse without access to technology.

Modern universities are also deeply impacted by the digital. Every system involved in higher education has been digitized in some manner, including recruitment, accounting, and fundraising. As you begin your university career, here are some digital systems you will likely encounter:

- Courses are designed and often delivered digitally.
- Course logistics (discussion forums, assignment submissions, quizzes, gradebooks) happen in large digital tools called learning management systems (LMS) or virtual learning environments (VLE) such as Moodle.
- Assignments must often be created digitally (using word processors, presentation software, video editors, website builders).
- Research data is gathered, stored, analyzed, and shared digitally.

There are many other processes and procedures that rely on the digital in higher education, but the important thing for you to realize is that there are many tools that you will be required to learn and use. Some are obvious, such as word processors, presentation software, email, the library website, and the LMS, but others are less obvious and won't necessarily be taught specifically, other than in this course.

Some of the digital tools we will introduce to you will help you build a workflow for you to manage the huge amount of information and resources that you will have to sort through to complete many of your assignments. You will learn to use AI to find relevant resources on whatever your topic might be. As you know from searching Google, a simple search of the web can turn up thousands or millions of hits, but there are tools that can help you highlight the most relevant resources in just a few clicks. Once you find resources, we will show you tools that will allow you to track all your references, create citations in your writing quickly and easily, and then create a perfectly formatted reference list. Do not waste your time creating your own bibliographies! This one tool will save you days and likely weeks of work during your degree (quite literally). We will show you another tool that will allow you to make connections between ideas and notes so that you build a network of connected ideas. Curating this network of ideas is possibly one of the most useful things you can do. You will end up with a searchable network of everything you've learned and be able to visualize it at the click of a button. We will help you think through the implications of how you present yourself on the web so that you can make wise decisions about what you share and how you share it. We will also help you make connections on the web that could become a key resource for your learning and working in your career.

## 1.3 Digital Literacies

Digital literacy is a person's knowledge, skills, and abilities for using digital tools ethically, effectively, and within a variety of contexts in order to access, interpret, and evaluate information, as well as to create, construct new knowledge, and communicate with others. (Government of British Columbia, n.d., p. 23)

Literacy, as we commonly understand it, is the ability to *understand* the meaning of texts. It is more than just being able to read. In the same way, digital literacy is the ability to make meaning using digital tools. It is more than simply being able to post to Instagram or TikTok, or whatever app you might use. As the definition above indicates, digital literacy involves using tools *ethically*, to *access, interpret, evaluate, create, construct, and communicate* information and knowledge.

"In today's world, being literate requires much, much more than the traditional literacy of yesterday." (Alber, 2013)

What digital tools do you use to help you make meaning? What is your "go-to" app for note taking, organizing files, tracking references, and connecting ideas? One valuable tool we are going to show you is called Obsidian, a free note taking and mind mapping app. Before you go through the instructions in the activity below, watch the video *This is Obsidian*. (2021).

Watch: *This is Obsidian*

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/d2FNqEDGc8g>

### 1.3.1 Activity: Getting Started With Obsidian

#### Learning Activity

Follow the steps below to install Obsidian on your computer.

- Go to obsidian.md and follow these instructions to install Obsidian on your computer.
  - It is recommended that you use a computer rather than a mobile phone to install Obsidian, but please let your instructor or facilitator know if you are on mobile.
  - You do NOT need to purchase any upgrades such as **Obsidian Sync** or **Obsidian Publish**.
- Work through the **Getting Started** section of the Obsidian help pages starting with **Create a vault**.
  - When you create the vault in this step, we recommend that you name it **TWU**

or something similar. Later, you can create as many vaults as you would like.

- It is recommended that you use one of the sync services listed here so that your files are backed up.

If you are having any difficulty in installing Obsidian, feel free to reach out for support on [the Learning Hub](#). There are also several tutorials and videos online; you are encouraged to seek out these resources. One example is [\*Obsidian for Beginners: Start HERE — How to Use the Obsidian App for Notes\* \(2020\)](#). The first minute shows how to set up Obsidian ... and if you'd like a sneak peek at the amazing features this tool has to offer, watch on! We'll get to these additional uses of Obsidian later in the course.

Obsidian will become a backbone of this course as we will use it to learn how the web works and give you a workflow that will help you stay organized. One of the advantages of Obsidian is that everything you do in the app happens on your own computer, rather than the cloud, which is just another way of saying *someone else's computer*. However, the drawback to that is that you need to ensure that you have a backup of your vaults in a secure location, either one of the sync services mentioned in Step 3, above, or another backup system. [Please check the Learning Hub](#) or talk to your instructor or facilitator for help with this.

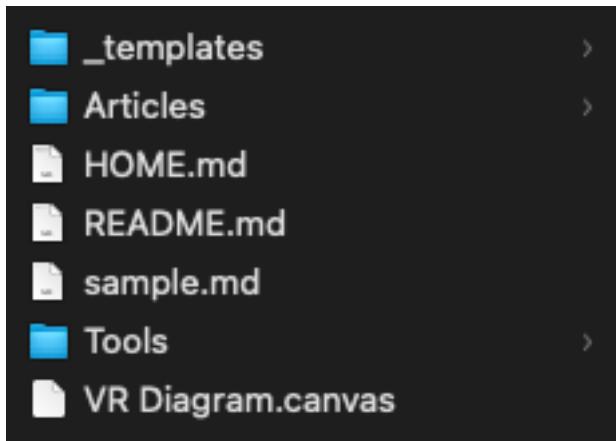
### 1.3.2 Activity: Download the Starter Vault

#### Learning Activity

To give you a head start, we have created a starter vault for you to download and use. Follow the instructions below to access the starter vault.

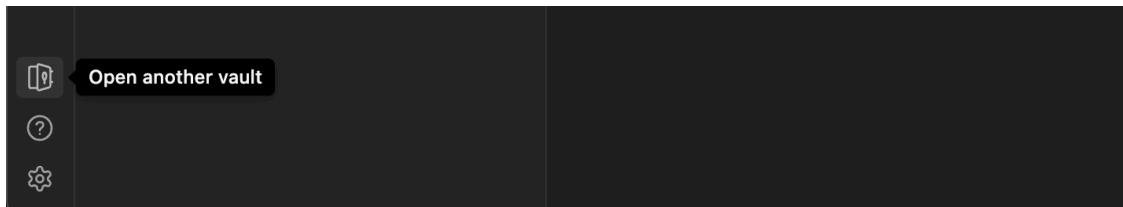
- Click this link to download the vault
- This will download a file called ldrs101-vault-main.zip to your computer
- The .zip extension means that this is a compressed file and it contains multiple other files inside
- Move the compressed file to your Documents folder
- Unzip or extract the contents of the file; you should see a list of files similar to the image below

Figure 1.1: Screenshot of Extracted Files List on Obsidian



- Rename the folder to ldrs101-[firstname.lastname] (use all lowercase letters and a dash instead of spaces)
- Open Obsidian and click the “Open another vault” icon in the bottom left corner

Figure 1.2: Screenshot of the Open Another Vault Button in Obsidian



- Choose the ldrs101-[firstname.lastname] folder, and then Obsidian will ask you to trust this vault
- Click “Trust author and enable plugins”
- Once you are in the vault, feel free to take a look around—you will notice a Home page, a Tools folder with some files in it, and a VR Diagram Canvas

Now that you have a place to record your course notes, let’s jump back into the discussion about digital literacy. Traditionally, literacy was about speaking, listening, reading and writing. Literacy has taken on a much broader and complex meaning. Today there’s also digital literacy, media literacy, new literacy, and so on. In the activity below you are invited to reflect on how your literacies have changed when compared to your parents, and to speculate on new literacies the next generation of learners may need for the future.

### 1.3.3 Activity: Reflection on the 21st Century Learner

#### Learning Activity

- **Watch:** The following video by the MacArthur Foundation questions how digital media are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in civic life. In it, John Seely Brown, a researcher with particular interests in radical innovation and digital culture, suggests that today's gaming oriented children want to be measured and feel that if they are not learning, it is not fun. How does this relate to how you feel about learning?

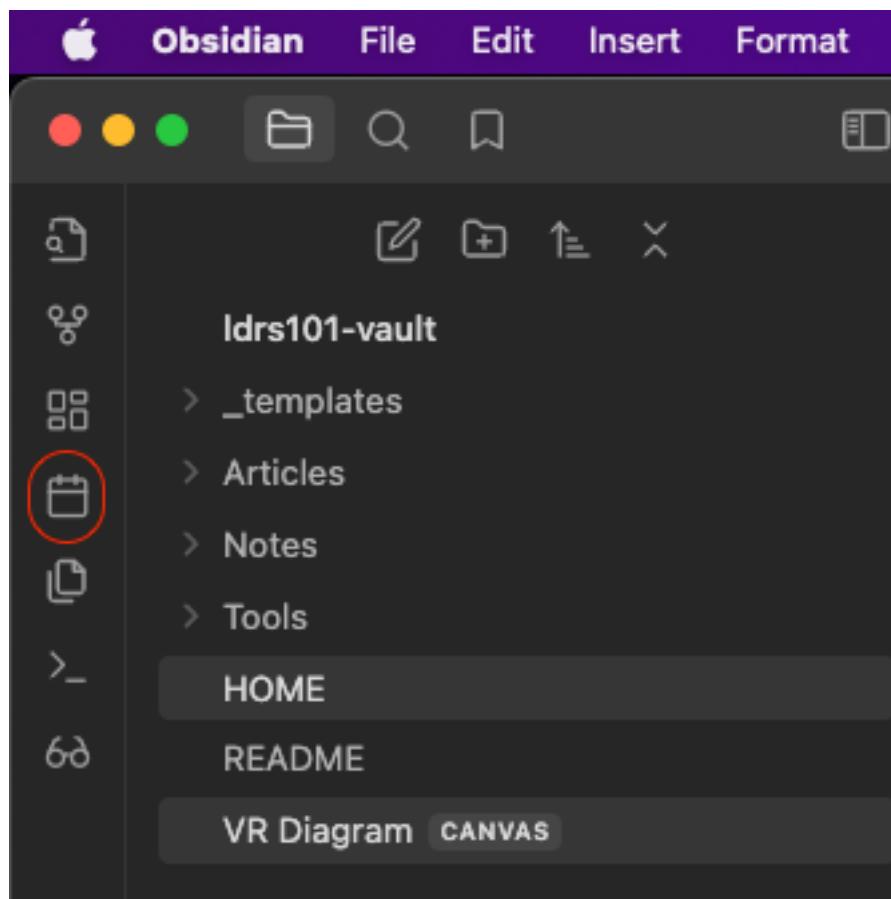
Watch: *Rethinking Learning: The 21st Century Learner*(2010)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/c0xa98cy-Rw>

While you watch the video think about:

- What “literacy” skills have you acquired when compared to your parents?
- What “literacy” skills will be important for future learners in higher education?
- **Reflect** on the following writing prompts:
  - My parents did not need to ...
  - A new literacy I acquired is the ability to ...
  - Higher education students of the future will need to ...
  - ... is an important 21st century skill for future employment
- **Write:** To complete this activity, click “Open Today’s Daily Note” in your Obsidian vault and write your reflections.

Figure 1.3: Screenshot, Obsidian, Where to Find Today's Daily Note (Icon Circled)



- Style your text using Markdown codes. Click here for the basic Markdown syntax (n.d.).
- Feel free to add images and other media!

Please make sure you add tags to your note. Suggested tags might be #digital-literacy #ldrs101 #macarthur-foundation #john-seely-brown.

Notice that tags start with a hashtag and contain no spaces. Separate words with a hyphen.

Let's dive a little deeper into this topic of digital literacy. What is it? How would you define digital literacy?

In the next activity, you will start to unpack this term and prepare your own initial definition of digital literacy.

### 1.3.4 Activity: Defining Digital Literacy

#### Learning Activity

Let's take a look at the definitions of digital literacy and digital skills on the web and identify the difference. Follow the steps below and feel free to jot down some notes in your Obsidian journal. If you are completing this activity on a new day, create a new daily note.

- **Read:**

- Read Wikipedia’s definition (2024) of digital literacy—is this a good description?
- Scan the #diglit hashtag on X (Twitter)—did you find any valuable links to defining digital literacy?
- Conduct a Google search for “digital literacy.” Select a few definitions you like and record their URLs, for example by adding these to your browser bookmarks.
- Conduct a Google search for “digital skills.” Select one or two definitions you like and record the URLs.
- Conduct a Google search for “digital fluency.” Select one or two definitions.
- What are the differences between digital literacies, digital fluency, and digital skills? How are these concepts related?
- Read *What is Digital Literacy?* (2014) by POMO—is this a reliable source?
- How would you rate the academic quality of the definitions you found (e.g., low or high quality)?
- What did you discover?

- **Write:** Share your thoughts and experiences by posting on the LDRS 101 Discourse chat. For example:

- The major difference between digital skills and literacies is ...
- I didn’t realize that ...
- For me, digital literacy means ...”

### 1.3.5 Digital Literacies and Skills

Digital literacies for academic learning involves more than Facebook, Snapchat, or X (Twitter) and the associated technical skills in using these technologies.

As you explore the concept, you will find online resources which confuse digital skills with digital literacies. The activities which follow aim to provide an initial introduction to the wide range of digital literacies associated with academic learning. We will explore the concept

of digital literacies in greater depth as we progress with the course. When exploring these online resources we encourage you to differentiate between skills and literacies, and to develop a critical disposition. Digital literacies involve issues, norms, and habits of mind surrounding technologies used for a particular purpose. However, these literacies are closely related to technical proficiency in using a range of digital applications.

### **1.3.6 Activity: What Are Digital Literacies?**

#### Learning Activity

Watch educator and researcher Doug Belshaw as he discusses his digital literacies framework:

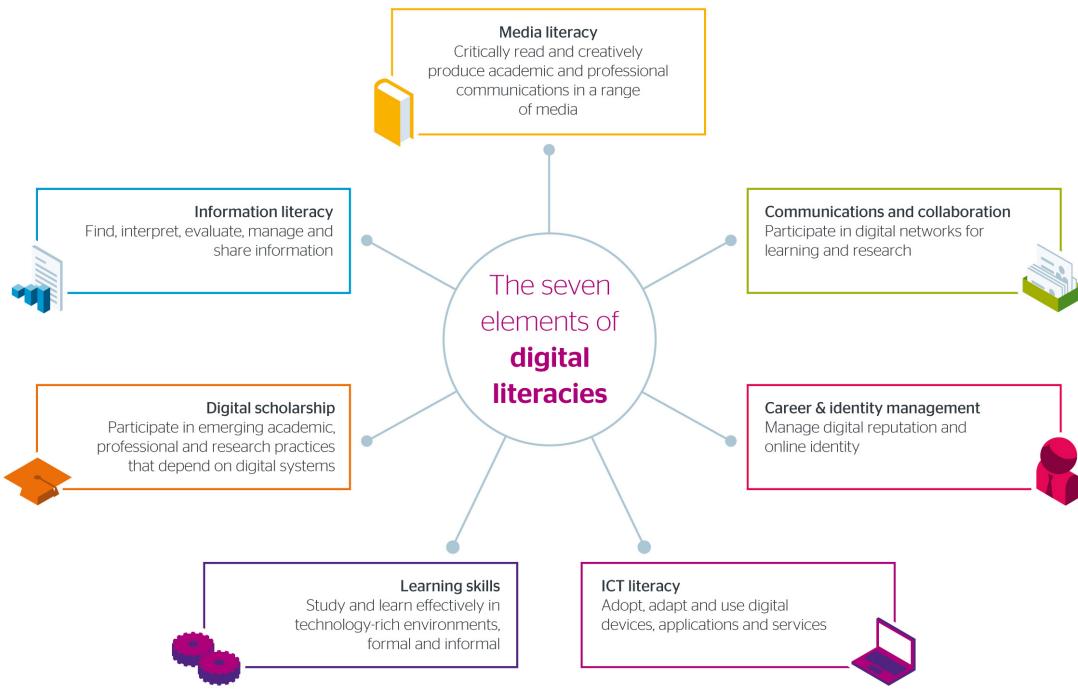
- Watch: *The Essential Elements Of Digital Literacies: Doug Belshaw At TedxWarwick*(2012)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/A8yQPoTcZ78>

- Read: Next, read the *Quick Guide - Developing Students' Digital Literacy* (n.d.)

This guide defines digital literacies as “the capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society (n.d., Introduction).” Furthermore, this report distinguishes between seven elements of digital literacies:

Figure 1.4: Career Ready Framework



*Note.* From “*Quick Guide - Developing Students’ Digital Literacy*,” by Jisc Digital Experience Insights, n.d., p. 2, . CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 UK.

Do you agree that these are the key literacies you need to live, learn, and work in today’s society? What would you add? Conduct a quick Google search for “digital literacies” and add in terms such as “essential,” “top,” “21st century.” What other literacies or skills are emphasized? What would your list be for digital literacies that are important for you?

### 1.3.7 Activity: Why Digital Literacy Matters

#### Learning Activity

A key component of digital literacy and networked learning relates to the ability to engage meaningfully in online learning communities.

This learning activity will provide you with another opportunity to connect with your peers in Discourse and contribute to online learning discussions.

Watch the following video and jot down the reasons why digital literacy matters to you, then complete the steps which follow.

- Watch: *Digital Literacy and Why it Matters* (2014)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/p2k3C-iB88w>

- Write:

- Go to the LDRS 101 section in Discourse
- Post a contribution to the discussion on digital literacies and why they are important for you
- Post one or two replies to interesting contributions (you should also “like” good contributions, use the person’s username when replying, and if appropriate, quote a reply when responding.)

### 1.3.8 Activity: Am I Digitally Literate?

#### Learning Activity

Digital literacy encompasses a wide range of capabilities which extend beyond the digital skills associated with different technologies. Consider the digital literacies you identified from the previous activity.

- **Write:** Jot down one or more technologies or tools you would recommend for each of the skills and assess your competence in using each particular technology or tool (e.g., below average, average, above average, or excellent).
- **Search:** Next, use your searching skills to discover online tests for assessing your digital literacies (don’t spend more than 15 to 20 minutes on the self-assessment activity).
  - Conduct a Google search using “digital literacy self-assessment”
  - Choose a link to conduct a self-assessment of your digital literacy

Alternatively, you can choose from these resources:

- Take the Digital Literacy Self-Assessment (n.d.) from the Canadian Association for Supported Employment **or**
- Use the [Digital Literacy Self-Assessment Tool](#) (2020) from the Digital Citizenship Guide **or**
- Explore the *What is Digital Literacy?* page of the Digital Literacies Toolkit (n.d.) developed by the University of Southampton.

- **Questions to Consider:**

- Did the self-assessment you chose focus on digital skills or digital literacies?
- What did you learn from this exercise?

Share your thoughts by posting on Discourse.

### 1.3.9 Visitors and Residents

One way to start thinking about digital literacy is to create a map of the apps and tools that you use, how you use them, and what traces of your presence you leave behind on the web. We call this a Visitors and Residents Diagram. To complete this activity, we'll first discuss some key concepts.

Have you encountered the terms “digital natives” and “digital immigrants?” What are your initial thoughts on their definitions?

**i** Note: [Marc Prensky](#) coined the terms “digital natives” and “digital immigrants.” We recognize that the term “native” should not be used to talk about people.

The essential argument is that certain generations have changed, in that they have an innate ability to use and learn technology because they have grown up using technology, and those generations whose formative years pre-date the advent of the internet are forever at a disadvantage compared to *kids*. You can read a bit more about the idea on Wikipedia, linked below. There is also a link in that article to Prensky’s original article.

Digital native

Aside from the problematic framing of learners as kids, there are some distinct challenges with the idea of digital literacy being a fixed trait rather than a matter of comfort, familiarity, and a skill that can be practiced and learned. It is no secret that young people are comfortable using social media apps such as TikTok, Instagram, SnapChat, Weibo, WeChat, and the like, but this doesn’t imply a superior aptitude for learning technology compared to older generations, or an inherent proficiency in doing so. For example, are most first-year university students proficient in using a spreadsheet to create a budget? If they have created a budget, it’s more likely they use an app than a spreadsheet.

We’d like to introduce you to a different way to conceptualize your relationship with digital media, and that is that you may be a *visitor* in some web spaces and a *resident* in others. Places on the web where you might be a visitor are those places where you quite literally visit, but importantly, don’t leave a public trace of your time there. You don’t spend any time interacting with people, but rather, you take a rather utilitarian approach by visiting a site, doing a thing, and leaving.

Alternately, there are places and spaces on the web where *you* reside as a persona, where you interact, socialize, and leave traces of yourself online. For some, that may be Facebook or Instagram, where you keep in touch with friends and family, or X (formerly Twitter), or maybe it's a blog, or social site. The important distinction is that these are places where you connect with other people, where you are socially *present*.

At the same time, if we can imagine the visitor ↔ resident continuum on a horizontal axis, there is also a personal ↑ professional (or educational) continuum on a vertical axis, leading to four quadrants where you might situate your technology use.

### 1.3.10 Activity: Where Am I Online?

#### Learning Activity

The video below explains a process to help you think about where you reside on the web.

- Watch: *Visitors and Residents*(2014)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/sPOG3iTThmRI>

- **Questions to Consider:**

- What surprised you as you watched the video?
- How can you apply the concepts presented to your experience in learning with technology?

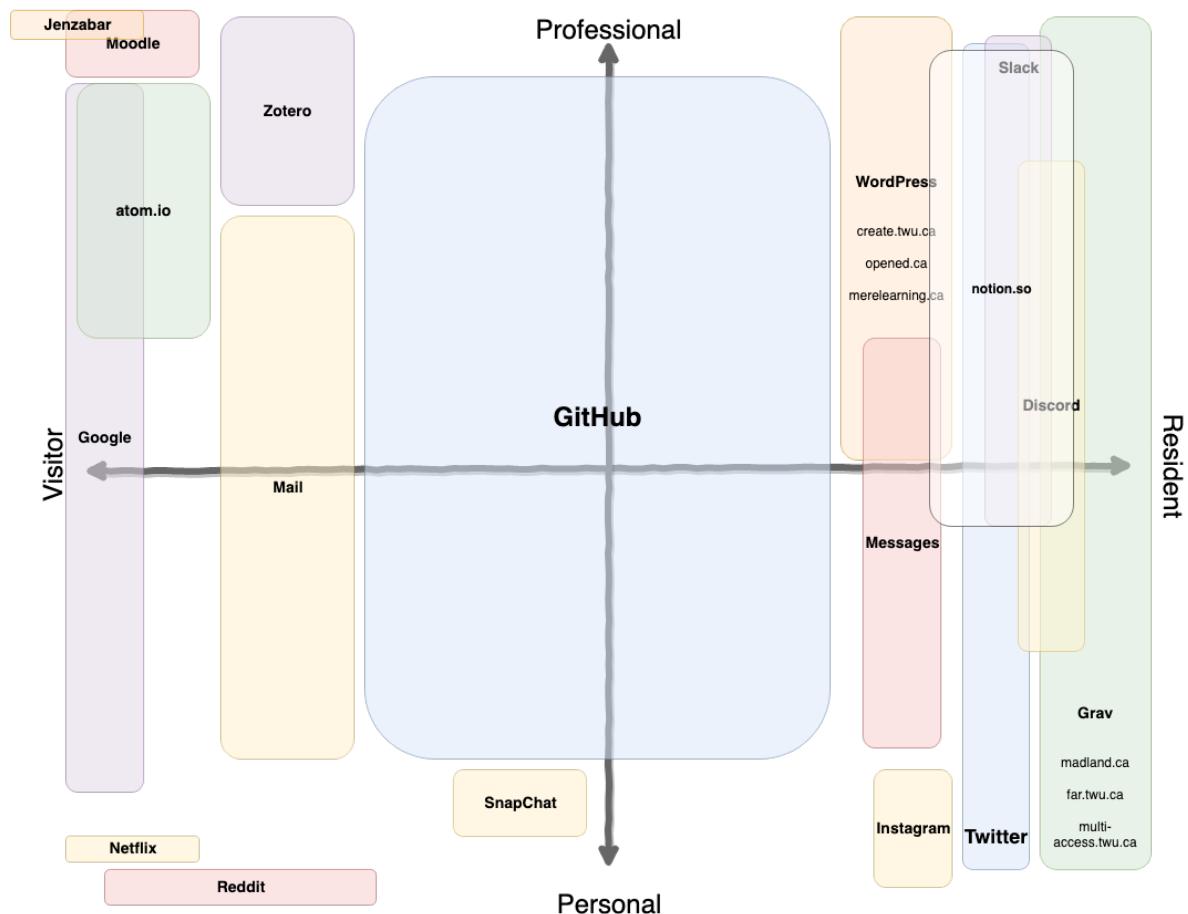
Feel free to jot down your notes in Obsidian.

Now to the task of creating your own Visitors and Residents Diagram.

See the diagram below ... keep in mind that this diagram represents a set of tools that its creator has been using for a decade or more, and that they have invested their career in educational technology. There is a lot here; yours might look significantly different with only a few tools here and there. Or perhaps your diagram has a plethora of tools you use regularly. The key idea of visitors and residents is for you to think about which technologies you use as a resident, and then to think about which tools you may have tried or are interested in pursuing. From there, we can begin to plan for tools we can use that afford us the opportunity to reside there.

It is certainly notable that this diagram's creator is very much a visitor in Moodle! This does not mean that they don't spend much time there, they spend a significant portion of every day working in Moodle, rather, the work that they do there leaves very little trace of their personality. You will (hopefully) see Moodle as much more of a place where you reside. But this foregrounds the question of whether Moodle is actually designed to promote residencies. Certainly the forums allow for users to project their persona into the system, as do a few of

Figure 1.5: Visitor–Resident Diagram



the other features, but the system itself is very heavily templated. There are profiles that can be edited, but users are limited to one very tiny image, and virtually no opportunity to determine for themselves what they want to share. There is little room for customization, and every time a course ends every single user must recreate their persona in a new course site (or five).

For many university students, a Learning Management System (LMS) like Moodle is a perfectly reasonable place to reside and they feel comfortable accessing course materials, finding their grades, communicating with classmates, and so on. And just like our physical homes, the quality of the community that lives there isn't determined by the features of the house itself, but by the people who share the space and how they structure their time and interactions.

### 1.3.11 Activity: Visitor and Resident Diagram

#### Learning Activity

This activity will help you think about how the tools we use shape and sometimes determine the nature of our interactions with each other. Do the tools you use fall on the visitor or the resident end of your continuum? How do these tools impact your learning?

- **Read:** *Visitors and Residents: A New Typology for Online Engagement* (2011)
- **Create** a new canvas in your Obsidian vault and create your own Visitor–Resident Diagram. We have created a sample diagram in the vault.

This diagram can be used to demonstrate your understanding of the course learning outcomes. See the Assessment tab in Moodle for how this activity relates to the assessments in this course.

## 1.4 Digital Privacy and Safety

Now that you have assessed some of your digital skills or literacies, let's focus our attention on privacy and safety. In this section we summarize important practices as a reminder to remain vigilant in protecting your privacy and security online. If you are unsure about good security practices, there are a wealth of online resources you can (and should) consult.

### Privacy

Your privacy is fragile, easy to lose instantaneously, and difficult to retrieve in an environment that requires so much online interaction.

- **Identity theft** happens, frequently.
  - Never put your social insurance number, your birthday, your mother’s maiden name, or any other personal facts anywhere online. Everyone on the internet will be able to access this information.
  - Always assume that anything you write online (including email) can, and probably will, eventually leak. Keep your email address private—to avoid receiving spam. If your email is published in a plain form anywhere online, even if it is part of an archived email list, spammers will “harvest” it for their databases.
- **Spam email (at least half of all email being sent)** is an unfortunate fact of our modern lives.
  - If you must publish your email address online, consider creating a “sacrificial” email address, or one you only use to publish online. You can create an email “alias” which you can set to automatically forward to your primary email, and easily disable if your spam volumes increases. Many email services will automatically generate random email addresses that you can use to hide your true address.
  - Another approach is to avoid publishing the email address as something like *mailto:myname@somewebdomain.net*. Instead, you might use more confusing text, such as myname-at-somewebdomain-net. Some websites support using these types of obfuscation methods, but the spammers who “scrape” email addresses from websites to populate their spam databases use increasingly sophisticated methods to defeat these methods.
  - Basically, avoid publishing the email addresses you value online to decrease the amount of spam you receive.

## Passwords

What about passwords? Many people have just one, or maybe a few. Given the number of websites and web services which require password-based authentication, this is not good enough to avoid an identity disaster.

The problem with having only a few passwords is that even resource-rich and security-critical organizations have **suffered massive leaks**. If even one of them suffers a data leak, identity thieves will obtain your password and try to use it on other websites. It is easy for them to do this using computer technologies.

Other ways someone can get your password include:

- Sniffing traffic when you log in to a nonsecure website that uses `http://` rather than `https://` (the “s” stands for secure because your data transmission’s encrypted). Look for the Lock icon.png in your address bar.

- Sniffing emails—your email, unless encrypted, is not secure. Never send a login and password along with the web address of a service (similarly, don't send credit card numbers).
- Phishing attacks—where someone sends you an email that looks like it is from a trusted sender, such as from a friend, your bank, an online store you frequent, or a government agency, and asks you to enter your password to confirm it. No one should ever ask you to enter your password via email.
- Always check the web address (hover over the link) to make sure it corresponds to the right place or call the sender to confirm the request over the phone.
- Brute force—hackers often use computers to guess your password, beginning with a list of common passwords, and try different combinations until they get it right, or until the system locks them out for trying too many times.
- “How secure is my password” sites—you should avoid these sites and never type your password into a website or email response that is not appropriate, especially when you know the sender also knows your email.
- Once your email and any password combination are known, identity thieves will try to use them at various websites, because they know most people only use a few passwords. A thief who discovers a password you created for a website you rarely use will try to compromise the security of a website that is important to you such as your email system, your workplace, social media accounts, or bank account.

Here is a table that shows how quickly passwords can be cracked using brute force methods. Note that the best passwords are both long and include a mix of numbers, lowercase and uppercase letters, and symbols.

Figure 1.6: Time Needed to Crack Passwords of Varying Complexity in a Brute Force Attack.



A table showing the time needed to crack passwords of varying complexity in a brute force attack. The table has columns for the number of characters and password types. The complexity levels are color-coded: purple for 'Numbers Only', green for 'Lowercase Letters', yellow for 'Upper and Lowercase Letters', red for 'Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters', and blue for 'Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols'. The time taken increases exponentially with the number of characters and the complexity of the password.

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	1 sec	2 secs	4 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	28 secs	2 mins	5 mins
9	Instantly	3 secs	24 mins	2 hours	6 hours
10	Instantly	1 min	21 hours	5 days	2 weeks
11	Instantly	32 mins	1 month	10 months	3 years
12	1 sec	1 sec	8 hrs	20 days	500 days
13	5 secs	2 weeks	332 years	39 yrs	356 years
14	52 secs	1 year	176 years	2030 years	1m years
15	9 mins	27 years	898 years	120 years	710 years
16	1 hour	713 years	469 years	779 years	56 years
17	14 hours	189 years	269 years	489 years	3806 years
18	6 days	404 years	12661 years	216 years	266 years

HIVE SYSTEMS > Learn how we made this table at [hivesystems.io/password](https://www.hivesystems.io/password)

*Note.* From “Are Your Passwords in the Green in 2023?,” by C. Nesky, 2023, *Hive Systems* (<https://www.hivesystems.com/blog/are-your-passwords-in-the-green-2023>). Copyright 2024 [Hive Systems](#). Reprinted with permission.

There are services you can use to check if your email is part of a leaked password data set. So, what can you do to protect yourself?

## Password Managers

Get a [password manager](#). They are incredibly helpful and convenient now that many of us use several computers and mobile devices. Password managers help you manage your passwords.

- When you choose a password manager make sure you create one [strong password](#), such as a full sentence with some numbers and special characters. This is all you need to remember—the password manager remembers the others. This ensures you generate a different, fully random password for each website you use that requires a password.
- Good password managers only ever store your details in an encrypted form, where even the company that stores it cannot see your passwords. To access your passwords, you log into the password manager service using your single, strong password (via a secure web link—usually the default, but always check!).
- There are many [password manager options](#). Some widely used proprietary options include [Lastpass](#) and [1password](#). Open source options also exist, such as [Bitwarden](#). Sadly, some of the most popular password managers have suffered from software bugs that have exposed user passwords.

### 1.4.1 Activity: Get a Password Manager

#### Learning Activity

If you don't already use a password manager, set up an account with [Lastpass](#), [1password](#), or the free password manager, [Bitwarden](#) to familiarize yourself with how password managers work.

- **Read:** *How to Start Using a Password Manager* (2021).
  - Create an account on the password manager site and establish a master password (conduct an online search for advice on choosing a secure master password).
  - Install the browser extension for your local browser.
  - Choose one of the TWU course websites and set up a new secure password using your password manager.
  - Log out of the TWU course website and log in again using the password manager.
  - Install the mobile phone app for your operating system, and desktop application for your computer (if this applies). Synchronize the local app with your online vault.
  - Consider using the password manager for your online accounts so you can easily set up and maintain a unique password for each online account you use.

### ***Good Messaging Hygiene***

Always assume that anyone can and will read anything you write in an email. Email is not a secure form of communication. Few people encrypt their email because it is an extra step that even the most technically inclined users are reluctant to take. Both sender and recipient have to be technically proficient.

Text messages and instant messaging programs such as Facebook Messenger are also insecure. Anyone, including government officials and the organization that runs the service, such as Facebook employees, can read it.

### **Secure Your Own Privacy**

Never send any sensitive data such as your social insurance number, credit card number, password, or other personal information via email or text. Call the person to provide this information over the phone.

You can use a secure, encrypted text message service such as Signal if necessary. It is available at no cost, works on most platforms, and encrypts text messages on your phone. If you text someone else with Signal installed, the entire transaction is encrypted.

### **Secure the Privacy of Others**

Another element of good digital hygiene is to protect the identity of others. For example, never send group emails using To: or CC: (carbon copy) for each email address. You will reveal the email addresses for everyone on your list. This is especially problematic if you or another person saves the email message and displays it on the web, such as in a mailing list archive. This makes it easy for spammers and hackers to access and download all of those email addresses.

Use BCC: (blind carbon copy), to hide the email addresses from your recipients to protect everyone's privacy. Use your own email address, and BCC the rest of the recipients, if your email software requires you to insert an email address into the To: box.

When using an email mailing list where you send messages to a single email address to a list of people, never CC: someone else in the same message. This will compromise the privacy of every CC'd recipient and the privacy of the list. Always check with the people on the list to ensure you are not taking unacceptable liberties.

If someone asks you to share an email address of a friend or colleague you should ask permission to share their email address, and state why the third party is requesting their email.

## Be a Thoughtful Sceptic

So how can we protect ourselves if new threats are emerging all the time?

- Be conscious of where you put information that is “private” to you.
- Beware of the terms of service (ToS) of social media providers such as Facebook. Use a service such as *Terms of Service: Didn't Read (TOSDR)* to help identify risky, overreaching services. You may be able to use certain privacy settings to protect your information.
- Always check the identity of a website before you enter any passwords or personal information. Secure certificates are generally trustworthy but be sure to check the names and details.
- Always ask whether you should trust a provider or a government agency. Always ask “who benefits when I do this?” What are their incentives?
- Protect your own data and be even more protective of others’ private information. For example, be cautious before posting information about yourself or someone else. Be especially cautious when posting pictures or videos of their children.
- Remember, complacency and unwarranted trust are your biggest enemies. A healthy paranoia is good for your digital health. Think about the great amount of time and effort it will take to regain your identity (and credit rating) if your information is compromised.

### 1.4.2 Activity: Tos Analysis

#### Learning Activity

- **Identify:** Use the *Terms of Service: Didn't Read* (n.d.) site to look up each of the apps we will learn in this course. Each tool currently has its own file in your Obsidian vault with a template ready to go for you. Fill out the template for each tool based on what is available on tosdr.org and your own examination of the ToS for each tool.

Feel free to add components to the template.

### 1.4.3 Activity: Introduction To Reflective Journaling

#### Learning Activity

For the final activity of Unit 1 you will be asked to write a reflective journal entry in Obsidian on the topic of digital literacy. This entry can be used as part of **Assignment 1: Reflective Journal**.

Prior to completing this activity, let's discuss the practice of writing in a Reflective

### Journal.

A reflective journal is simply a record of your thoughts. It is a reflection of the way you think and the manner in which you respond to your learning. Journals can consist of traditional note taking, mind maps, pictures, stream-of-consciousness writing, recordings, quotes, sketches, or drawings—whatever you choose to include. Experiment and have fun. The purpose of journaling is to make you an active participant in your learning experiences as you engage in the various activities throughout the course's readings, activities, and discussions. Reflecting upon these learning events will help you gain a deeper understanding of the course materials and help integrate your learning into applied practice in your everyday life and work. Throughout the course, we will remind you to write in your journal, as we want to be sure you are actively learning the material. To assist you, we have provided you with questions you can ask yourself in order to get your creative energies flowing. Reflective journaling is an activity you can and should complete on a regular or daily basis, even beyond the prompting in course activities.

Watch: *Reflective Writing*(2014)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/QoI67VeE3ds>

Here are some common questions used for reflective journaling. As you read them, consider what you have learned in this first unit.

- In your view, what were the most important points in the readings or activities?
- What information did you already know? What skills did you already have?
- What new knowledge, skills, or perspectives have you gained?
- What information was easy to remember or learn? Why?
- What concepts or skills did you find more difficult? Why?
- How can you apply this knowledge to your studies or future career?
- How has this knowledge helped you to make sense of your current or previous experience?
- Has your understanding of a personal or work-related situation changed after studying these concepts?
- Did you agree or disagree with any of the material? If yes, how did you react and why?
- If you could have the opportunity to engage in further learning, what would it be?
- What further questions would like to ask about the concepts presented in this unit?
- What other concepts, resources or discussions would be of interest?

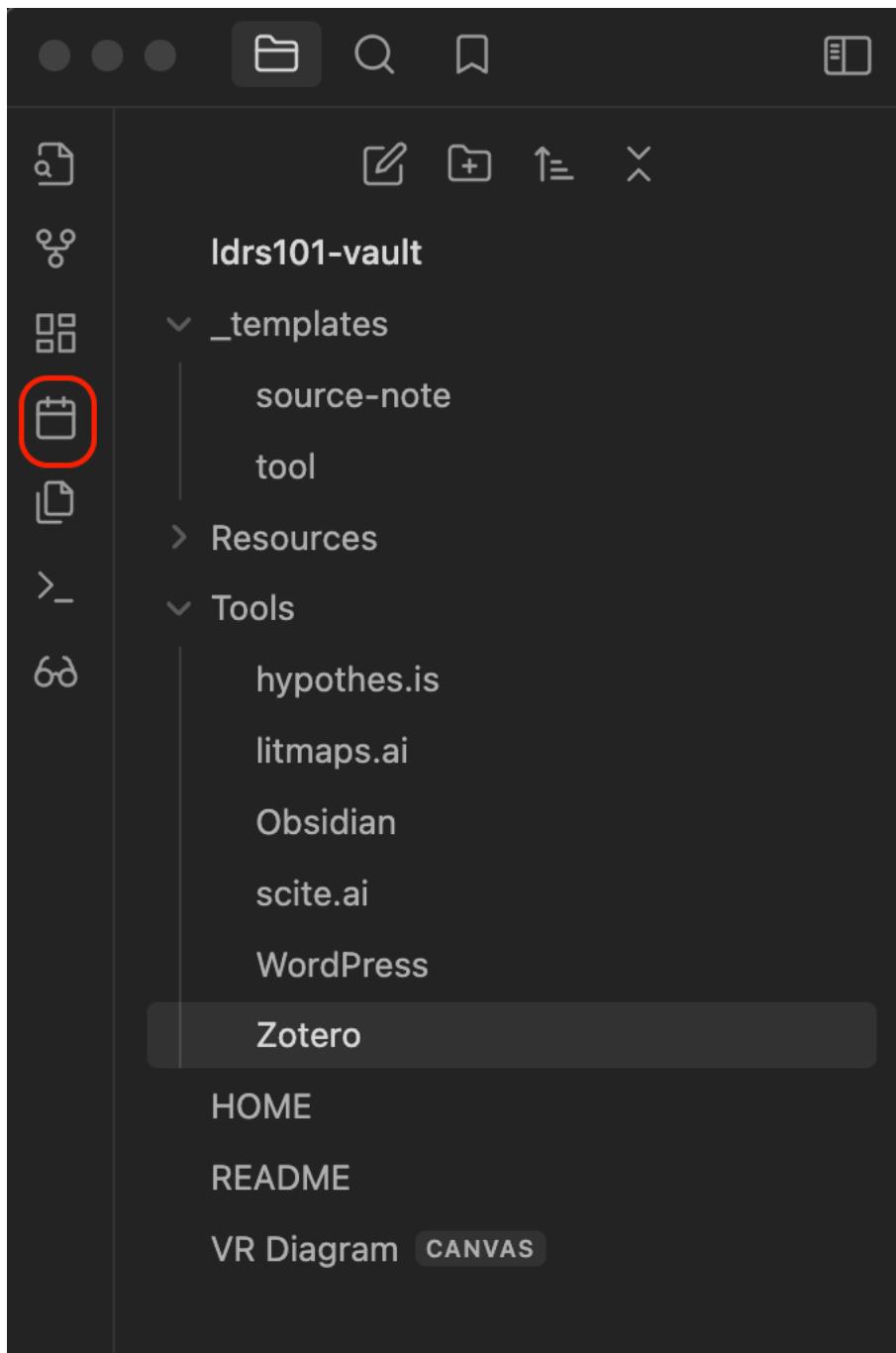
#### **1.4.4 Activity: Digital Literacies for Online Learning**

##### Learning Activity

- **Write:** In this activity you are asked to write a reflective journal entry on the topic of digital literacy.

First, let's get you set up in Obsidian. Click the little calendar icon in the sidebar of Obsidian to open today's daily note.

Figure 1.7: Screenshot of the Daily Note Icon in Obsidian (Circled)



Next, respond to the following prompts:

- Write your personal definition of digital literacies justified from your reading of the literature (about 100 to 150 words).
- Describe what digital literacies mean for you in a sentence.
- Create a link to your VR diagram map in your entry.
- Summarize an action plan for improving your digital literacies—identify the literacies you plan to improve including the reasons why and how you aim to achieve this.
- Ensure that your references are cited appropriately.

*This journal entry can be used to demonstrate your understanding of the course learning outcomes. See the Assessment tab in Moodle for how this activity relates to the assessments in this course.*

## Summary

In this first unit, you have had the opportunity to learn about some of the impacts of “the digital” on your life. You have started to build an academic knowledge management workflow, a pivotal skill essential for efficiently organizing, accessing, and leveraging information. Throughout the unit, you’ve actively engaged with digital tools, shared insights into your personal interactions with digital technology, and begun applying these tools to enhance your academic learning experience. Furthermore, you’ve developed a personalized understanding of digital literacy and explored how to protect yourself and others in digital and online contexts. As you progress through the course, take a moment to identify the specific literacies you aspire to refine and articulate the concrete steps you intend to take in pursuit of these goals.

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit you may want to check that you are able to:

- Explore common digital tools used at Trinity Western University
- Describe your engagement with digital technology
- Apply digital tools to support learning in an academic environment
- Explain what digital literacy means to you
- Examine privacy concerns related to various platforms and tools
- Describe how to protect yourself and others in the digital environment
- Identify the literacies you plan to improve and what steps you will take to achieve your goals

# **2 Discovering and Curating Resources**

## **Overview**

In this module, we'll dive into three important aspects of utilizing digital resources effectively. Firstly, we'll explore the art of discovering and selecting valuable resources for your academic and professional needs. You'll learn how to search efficiently, critically assess sources for credibility and relevance, and finetune your search techniques.

Next, we'll delve into the world of citation management. Properly citing your sources is vital in academic writing to avoid plagiarism, and we'll introduce you to various citation styles such as APA, MLA, and Chicago. You'll also gain practical experience with citation management tools to help streamline the citation process and manage your references efficiently.

Finally, we'll discuss the concept of openness in education. We'll explore open educational resources (OER), the benefits and challenges of open access, and the role of Creative Commons licenses in educational materials. This discussion will open your eyes to the changing landscape of educational resources and the ethics surrounding them. Throughout these topics, you'll engage in hands on activities, group projects, and discussions to enhance your critical thinking skills and promote responsible use of digital resources.

## **Topics**

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Finding and selecting resources
2. Evaluating resources
3. Citation management
4. Openness in education

## **Learning Outcomes**

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Develop effective search strategies to locate scholarly resources using various academic databases and online repositories

- Apply strategies to assess, analyze, and evaluate the reliability of resources, including reporting in the mass media
- Utilize citation management tools effectively to organize references, generate bibliographies, and streamline the citation process
- Describe the principles of openness in education, including open educational resources (OER), and open access
- Build and customize technology integrated workflows to enhance and enrich your learning journey
- Apply digital literacy skills to evaluate the legitimacy, credibility, and reliability of online resources for academic study

## **Activity Checklist**

Here is a checklist of learning activities you will benefit from in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### Learning Activity

- Explore [Litmaps](#) to find articles of interest.
- Visit the TWU Library and view the LibGuides.
- Practice using Google's advanced search operators to help you search for resources.
- Search open databases (BASE & DOAJ) to find open academic resources.
- Use the CRAAP test to help evaluate resources.
- Discuss the reasons you should or should not use Wikipedia, and for what purposes.
- Download and install Zotero and explore how you can use this tool.
- Explore open educational resources and reflect on how you might advocate for these.
- Create an annotated bibliography.

- *You will be directed to complete these activities as they come up in the unit.*
- *The learning activities in this course are designed to prepare you for the graded assignments in this course. You are strongly encouraged to complete them.*
- 

### Assessment

- See the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details and due dates.

### Resources

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

## 2.1 Finding and Selecting Resources

Throughout your university career you will encounter tasks in your courses that will require you to produce some original writing. It is very important that you give yourself more time than you think you might need to complete these tasks. Good writing in university doesn't just happen. It takes work. You will find that a large amount of that work isn't actually writing at all, but reading. Then writing, and reading some more. Then rewriting, revising, editing, reading some more, and editing again.

One of the most important tasks in all of this is finding the resources you need to read, making sure they are *academic* resources, copying down all the information about the resource, then making sure you can keep track of what you have found, read, and learned. This unit will help you build a workflow for doing just that. You need a workflow and a system because there is far too much information available to you than you will ever be able to digest and read, let alone remember. It is impossible to memorize everything you need to know, so you need a way to manage your knowledge and resources.

In the previous unit, we introduced you to Obsidian, and you are going to continue to use Obsidian in this unit, but we will add some awareness of features that will take you along the path of becoming a workflow wizard. We will also introduce two new tools, Litmaps and Zotero, along with a couple of Zotero plugins that help extend the capabilities of the software. We will also integrate some knowledge of how to use the library to assist.

We recognize that we are introducing several tools to you and that may feel overwhelming, however, there are no tools that do everything that you need to do, and if a tool claims to be able to do everything it likely does only a few things well, and the rest is poorly implemented.

### Finding Resources

Litmaps is a web app that you can use to build a map of the literature regarding your topic. For now, presume that you need to write a paper on transformational servant leadership. That is a very broad topic, and you are only beginning to learn about it, so you need to start by doing some reading ... but what should you read? Your instructor might have given you an article to read, or there are likely some good articles included in your course syllabus, but you might also have to start on your own. Here is how.

### Find a Literature Review

When academics begin writing a research paper they always start by reviewing what is already known about a subject, in this case, transformational servant leadership. This is called a literature review, and you can often find a section called literature review at the beginning of every article you read. Sometimes, though, the whole research article will be a literature

review. Reviewing the literature in this way is sometimes called a systematic review, or maybe a scoping review. These approaches to literature reviews have different foci, but the intent is to publish an article that follows very specific procedures so that other researchers or learners can confirm the process. These types of reviews are very useful in getting started in a new topic.

One of the quickest ways to get started on a search is to use [Google Scholar](#), but it has some problems in that it will return a huge number of results. Notice that the image below shows over 91,000 results. Far too many for you to sort through.

Figure 2.1: Screenshot, Results Page of Google Scholar Search for “Transformational Servant Leadership”

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar search results page. The search query is "transformational servant leadership literature review". The results indicate about 97,400 results found in 0.03 seconds. The first result is a link to an article titled "[HTML] Servant leadership and transformational leadership: From comparisons to farewells" by J.A. Andersen, published in the *Leadership & Organization Development Journal* in 2018. The second result is "[HTML] Distinguishing between transformational and servant leadership" by J. Parolini and K. Patterson, published in the *Leadership & Organization* journal in 2009. The third result is "[HTML] Servant leadership: A systematic review and call for future research" by N. Eva, M. Robin, S. Sendjaya, and D. Van Dierendonck, published in the *The leadership* journal in 2019. The fourth result is a PDF titled "Determinant Organization Commitment and Development Organization: Analysis Servant Leadership, Transformational Leadership, Transactional Leadership" by P.C. Susanto and L. Agusinta, published in *Research* in 2023. Each result includes a link to the full text, citation count, and options to save, cite, and view related articles.

The top result shows some promise though. Notice a few things about it:

- it has all your key words right in the title—that's good
- it has over 2,700 citations (that's very good)
- it was published in 2004 (that's not great ... it's old)

One of the easiest ways to find literature reviews in Google searches is to include “literature review” in your search. When we do that, we get a better list. This time, there are more results (97,000), but they are better results. Notice the third item ...

Figure 2.2: Screenshot, Results Page of Google Scholar search for “Transformational Servant Leadership Literature Review”

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search results page. The search query is "transformational servant leadership literature review". There are approximately 97,400 results. The results are listed in three columns:

- [HTML] Servant leadership and transformational leadership: From comparisons to farewells** [HTML] emerald.com  
JA Andersen - **Leadership & Organization Development Journal**, 2018 - emerald.com  
... The **literature review** contains no new empirical data. The many versions available today of ...  
... versions of theories on **servant leadership** and **transformational leadership** implies that they ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 130 Related articles All 3 versions
- [HTML] Distinguishing between transformational and servant leadership** [HTML] emerald.com  
J Parolini, K Patterson, B Winston - **Leadership & Organization ...**, 2009 - emerald.com  
... and mission of the **transformational** versus **servant leader** that lacked empirical investigation ...  
... empirical **research study** of the distinctions between **transformational** and **servant leaders**. ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 425 Related articles All 4 versions
- [HTML] Servant leadership: A systematic review and call for future research** [HTML] sciencedirect.com  
N Eva, M Robin, S Sendjaya, D Van Dierendonck... - **The leadership ...**, 2019 - Elsevier  
... **servant leadership** and outcomes, we propose that the time is ripe to conduct a **systematic literature review** ... that have analyzed **servant leadership** with **transformational leadership** (see ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 1463 Related articles All 8 versions

Determinant Organization Commitment and Development Organization: Analysis  
**Servant Leadership, Transformational Leadership, Transactional Leadership** [PDF] formosapublisher.org  
PC Susanto, L Agusinta... - ... **Research**, 2023 - journal.formosapublisher.org

... aims to **review** and synthesize a **literature review** related to and **Servant Leadership, Transformational Leadership, ... Leadership**, Organization Commitment see the **research** results of ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 22 Related articles All 2 versions

- all your keywords
- lots of citations
- much more recent (2019)
- AND it is a systematic review

This is the only article you need for now. Though search results are always changing, we will use this example (Eva et al., 2019) in our upcoming activity. Click the link.

In fact, you don't even need to read this article yet. All you need is the DOI—the *digital object identifier*. A DOI is a critical piece of information about an article that provides a piece of evidence that this is a legitimate article published in a legitimate journal. A DOI will always

Figure 2.3: Screenshot of an Article Landing Page

sciedirect.com

Journals & Books ? Search...

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 View PDF Download full issue

 The Leadership Quarterly  
Volume 30, Issue 1, February 2019, Pages 111-132 

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# Servant Leadership: A systematic review and call for future research

Nathan Eva<sup>a</sup>  , Mulyadi Robin<sup>b</sup>  , Sen Sendjaya<sup>c</sup>  , Dirk van Dierendonck<sup>d</sup>  , Robert C. Liden<sup>e</sup> 

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## Abstract

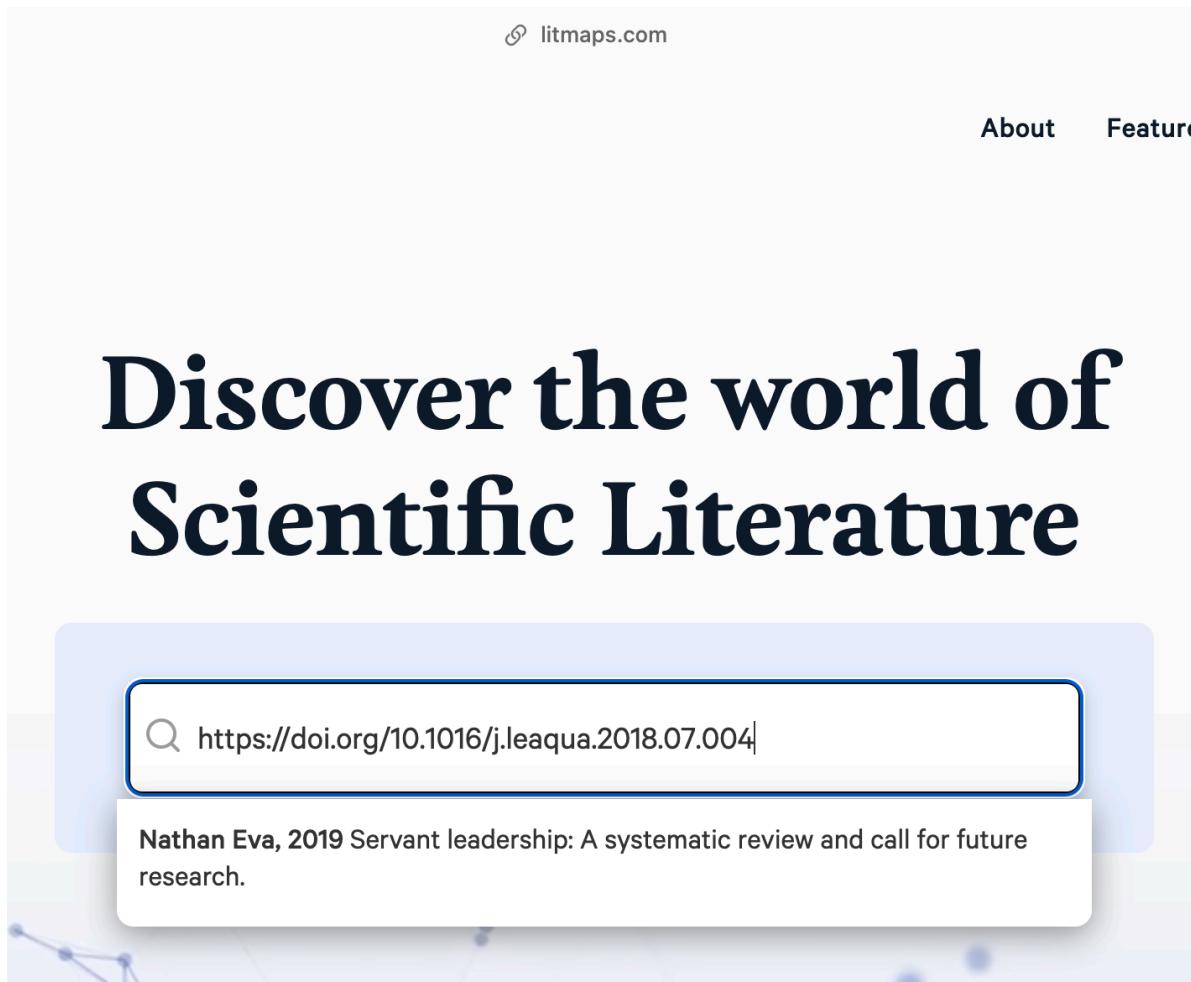
Notwithstanding the proliferation of servant leadership studies with over 100 articles published in the last four years alone, a lack of coherence and clarity around the construct has impeded its theory development. We provide an integrative and comprehensive review of the 285 articles on servant leadership spanning 20 years (1998–2018) and in so doing extend the field in four different ways. First, we provide a

start with 10.. Sometimes it is included as part of an URL, as in this case, but you only need the code that follows ‘10.. The DOI for this article is 10.1016/j.lequa.2018.07.004

Copy the DOI. Sometimes you need to copy the whole URL, and that is ok.

#### 2.1.0.1 Log in to [Litmaps.com](#) and paste the DOI.

Figure 2.4: Screenshot of Litmaps Search Bar Populated with a DOI



You will notice that LitMaps will be able to find the article and will present it as an option for you to click. Go ahead ... click.

LitMaps will create what they call a Seed Map, which you can see in the image below.

The seed map shows an AI-generated map of the 20 most relevant articles related to the seed article. Each dot represents an article. The seed article is shown as a blue dot with a little

Figure 2.5: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map



sprout in the middle. The size of the dot is related to how many references are in the article (smaller dot = fewer references). Dots near the top of the map have more citations, and dots near the right side of the map are more recent. The map will always look like a bit of a waterfall, as older articles tend to have more citations. This map can be very helpful in finding very impactful, recent articles as those articles will be in the top right quadrant of the map.

When you are signed in to LitMaps you are able to create collections of articles. To do this, click an article in the seed map, then read through the abstract. This might tell you that the article is not related to your search, but if it is, as in the image, then click “Edit Collections,” then “New Collection.” Give the new collection a name and click “Done.”

Next, add Hoch, 2018, to your new collection (it is closest to the upper right quadrant), and finally add Greenleaf, 1979 (all the articles seem to cite this article, so it is likely very important in the field, sometimes called a seminal article).

Notice that the articles you added to your new collection are all coloured the same as the collection.

Next, click “Discover” in the lefthand menu bar, then click “New Search,” then “Add from your Library.”

Make sure you are in the correct collection (your collection should show the Eva, Hoch, and Greenleaf articles you added), and click “Add 3 Inputs.”

Then click “Find Related Articles.”

This will result in a new set of articles that are related to all three of your initial input articles. As you add more inputs, you will get a more refined result list until you have a nicely curated list of related articles.

To add an input article, click it in the map or list and choose “Add to Search,” then “Expand Search” to execute a new search with the new articles you added.

Notice that this search turned up another impactful article. Make sure to add that to your list!

Next, click “Your Library” and choose the library you just created. There should be eight or so references in the library. This is likely enough to synthesize into a short paper, but some disciplines may require more. Select all of the items in the library by clicking the checkbox that initially says “0 Selected,” then click the “Export” (download) icon on the right side of the screen.

Choose “RIS” in the dropdown menu, then click “Download.”

For more tutorials on using Litmaps, search online. For example, the Litmaps YouTube channel has some helpful videos.

Figure 2.6: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map with Edit Collections Popup (Circled)

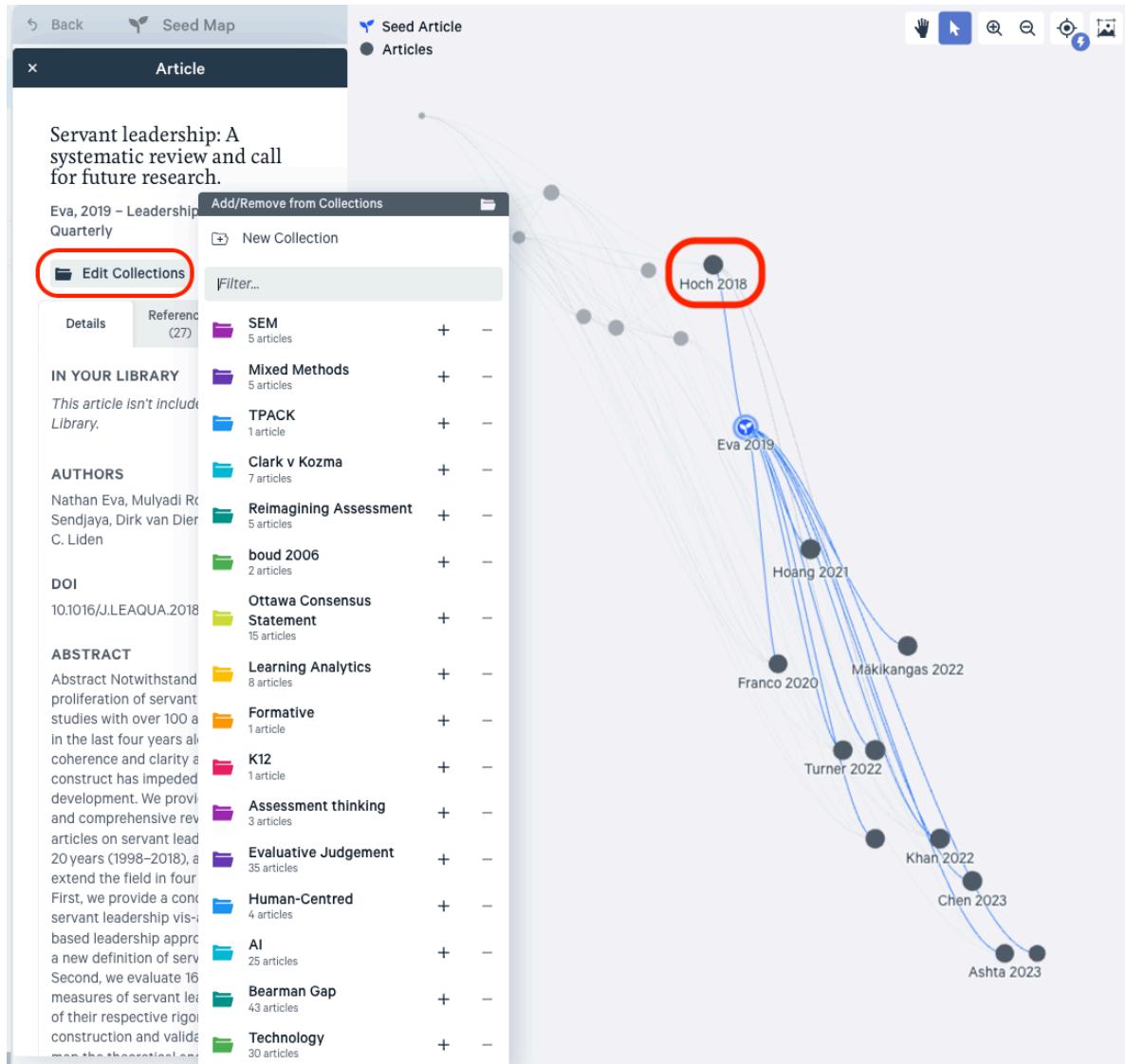


Figure 2.7: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Including “Discover” Option (Left)

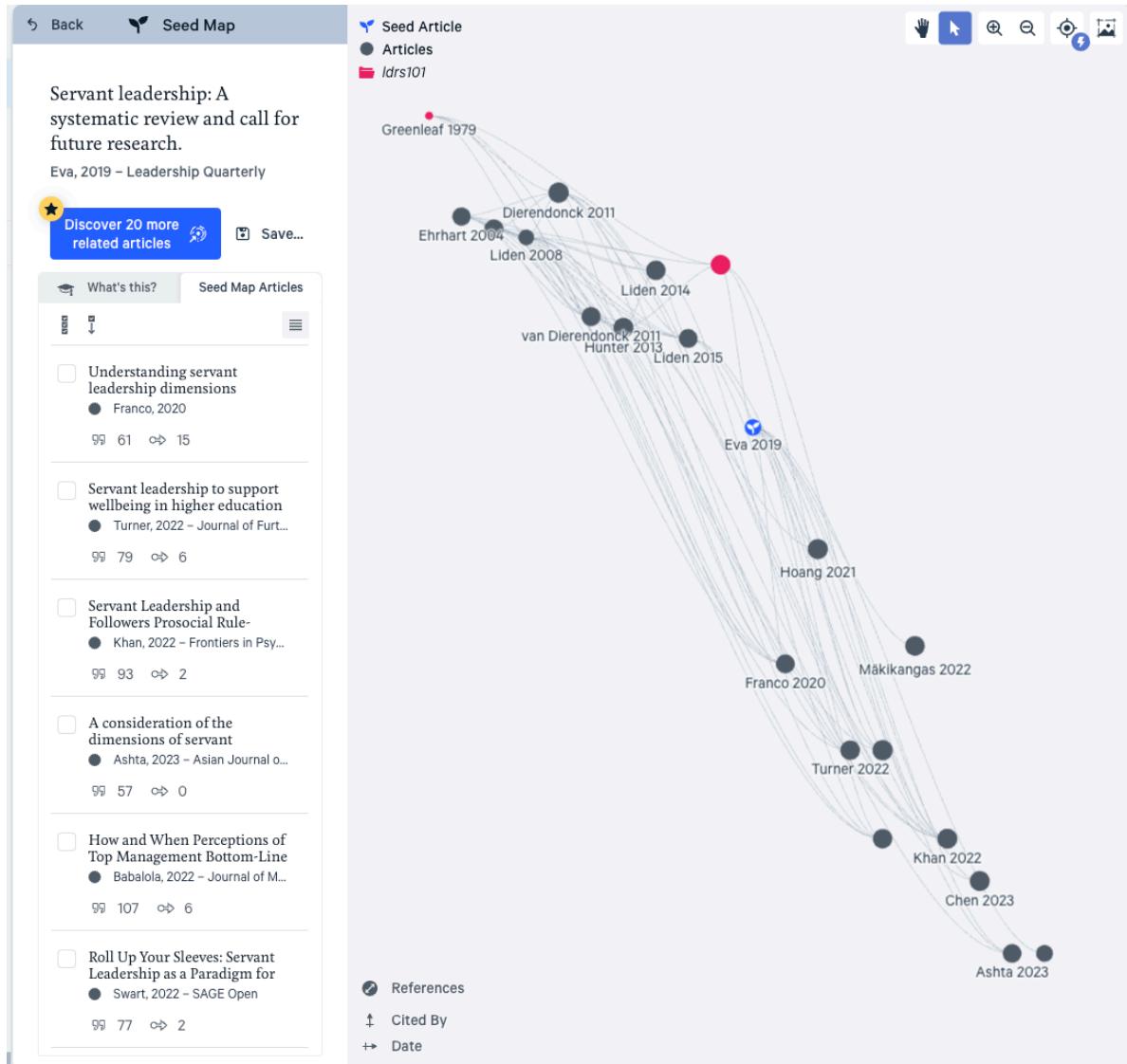


Figure 2.8: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Menu and “Discover” Link

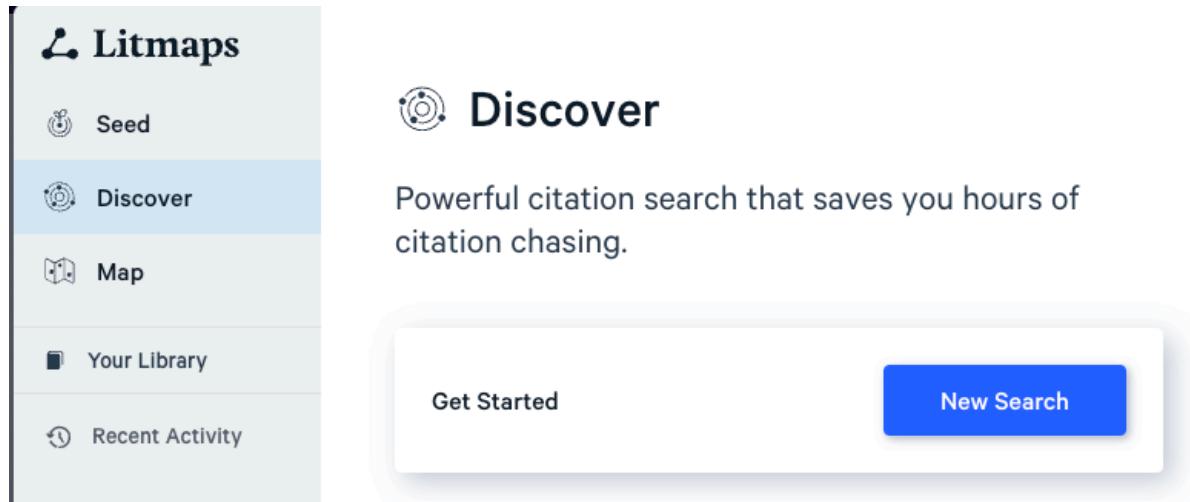


Figure 2.9: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map “Add from Your Library” Link (Circled)

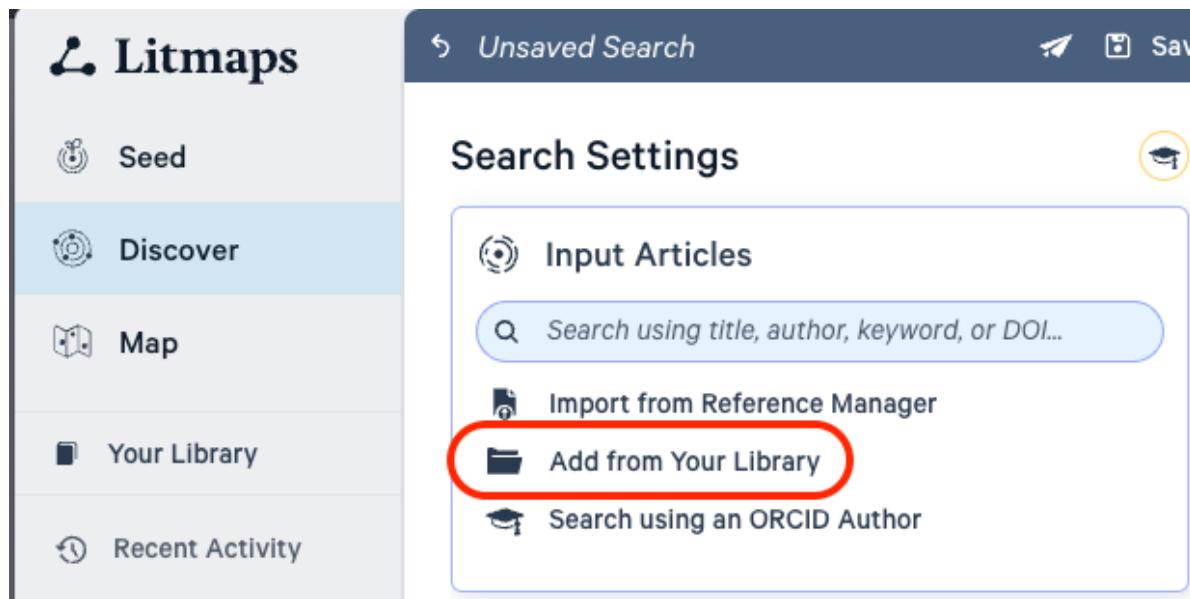


Figure 2.10: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Including Collection Articles

Choose articles from a collection X

  **ldrs101**  
3 articles

3 Selected   Filter Download

Servant leadership: A journey into the nature of legitimate power and greatness  
● Greenleaf, 1979 – Business Horizons  
Details 99 0 ⇠ 3k

Servant leadership: A systematic review and call for future research.  
● Eva, 2019 – Leadership Quarterly  
Details 99 27 ⇠ 153

Do Ethical, Authentic, and Servant Leadership Explain Variance Above and Beyond Transformational Leadership? A Meta-Analysis  
● Hoch, 2018  
Details 99 86 ⇠ 730

< Previous      1 - 3 of 3      Next >

  **Select articles to add as Inputs**      Add 3 Inputs

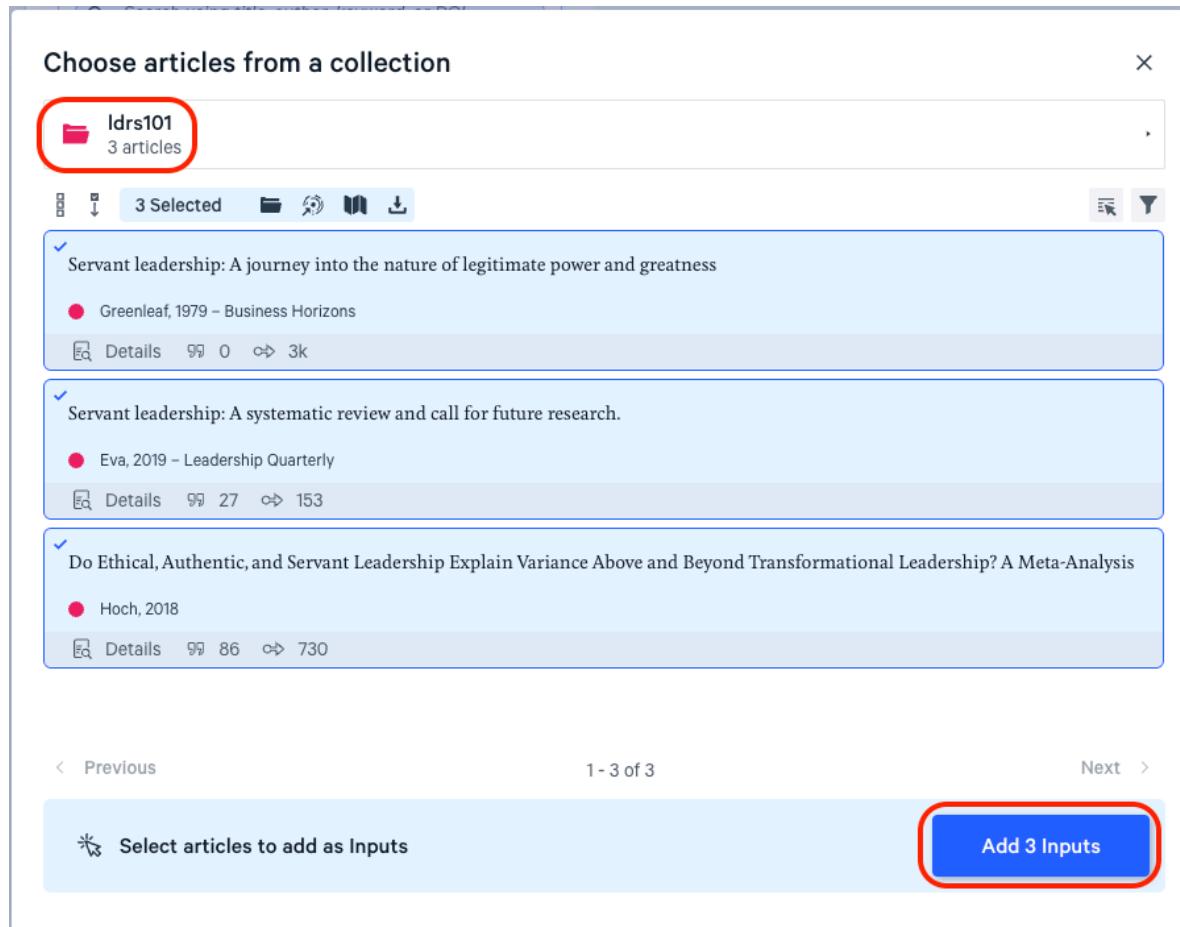


Figure 2.11: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Including Selected Articles and “Find Related Articles” on Bottom Left Menu

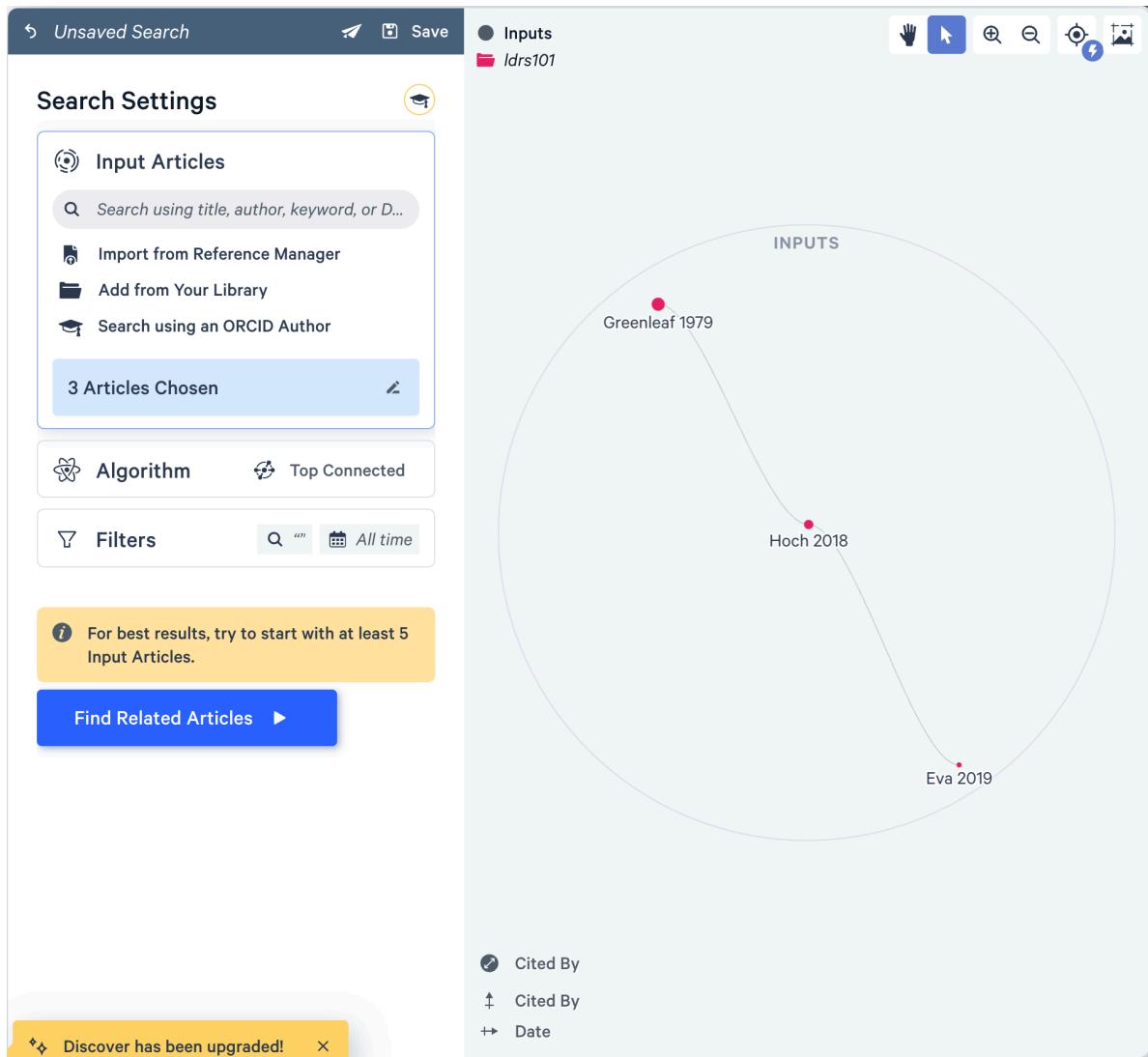


Figure 2.12: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Showing Articles Related to Those Previously Selected

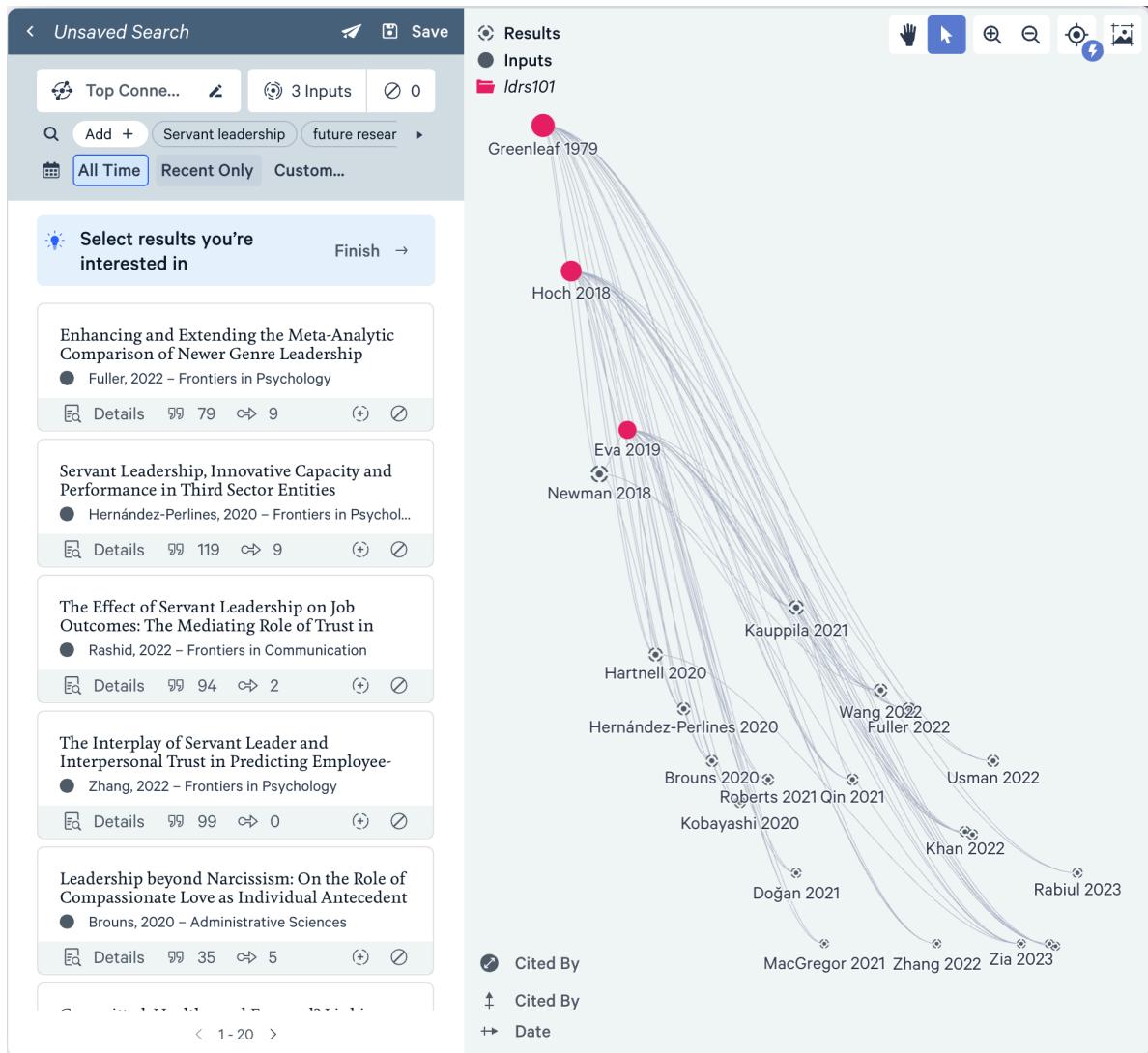


Figure 2.13: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Showing Selected Article and “Add to Search” Button

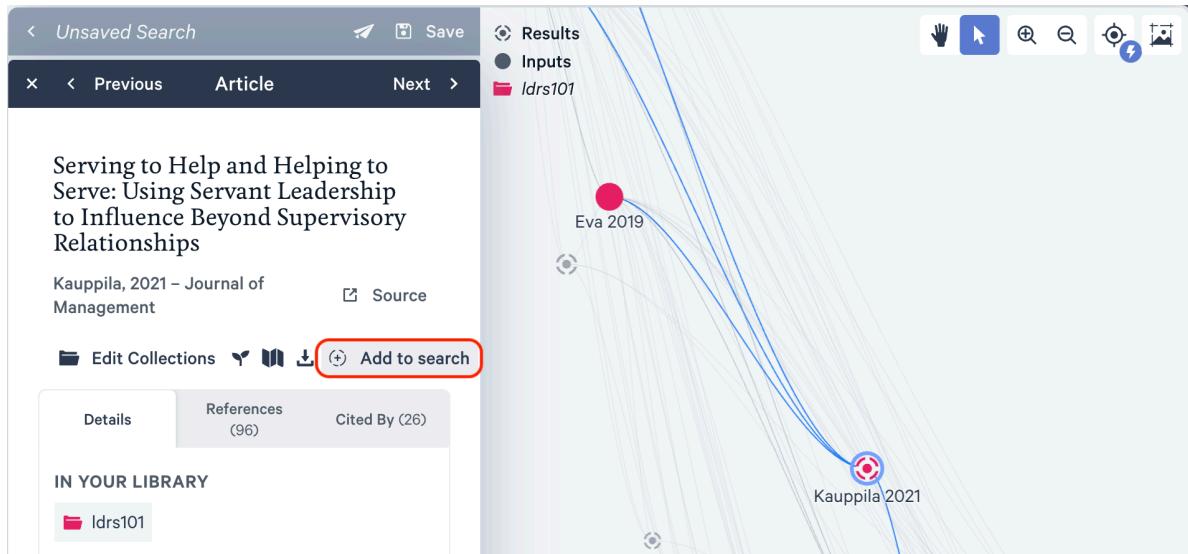


Figure 2.14: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map with Additional Article Added

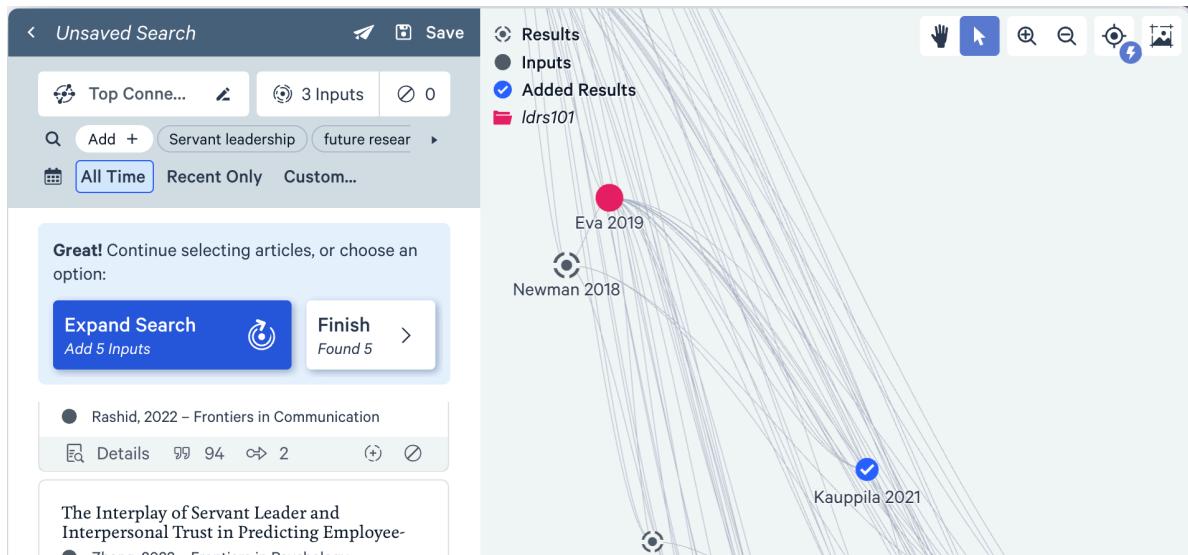


Figure 2.15: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Showing Additional Related Articles

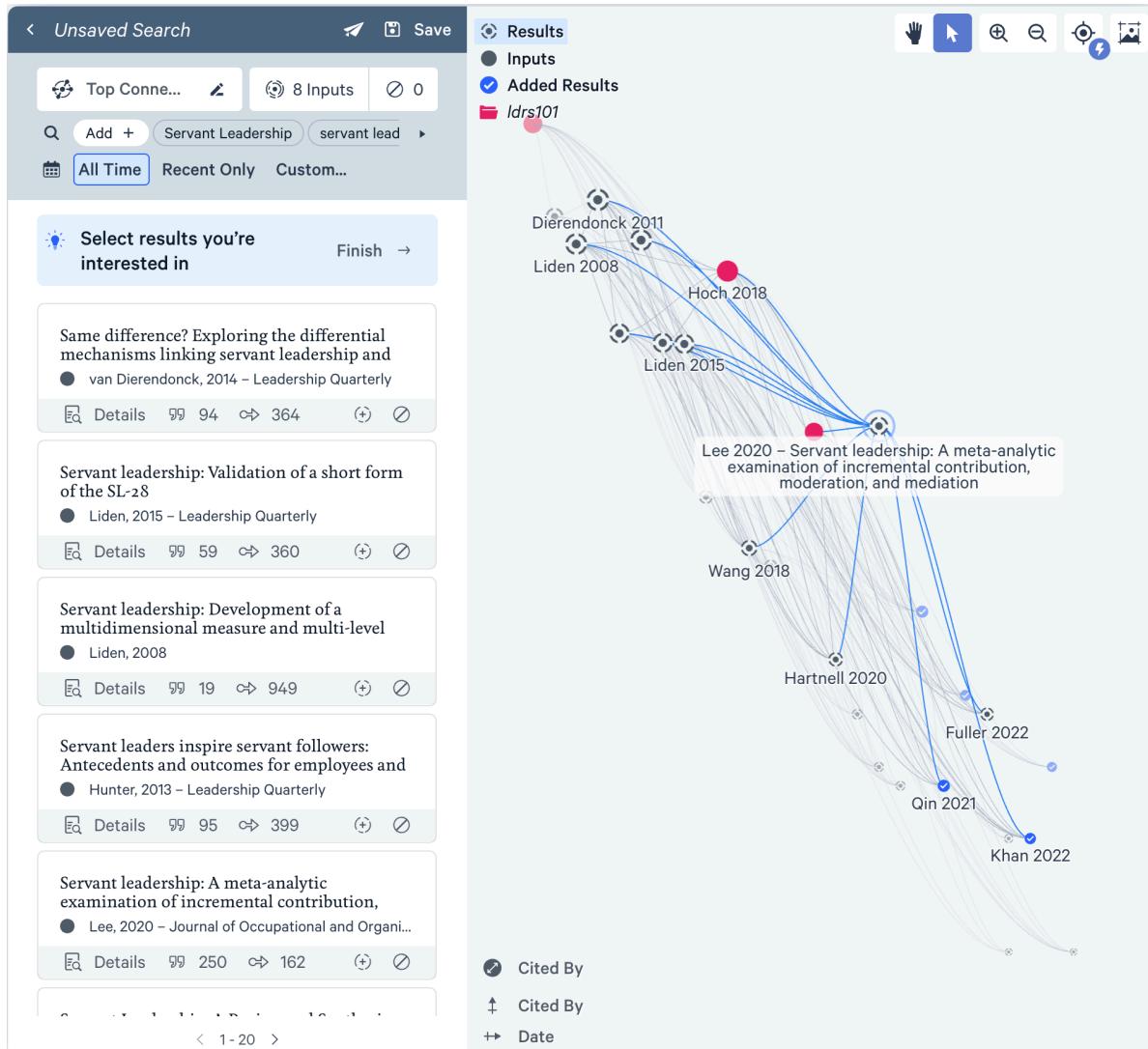


Figure 2.16: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map with Library Entries Selected

The screenshot shows the Litmaps interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with links like 'Seed', 'Discover', 'Map', and 'Your Library' (which is highlighted with a red box). The main area shows 'ARTICLES' (All Articles: 260 articles) and 'COLLECTIONS + New'. A collection named 'ldrs101' is selected, containing 8 articles. On the right, a detailed view of these 8 selected articles is shown in a table format. The columns include 'Select' (checkboxes), 'Author', 'Year', 'Title', 'References', and 'Citations'. The articles listed are:

Select	Author	Year	Title	References	Citations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoch	2018	Do Ethical, Authentic, and Servant Leadership Expl...	86	730
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Qin	2021	How Servant Leadership Sparks Feedback-Seeking...	55	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greenl...	1979	Servant leadership: A journey into the nature of leg...	0	3,045
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lee	2020	Servant leadership: A meta-analytic examination of...	250	162
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wang	2022	Servant Leadership and Creativity: A Study of the ...	124	11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Khan	2022	Servant Leadership and Followers Prosocial Rule-B...	93	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eva	2019	Servant leadership: A systematic review and call fo...	27	153
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kauppila	2021	Serving to Help and Helping to Serve: Using Serva...	96	26

### Learning Activity

- **Research:** Choose a research topic that interests you. (Tip: Consider the course you are taking or will take in the future.) What key topics do you want to learn more about? Here are some other links that may help you decide:
  - *Choosing a Topic: Purdue OWL (n.d.-b)*
  - *Building Your Research Skills (2024)*
  - Conduct a general internet search for “Topical issues in Business” or “Topical issues in Higher Education” and scan whether any of these issues are of personal interest.
- **Write:** State your topic in the form of a question. For example:
  - How will robotics impact the future of work?
  - What can businesses do to run successful loyalty programs?
  - How can technology prepare learners for a future that is increasingly defined within the context of globalization and technology?
  - How will mobile technology impact diagnosis and health care?
- **Review** your draft research question taking into account:
  - *Personal interest:* Does the research question interest you?
  - *Suitability for academic investigation:* Some questions are not possible to answer through academic enquiry, for example, “How beautiful is the colour orange?” Identify a few keywords related to your proposed research question and conduct a general search to determine if there are published and accessible research outputs related to your question.

Figure 2.17: Screenshot of Litmaps Seed Map Menu for Downloading Articles with RIS Format Selected

## Export Articles

Format RIS

grid icon down arrow icon 8 Selected file folder icon refresh icon book icon download icon grid icon filter icon refresh icon down arrow icon

---

Servant leadership: A journey into the nature of legitimate power and greatness  
● Greenleaf, 1979 – Business Horizons  
99 0 ⇨ 3k

---

Do Ethical, Authentic, and Servant Leadership Explain Variance Above and Beyond Transformational Leadership? A Meta-Analysis  
● Hoch, 2018  
99 86 ⇨ 730

---

Servant leadership: A meta-analytic examination of incremental contribution, moderation, and mediation  
● Lee, 2020 – Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology  
99 250 ⇨ 162

---

Servant leadership: A systematic review and call for future research.  
● Eva, 2019 – Leadership Quarterly

< Previous 1 - 8 of 8 Next >

Download Cancel

- *Attainability*: Make sure that your question can be answered in the amount of time you have. For example, “How do we solve global disease?” is too broad, whereas, “What is my neighbour’s favourite colour?” is too narrow. You will be looking to target between 8 to 15 scholarly references to prepare an annotated bibliography, including books, journal articles, and reputable website references . From those you will choose three for your annotated bibliography activity you will complete at the end of the unit.
  - Use Litmaps to explore the literature on the topic of your choice.
- **Reflect:** Take a screenshot of your Litmaps map and paste it to a journal entry in Obsidian. Reflect on your use of this tool. What was difficult to learn? How might you use this tool in your future studies?

### 2.1.1 Activity: the TWU Library

#### Learning Activity

Some of your best advocates on campus or online are the librarians who work at the Norma Marion Alloway Library in Langley. They are extremely knowledgeable about finding things that are hard to find, so it is ALWAYS a good idea to talk to a librarian about what you are trying to do. They are literally paid to help you succeed! One of the ways they like to help is by creating what is known as a “LibGuide,” and we encourage you to access the LibGuides by selecting Research Guides on the [library website](#).

Take some time to browse the [TWU Library](#). See if you can find the answer to the following questions:

- Is it possible to borrow or download an ebook?
- I’m a distance student. Can I request to have books or articles sent from the TWU Library to my location?
- Do you have books in languages other than English?
- Do you have ebooks?
- Can I email a Trinity Western librarian any time with my research questions?
- What is AskAway?
- What do I do if I have trouble logging in to library databases from off campus?



## 2.1.2 Activity: Advanced Search

### Learning Activity

Improving search skills will save you time and result in more productive searches. Although we focus on LitMaps and the TWU Library in this course, another tool we want to share is the Google search engine. It provides a number of features to improve your searches in finding academic resources. In this activity, you will select two open resources using the Google advanced search operators in support of your research topic.

- **Read:** the [Google Search Cheatsheet](#) for a more comprehensive list. Also see the [Google Advanced Search Operators Cheat Sheet](#) (n.d.) and try a few searches using the operators.
- **Search:** Use the Google search operators (enter these directly into the search text area) to:
  - identify at least 10 PDF documents which have open educational resources in their title (are they all accessible for download?)
  - find a PDF version of the editorial entitled *Scholarship and Literacies in a Digital Age* (who are the authors?)
  - Find the article with the following citation in text: the term digital literacies is contested with differing uses of the term revealing competing and even contradictory theoretical perspectives (who is the author?)

Visit the [Google Advanced Search](#) web interface:

- conduct a search for digital literacies and scan the results
- go back to the Google Advanced Search web interface and remove words from the search, for example “skills” or “school” and compare the results
- click tools and find results for the date range 1 May 2020 to 1 May 2023
- click images and find versions which are licensed for reuse with modification (useful when sourcing images for your course blog with the necessary legal permissions for reuse)

### Other Search Engines

Google Scholar is a good search engine to find scholarly publications. The downside is that Google Scholar does not distinguish between closed and open resources. However, search results which show a PDF next to the listing will probably provide access to a full text version. Unpaywall is a free and legal way to identify authored-uploaded PDFs. There are extensions for the Chrome and Firefox open source browsers. Read the frequently asked questions for more information.

### 2.1.3 Activity: Database Search

#### Learning Activity

This activity focuses on searching database repositories. Most databases provide advanced search features; however there are differences in how each database site implements search functionality.

- **View** the following resources on searching using databases.
  - *Top Ten Database Search Tips* (2011)
  - *Searching in Databases* (2012)
  - [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) – see also FAQs
  - [BASE Advanced Search](#)
- **Watch** the following video [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) on using the (2016)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/ndvLm9MIfKA>

- Using your keywords and synonyms generated for your research question, search for journal articles using the DOAJ search engine and BASE Advanced Search.
- As appropriate, adapt your search by narrowing or expanding—remember to be flexible; if one term doesn't work, try a different one.
- Select a minimum of two resources, more if you like to save time later in the course.
- Based on the resources you find, think about whether you need to modify your research question.

How was your progress with this activity? Feel free to share your thoughts in Obsidian. For example:

- finding resources for my topic was ...
- I found ... helpful.
- database search tip: when ...

## 2.2 Evaluating Resources

A key part of finding and selecting resources is evaluating the resource. There is a great deal of information available on the internet. Some of it is very credible and useful. However, there is a lot of misinformation and poorly researched information online too.

As you become more skilled at academic online searching and locating materials you will become quicker at determining what information is useful and credible.

So how do you evaluate sources to ensure those you are using are credible? The following technique, called the CRAAP test, will help you evaluate the sources you find.

C - Currency R - Relevance A - Authority A - Accuracy P – Purpose

### 2.2.1 Activity: Using the Craap Test

::: {.learning-activity}]

- **Watch:** *How Library Stuff Works: How to Evaluate Resources (the CRAAP Test)* (2015). This illustrates a set of steps you could take to evaluate sources.

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/\\_M1-aMCJHFg](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/_M1-aMCJHFg)

- **Questions To Consider:** After watching this video consider these questions:
  - Which part of the CRAAP test did you find most useful in evaluating sources?
  - What following steps can you take when you evaluate any sources you find?

### Reliability of Wikipedia

Wikipedia is the free online encyclopedia created through the collaborative effort of contributors from around the globe. Wikipedia is one of the most popular websites in the world. When conducting general internet searches Wikipedia articles will frequently be listed in the top results.

Anyone registered on the Wikipedia site can create a new article page. Anyone can edit a Wikipedia article, and registration is not required to edit existing articles.

There have been a number of studies examining the accuracy of Wikipedia articles. Notwithstanding the outcomes of these studies, many educational institutions do not accept the use of Wikipedia as a credible source for academic writing and research. In this section we invite learners to evaluate whether Wikipedia is a trustworthy resource, and to form a justified opinion on its use as a reliable resource for academic writing.

### 2.2.2 Activity: Wikipedia: Why or Why Not?

Consider the following statement: Wikipedia is a reliable source for academic study.

Do you agree? Have you cited Wikipedia in any academic work? Why or why not?

- **Read** the following:

- Is Wikipedia a Trustworthy Academic Resource? Scientists Think So published by EdTech Magazine.
- Reliability of Wikipedia article on Wikipedia.
- *Should University Students use Wikipedia?*(2013)
- Optional reading annotations: Conduct a search for credible and reliable resources on the topic of the reliability and credibility of Wikipedia articles.
- **Watch:** *Using Wikipedia for Academic Research* (2011)

Drawing on your study of the reliability and credibility of online resources, share your advice to fellow learners in this course regarding the use of Wikipedia for academic purposes by posting a comment on Discourse. For example:

- You can use Wikipedia for ... because ...
- You should not use Wikipedia for ... because ...

:::

## 2.3 Citation Management

Now that you have a handful of references to keep track of, it's time to get started with Zotero to help you manage your references. Learning to use a reference manager like Zotero will save you MANY hours per semester, and likely days or weeks over the course of your degree. Do *Future You* a huge favour and get in this habit now.

Before you explore the next essential tool, watch *Benefits of Using Citation Management Tools* (n.d.).

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/sy9PVZAbSAQ>

### Download and Install Zotero

The RIS file you exported from LitMaps isn't going to be very useful unless you have software that can read it properly. Your best option is Zotero as it is free and open source, and has a good number of plugins and integrations you can use to connect with other apps.

Go to [zotero.org](http://zotero.org) and click the red “Download” button, then follow the instructions to install Zotero on your computer. If you want to sign up for free storage (300MB) and backup for your library, you can also do that here.

Once you have installed Zotero, there are some plugins that will help you in your studies. These are listed below with links to instructions on how to install and configure the plugin.

- [Zotfile](#) allows you to find and manage PDFs in your Zotero library

- [Citation Counts Manager](#) automatically updates citation counts for items in your library
- [scite.ai](#) - provides a breakdown of how references are cited in the literature

Now that you have Zotero ready to go, it's time to import your first references. Find the untitled.ris file in your downloads folder and open it. You might have to confirm that you want to open with Zotero.

Keep in mind that each journal system will name the downloaded file differently, but they should all end in .ris.

## Zotero and the Library

LitMaps is not the only way that you can connect to Zotero. You can also export items directly from a search in the library databases.

Go to [twu.ca/library](#) and search for transformational servant leadership. On the results page, you might notice that you are prompted to sign in to see certain items. There is a yellow banner at the top of the page with a link to login.

Figure 2.18: Click the top item in the list of results.

The screenshot shows a library search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'transformational servant leadership'. Below the search bar are buttons for 'Search', 'Search Conc', and help. Underneath the search bar, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The main area displays search results with the heading 'Search Results: 1 - 50 of 1,409'. A sidebar on the left lists 'Academic Journal' and other filters. The first result is titled '1. Distinguishing servant leadership from transactional and transformational leadership.' It includes details about the author (Martinez, Seth-Aaron; Leija, Nahari), publication (Advances in Developing Human Resources, Vol 25(3), Aug, 2023 pp. 141-188), publisher (Sage Publications), DOI (10.1177/15234223231175845), and database (APA PsycInfo). It also lists subjects: Leadership; Theories; Transformational Leadership; Human Resource Management; Transactional Leadership. A 'Full Text from Sage Journals' link is provided. On the right side of the result, there are icons for 'Export' (PDF, Word, etc.) and 'Save'.

Click the “Export” button on the right side, then choose “Direct Export in RIS Format,” then “Save.”

Figure 2.19: Screenshot of TWU Library Search Results Showing Export Button (Circled)

The screenshot shows the TWU Library OneSearch interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the keyword "transformational servant leadership" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar are links for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History". On the right side, under the heading "Tools", there is a vertical list of options: OneDrive, Add to folder, Print, E-mail, Save, Cite, Export (which is circled in red), Create Note, and Permalink. The main content area displays a search result for the title "Distinguishing servant leadership from transactional and transformational leadership." Below the title, detailed information is provided about the authors, address, source, NLM title, abbreviation, page count, and publisher.

Searching: Library OneSearch

Keyword: transformational servant leadership

Search

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

TWU Library

Result List Refine Search 1 of 1,409

## Distinguishing servant leadership from transactional and transformational leadership.

Authors: Martinez, Seth-Aaron, Department of Organizational Performance & Workplace Learning, Boise State University, Boise, ID, US, [SethAMartinez@boisestate.edu](mailto:SethAMartinez@boisestate.edu)  
Leija, Nahari, Department of Organizational Performance & Workplace Learning, Boise State University, Boise, ID, US

Address: Martinez, Seth-Aaron, Department of Organizational Performance & Workplace Learning, Boise State University, 1375 University Drive, Boise, ID, US, 83706, [SethAMartinez@boisestate.edu](mailto:SethAMartinez@boisestate.edu)

Source: [Advances in Developing Human Resources](#), Vol 25(3), Aug, 2023. pp. 141-188.

NLM Title: Adv Dev Hum Resour

Abbreviation:

Page Count: 48

Publisher: US : Sage Publications

Tools

OneDrive  
Add to folder  
Print  
E-mail  
Save  
Cite  
**Export**  
Create Note  
Permalink

Figure 2.20: Screenshot of TWU Library Export Manager File Format Options (RIS Selected)

The screenshot shows the TWU Library Export Manager dialog box. It displays the message "Number of items to be saved: 1". Below this, it asks "Save citations to a file formatted for:" and lists several options. The option "Direct Export in RIS Format (e.g. CITAVI, EasyBib, EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, Zotero)" is selected and highlighted with a red circle. Other options include "Generic bibliographic management software", "Citations in XML format", "Citations in BibTeX format", "Citations in MARC21 format", "Direct Export to RefWorks", "Direct Export to EndNote Web", "Direct Export to EasyBib", "Download CSV", and "Direct Export to NoodleTools". At the bottom, there are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons.

Result List Refine Search 1 of 1,409

## Export Manager

Save | E-mail | X

Number of items to be saved: 1

Save citations to a file formatted for:

Direct Export in RIS Format (e.g. CITAVI, EasyBib, EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, Zotero)  
 Generic bibliographic management software  
 Citations in XML format  
 Citations in BibTeX format  
 Citations in MARC21 format  
 Direct Export to RefWorks  
 Direct Export to EndNote Web  
 Direct Export to EasyBib  
 Download CSV  
 Direct Export to NoodleTools

Save Cancel

You might get a message to install the Zotero Connector in your browser, go ahead and do that. Once you have imported the reference, you will have a brand new item in your Zotero library!

From here on to the day you graduate, Zotero will be with you and you may find yourself using it every day. It is absolutely indispensable.

### 2.3.1 Activity: Using Zotero

#### Learning Activity

Now that you have connected LitMaps to Zotero, let's explore how to use Zotero in your studies.

- **Watch:** review the basics of Zotero by watching [\*What is Zotero?\*](#) (2019)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/5xClqW2Jv04>

Now, let's start using it. Go to LitMaps, TWU Library, or Google Scholar and find articles that interest you. Populate your library with the following resources to support a research topic that interests you.

- manual entry for a published book
- manual entry for a chapter within an edited book (note that the library record for a book section or chapter should have separate fields for the author(s) and editor(s))
- automatic harvesting of bibliographic information for a journal article (if supported by a browser extension or bookmarklet by your preferred citation management tool)
- automatic harvesting of bibliographic information for a newspaper article (if supported by a browser extension or bookmarklet by your preferred citation management tool)
- **Review:** In each case review that all relevant fields required for the bibliography have been completed correctly. Don't rely on the accuracy of the automatic features as they are dependent on the metadata and adherence to open standards on the source website. Pay particular attention to punctuation and consistent use of capitalization.
- add descriptive tags; this will enhance searching of your library database
- organize your resources using folders

Next, experiment with some of the Zotero annotation features.

- **Watch:** [\*How to Annotate PDFs in Zotero\*](#) (2023) for instructions.

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/lGeJCsNHBR4>

If you want to take the next step, let's make your tools work together.

- **Watch** the [video](#) on Zotero and Obsidian integration (2022) and see the features offered when you integrate these tools.

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/CGGeMrtyjBI>

- **Write:** about your learning process and how you might use Zotero or another citation management tool in your studies.

## 2.4 Openness in Education

At this point in the unit you have used various tools to discover and curate resources. In this topic we would like to introduce you to a value in education that we believe is important for creating a true community of inquiry in higher education. If you haven't already noticed from the title of this topic, we are thinking about *openness*. Here is a quick overview from the OER Foundation: [Open Access Explained](#) (2021).

[Watch video](#)

And here is an article you can read (for free) from the British organization Wonkhe.

Open educational resources, or OER, refers to freely accessible and openly licensed educational materials that can be used, shared, and modified without cost. These resources include a variety of digital assets such as textbooks, lecture notes, multimedia content, and assessment tools. The key features of OER include their open licenses, which typically allow users to **retain, reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute** the content (Wiley, n.d.).

### The 5 Rs of Openness

**Retain** the right to make, own, and control copies of the content

**Reuse** the right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)

**Revise** the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)

**Remix** the right to combine the original or revised content with other open content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)

**Redistribute** the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)

Note that this material was created and published freely under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license.

Why use OER? The usefulness of OER in higher education can be attributed to several compelling reasons:

- **Affordability:** OER mitigates financial barriers for students by providing access to educational materials at no cost. This is particularly significant as the high cost of traditional textbooks and learning resources can be a substantial financial burden for students.
- **Accessibility:** OER promotes equitable access to educational content globally. Anyone with an internet connection can benefit from OER, fostering inclusivity and addressing issues of accessibility in higher education.
- **Customized learning materials:** Instructors can tailor OER to align seamlessly with course requirements, creating a personalized learning experience for students.
- **Community collaboration:** OER encourages collaborative knowledge sharing among educators and students, fostering a sense of shared learning within the academic community.
- **Current and relevant content:** the adaptable nature of OERs facilitates easy updates, ensuring educational materials reflect the latest advancements, and providing students with up-to-date information.
- **Global perspectives:** The inclusive design of OER integrates diverse global viewpoints, enhancing cultural awareness and expanding students' understanding of various academic frameworks.
- **Ethical usage:** OER operates with transparent licensing, ensuring ethical use of materials and upholding the principles of academic integrity.

In summary, OER offers a cost effective, flexible, and collaborative approach to educational resource development, making it a valuable and impactful asset in higher education. Its adoption aligns with the broader goals of enhancing accessibility, affordability, and inclusivity in the learning experience.

#### 2.4.1 Activity: Finding OERs

##### Learning Activity

Go to the [Open Educational Resources Libguide](#) from the TWU Library.

- **Watch:**
- [\*How to use OER\*](#) (2012), then browse through the categories of OERs by discipline provided. Take some time to find an OER that relates to a topic that interests you.

- **Write:** Create an entry in Obsidian about an OER resource you found. Use the CRAAP test to evaluate it and explain why this resource interests you.

### 2.4.2 Activity: Advocating for OER

#### Learning Activity

So how do open educational resources affect you as a student? Why should you care? We've shared some of the benefits of openness in education, but there are several other reasons OER benefit students.

- **Watch:**
- *A Review of the Effectiveness & Perceptions of Open Educational Resources as Compared to Textbooks* (2016)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/SX0K0hb\\_xKE](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/SX0K0hb_xKE)

- **Read:** For more information on OER Advocacy, see the chapter on [How to Advocate on Your Campus](#) in the OER Student Toolkit.
- **Write:** Create an entry in Obsidian about the benefits of OERs.

### 2.4.3 Activity: Reflecting on Your Resources

#### Learning Activity

We've reached the end of Unit 2, where you have explored several tools and practiced digital skills to help you find and select resources for academic study. As you have practiced the activities in this unit, you have curated resources about the topic of your choice. In this activity we ask you to write a paragraph about this topic, utilizing the resources you have found.

- **Read:** [This resource](#) on how to write a good paragraph published by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more writing tips see the [Writing Resources website](#) from the TWU Learning Commons.
- **Write:** Draft a paragraph on an issue relating to your research topic. Your paragraph must contain:
  - a verbatim quote from one of your sources
  - a paraphrased fact from one of your sources

Use the features of your citation management software to integrate:

- the in-text reference for your verbatim quotation
- the in-text reference for the paraphrased fact
- the automatically generated reference list using APA style (consult the Quick APA Guide to review your formatting)

Generate a PDF version of your paragraph.

- **Reflect:** Prepare a short journal entry of about 150 words sharing your experiences in using citation management software. For example: What worked well? Did you struggle with any of the instructions? Did you learn any new skills?

Note that this reflection can be used for your assessment in this course.

#### 2.4.4 Activity: Annotated Bibliography

##### Learning Activity

In this activity you will create an annotated bibliography related to a research topic of your choice.

- **Read** the following resources:
  - Evaluating online sources: *How to (Seriously) Read an Academic Paper* (2016)
  - Preparing an annotated bibliography: *Writing an Annotated Bibliography* (n.d.) and *How to Write an Annotated Bibliography* (2022)
  - *Annotated Bibliography Samples: Purdue Owl* (n.d.-a)
- **Annotate:** Next, create an annotated bibliography in Obsidian for two sources—include a journal article and a book chapter from an edited collection of chapters by multiple authors.
  - You can select resources already saved in your library or search for new ones in support of your research topic.
  - Use the note or comment feature of your citation management software to record a copy of your annotation.
  - You must use Zotero to generate the references using APA format.

## **Summary**

In this unit, you have had the opportunity to develop crucial skills for navigating the digital resource landscape. You are now able to effectively find and evaluate resources, manage citations, and understand the importance of openness in education. These skills will enhance your ability to use digital resources for academic and professional growth responsibly and effectively.

In addition, exploring openness in education broadened your understanding of the transformative power of freely accessible educational resources. By delving into the principles of open educational resources (OER) and open access, we hope to have conveyed their significance in making education more accessible. This newfound awareness not only empowers you as a learner but also places you in a role as a contributor to a global academic community. As you conclude this unit with refined skills in resource navigation, citation management, and a deeper appreciation for openness in education, you are well equipped to responsibly and effectively leverage digital resources for ongoing academic and professional growth. These skills are not just tools for immediate success, but enduring assets, shaping your lifelong journey in the ever evolving realm of digital knowledge.

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit check that you are able to:

- describe your engagement with digital technology
- apply digital tools to support learning in an academic environment
- explain what digital literacies mean for you in a tertiary education context
- examine your digital footprint
- build your professional online biography
- examine privacy concerns related to various platforms and tools
- describe how to protect yourself, and other students and colleagues, to stay safe in the digital environment

# 3 Connecting Ideas for Learning

## Overview

Welcome to our third unit in *Learning with Technology*, where we explore the symbiotic relationship between technology and knowledge synthesis. In this unit we will unravel the intricacies of sense-making through hyperlinks and tags, discovering their pivotal roles in creating a cohesive web of information. You will delve into the transformative realm of digital note taking, learning how to capture, organize, and review key ideas efficiently. As we progress we will unlock the potential of visual representations through concept maps, using digital tools to illustrate complex relationships and hierarchies that foster a deeper understanding of interconnected ideas. Moreover, we'll venture into a curated selection of digital tools designed to support and augment the learning process, evaluating their benefits in catering to diverse learning styles and preferences. By the conclusion of this unit you will not only have mastered the art of connecting ideas through hyperlinks, tags, note taking, and concept maps, but you will also be equipped with a toolkit of digital resources to enrich your learning journey.

## Topics

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Sense-making through hyperlinks
2. Sense-making through tags
3. Note taking
4. Concept maps
5. Digital tools to support learning

## Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Build and customize technology integrated workflows to enhance and enrich your learning journey
- Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge
- Evaluate digital tools, platforms, and interactions based on ethical principles

## **Activity Checklist**

Here is a checklist of learning activities you will benefit from in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### **Learning Activities**

- Practice using links and tags to connect your ideas in Obsidian
- Write a reflective post on your learning experiences
- Practice various note taking skills

*Note: Working through course activities will help you to meet the learning outcomes and successfully complete your assessments.*

:::

### **Assessment**

- Please see the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details.

### **Resources**

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

## **3.1 Sense-making Through Hyperlinks**

In higher education, your task is to build on the skills you bring from your previous experience and apply those skills in a much more focused field of study. Previously, you might have been able to succeed in school by having a great memory, but increasingly, you will be asked to do much more. You will be required to understand the theoretical basis of ideas (analysis) and also make connections between ideas to create new ideas (synthesis). This may feel challenging at first, but you will learn.

One of the challenges is that there is simply far too much information for you to analyze for any task that you might need to do for an instructor. In a previous unit, you learned some basic skills in finding and managing resources that you will need and in this unit, you will learn some ways to begin to analyze and synthesize information and documents in a systematic way.

If you learn this workflow well and learn how to customize it to your needs (that's synthesis), you will be ahead of the game when it comes time to complete papers in other courses.

The key to this component of your workflow is the lowly [hyperlink](#). You'll know that if you click or tap that highlighted word you will be taken to another website, in this case, the Wikipedia article on hyperlinks. That is a hyperlink and it is the most basic unit of the entire internet, which is simply a massive collection of documents all linked together. At its most basic form, a hyperlink is simply a connection between two documents where a hyperlink in one document allows you to open the second document.

In this workflow instead of just linking two documents together you will link two ideas together (by linking documents). Your Obsidian vault is essentially a website that is only accessible on your computer; instead of links going to documents on other servers, you link to documents within the vault (although you can still link to the web).

## **Linking in Obsidian**

There are two methods of building hyperlinks in Obsidian: Wikilinks and markdown links, and we will cover both here.

### **Wikilinks**

A Wikilink, the default in Obsidian, is really simple to build. All you have to do is type two opening square brackets, like this [[, and Obsidian will do a couple things automatically. First, Obsidian will create the closing brackets to match, so you end up with this [[]], with your cursor in the middle, and second, Obsidian will present a list of all the pages in your vault, from which you can choose the page you want linked.

[Alt text: ]

Once you choose a page (in this case, article1.md), Obsidian will do the rest, and you will end up with this view:

From Hypothes.is you can create a link to Zotero. By pressing and holding the “Command” (macOS) or “CTRL” (Windows) button on the keyboard and then hovering over the link you've created, you will get a preview of the Zotero page. If you press and hold the “Command” (macOS) or “CTRL” (Windows) button on the keyboard and then click the link, you will be taken to the page. Once on the Zotero page, you can scroll to the bottom of the page and see “Backlinks” (a link back to the original page). If you don't see backlinks, click the three dots in the top right corner of the page and choose “Backlinks in document.”

### **Markdown Links**

While Wikilinks are the default in Obsidian and are the easiest way to link within your vault, sometimes you might want to link to a site on the web. The syntax for a markdown link is a bit different but is still very simple. There are two parts you need to remember:

Figure 3.1: Screenshot, Create a Wikilink in Obsidian

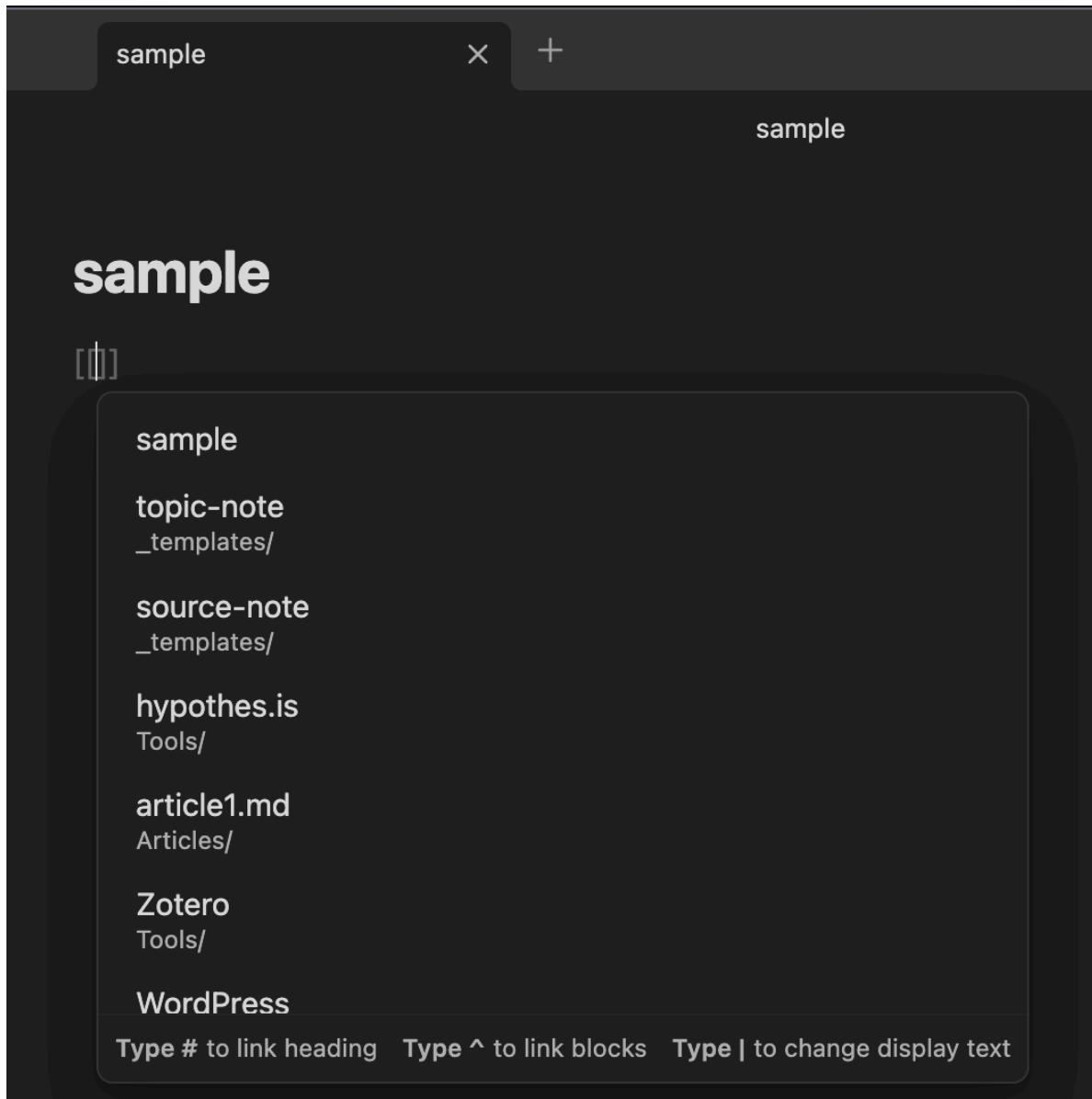
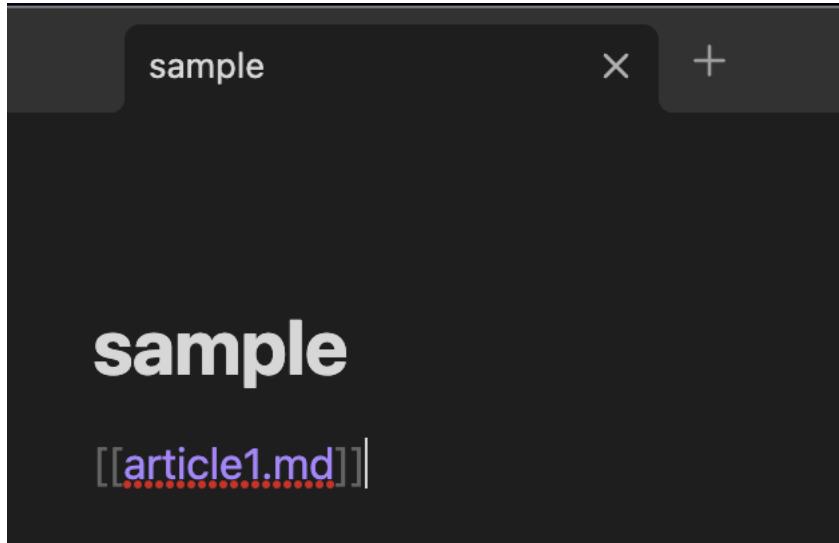


Figure 3.2: Screenshot, Wikilink Created in Obsidian



- the link text (this is what you want your reader to see on your page)
- the link URL (this is the web address of the site you want them to visit)

Here is the syntax: [Link text between single square brackets](URL inside parentheses){target="\_blank"} So if you want someone to see the word "YouTube" on the page and for them to be taken to the YouTube website when they click the link, the syntax would be [YouTube](#) which will display like this: [YouTube](#). Notice that there are no spaces between the closing square bracket and the opening parenthesis.

Here is the syntax: [Link text between single square brackets](URL inside parentheses){target="\_blank"} So if you want someone to see the word "YouTube" on the page and for them to be taken to the YouTube website when they click the link, the syntax would be [\[YouTube\]](https://youtube.com) which will display like this: [YouTube](https://youtube.com). Notice that there are no spaces between the closing square bracket and the opening parenthesis.

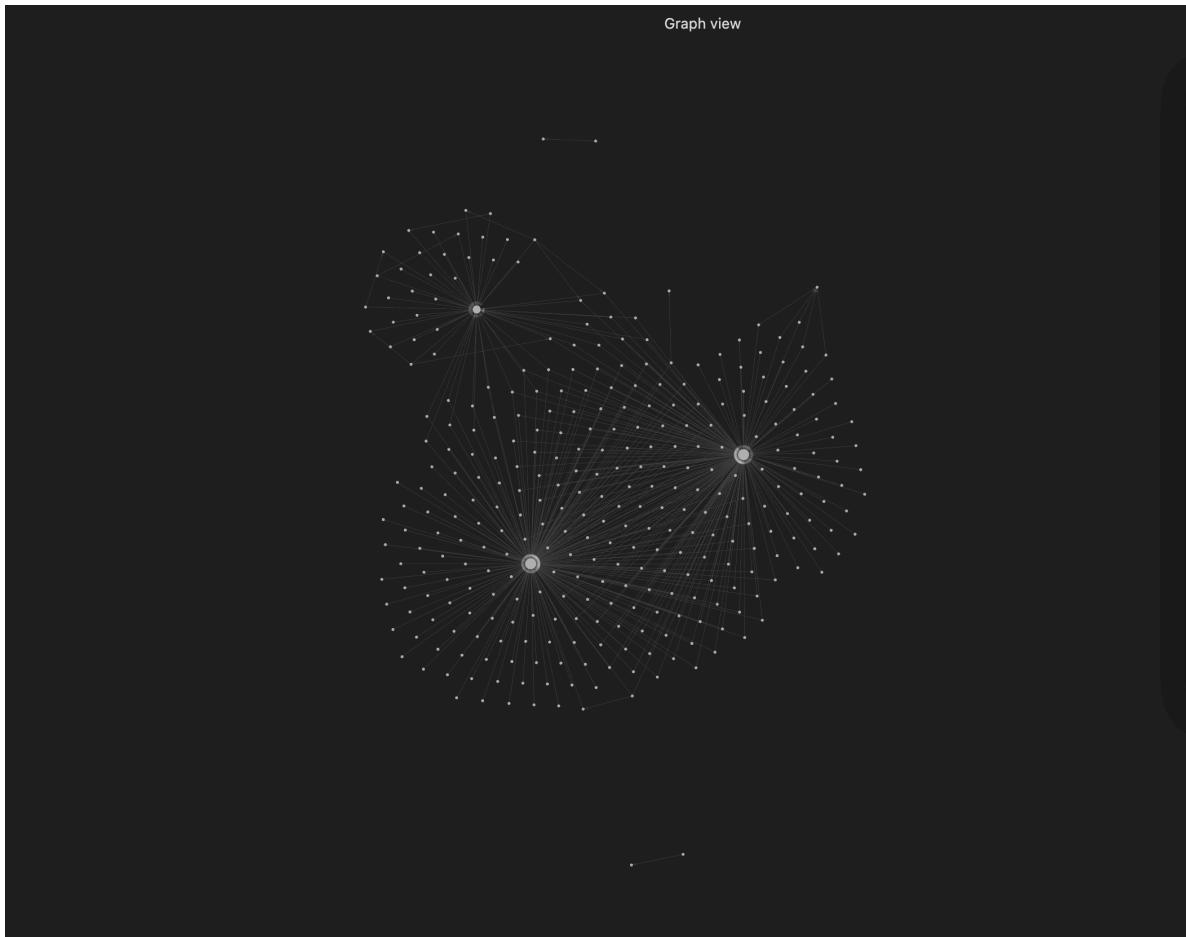
## Why Link?

Creating links to other related topics in your notes is a way that you can start to build connections in your mind about how different ideas are related. For example, if you are studying "trees," you might want to link over to the previous notes that you created on "plants," "forests," or "climate change." During your study on trees, you might want to create notes on "deciduous" and "coniferous" trees, or "xylem" and "phloem," and link those articles to "trees." By continually linking notes that are related you are creating a web of your

knowledge as well as reminders of how ideas are related. Linking is a way for you to make sense of the information that is coming into your consciousness.

Once you have created links between different files in your vault you can visualize these links using the “Graph View” in Obsidian. Here is part of the graph view for a major paper. Each of the white dots represents a file in the vault, and their size is relative to the number of pages linked to that article. You can see that there are three really big pages that have many links. Those are clearly very important pages.

Figure 3.3: Screenshot, Graph View for Linked Documents in Obsidian



### 3.1.1 Activity: Link, Connect, and Reflect

#### Learning Activity

- **Link:** Follow the directions above to add notes to Obsidian on a topic of interest. Search online for interesting articles and videos you want to add to your notes and practice adding them using Wikilinks and markdown links. Locate the graph view in Obsidian to see the connections between the ideas you've added.
- **Write:** After spending some time practicing this new skill, write a reflective journal entry on the process you followed and what your experience was like. What did you struggle with? How did you troubleshoot? What are the advantages of organizing your notes using this method?

Feel free to discuss your experience on the [Learning Hub](#) in Discourse. You can also post any questions you have about this process and get technical support from your instructors and facilitators.

## 3.2 Sense-making Through Tags

A tag is a very short, descriptive word or phrase you can apply to an idea. You are likely familiar with the idea of a hashtag (#``) from various social media apps as a way to quickly find information on a specific topic. A tag in Obsidian works just like a hashtag in social media. If you type #trees on a file about trees, and then do the same on your pages about xylem, phloem, climate change, plants, forests, deciduous, and coniferous, you could click that tag on any one of those pages, and Obsidian will find every page that contains that tag.

This acts like a super-fast search of your notes for a particular topic or ideas related to a topic.

We recommend that you put your tags in the same spot on each page so you know where to find them. You can also put those tags at any place in your notes and Obsidian will show you the specific spot in your notes where the tag lives.

You can also show tags in your graph view, as below. Green dots are tags and white dots are files (as before). You can see in this image that there are many more connections.

You can click any of the tags in Obsidian to see highlighted connections and search results for that tag, allowing you to go directly to notes of interest.

Using links and tags together you can build a very powerful and easily searchable vault of all the ideas in your courses. This can be incredibly valuable when it is time to write a paper or prepare for an exam—you can have all your notes easily accessible rather than having to search through pages and pages of handwritten notes.

Figure 3.4: Screenshot, Graph View in Obsidian Including Files (White Dots) and Tags (Green Dots)

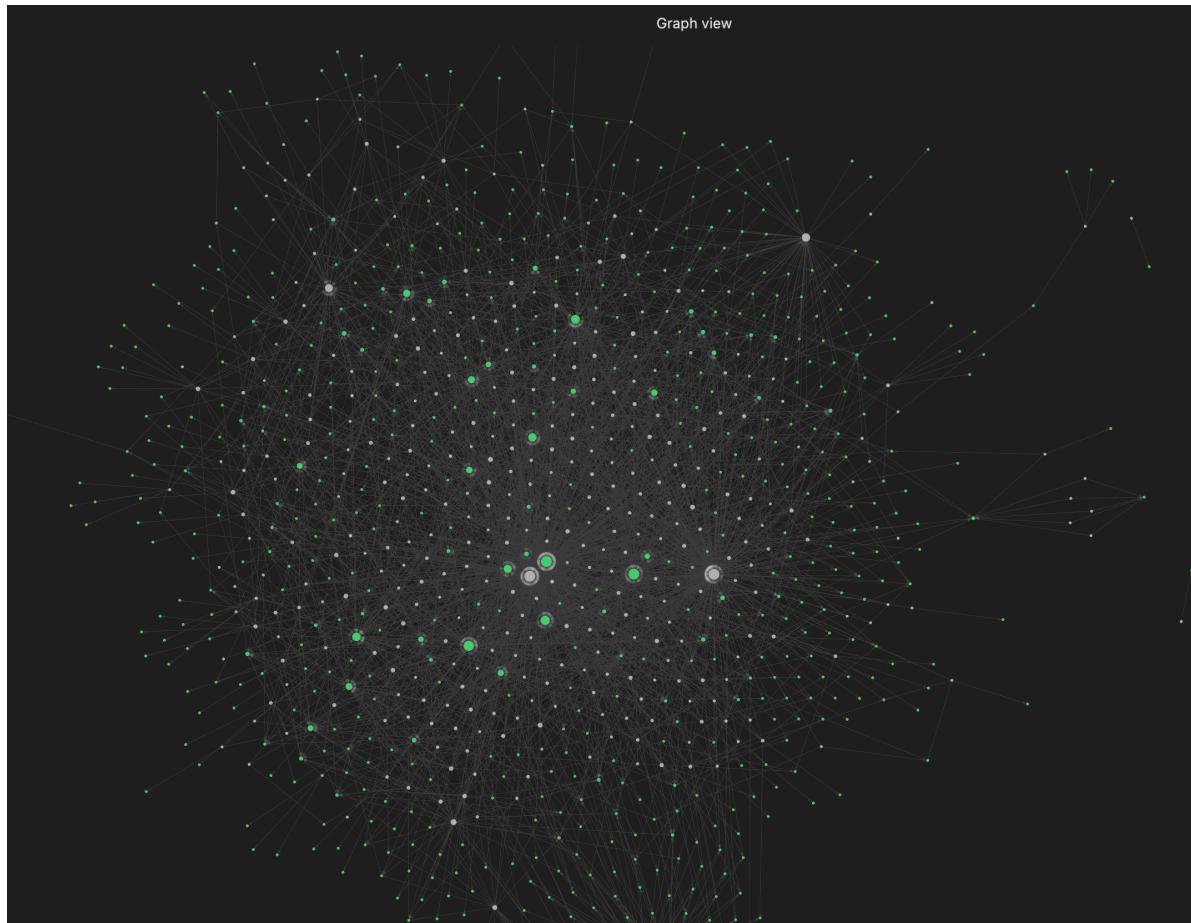
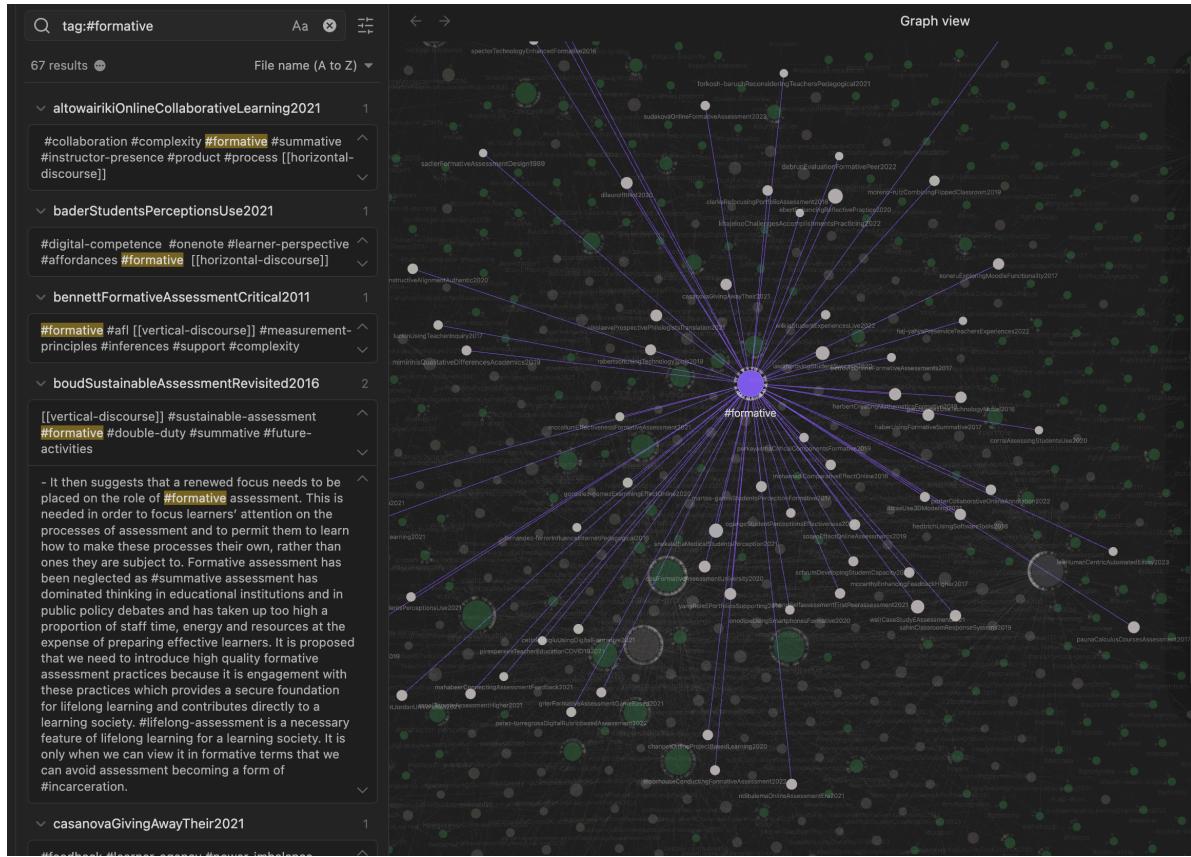


Figure 3.5: Screenshot, Graph View in Obsidian With Tag Expanded to Show Additional Information



### 3.2.1 Activity: Tag, Link, Connect, and Reflect

#### Learning Activity

- **Tag:** Follow the directions above to add tags to your notes in Obsidian. Again, spend some time on this. The more you practice, the easier the process will be. More than that, as you continue to use tags and links, you will be able to experience the advantages of connecting your ideas using this method.
- **Write:** Add to your Reflective Journal your thoughts and experience on using tags. What were your struggles or “ah-ha” moments? What questions do you have? Remember to reach out for support on the Learning Hub in Discourse.

## 3.3 Sense-making Through Concept Maps

As you saw at the beginning of this unit, sense-making is the **work** of learning. There is no way around the work of learning because learning is work. It takes time and cognitive effort. As much as we wish to be able to “learn” like Neo in *The Matrix*, we can’t (see a favourite scene in a movie, below; and it’s not just because Keanu Reeves is the GOAT ).

- **Watch:** [The Matrix - ‘I Know Kung Fu’ \(2019\)](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/0YhJxJZOWBw)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/0YhJxJZOWBw>

Tags and links in Obsidian can be visualized using graph view, but as this is an algorithmically generated map of the connections between ideas and files in your vault, there is little you can do to customize it. Fortunately, Obsidian also features a tool called the Canvas, which is a blank space that you can use to manually connect ideas in a visual format, allowing you to see connections and relationships that make sense to you. The following video is a brief explanation of how to use the Canvas in Obsidian.

### 3.3.1 Activity: Obsidian Concept Map

- **Watch:** [Mind Mapping in Obsidian Canvas](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/eHI-Szjpafk) (2023). As you watch, follow the directions and to create a concept map in Obsidian. You will use this in the next activity.

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/eHI-Szjpafk>

### 3.3.2 Activity: Open Source Video and Audio Lectures

#### Learning Activity

- **Search:** Search for a video or audio lecture on a topic of interest. Use your advanced search skills or browse the following sites to find a suitable recording aligned with your interests:
  - [\*Open Culture\*](#) (2024). Over 30,000 hours of free audio and video lectures
  - [\*Open Yale Courses\*](#) (2024). Free and open access to a selection of introductory courses including video lectures from Yale University(2024).
  - [\*Harvard Online Courses\*](#)(2024) Series of video lectures from Harvard University.
  - [\*MIT OpenCourseWare\*](#)(2024) Series of audio and video lectures from Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  - [\*Tedx Talks\*](#) (2024). Extensive database of video presentations in the form of short, powerful talks (see also list of topics)
- **Write:** Using Obsidian, record your notes from the lecture.
  - the first line is used for the title of the note
  - remember to include a link to the source of the information
  - use tags and links to connect your ideas

## 3.4 Reading and Note Taking

Next, let's focus on reading and note taking. In this section, you will demonstrate your note taking skills based on reading an academic publication. You will also have the opportunity to practice using the Markdown markup language. Semantic markup is an important digital skill that separates formatting (e.g., headings, bold, italics, lists) from content, using designated characters without the use of rich text editors. This provides the capability to use plain text files that can be converted to formatted text online. Markdown is one of many such markup protocols and is used here to demonstrate the principles of semantic markup.

### 3.4.1 Activity: Reading and Note Taking

#### Learning Activity

- **Read** the following articles and take notes in Obsidian. Try using Markdown to format your text.
  - *Effective Reading and Note-Taking* (n.d.)
  - *Reading for Understanding: The SQW3R Method* (2024)
  - *How to (Seriously) Read a Scientific Paper* (2016)
  - *Using Markdown in Obsidian* (n.d.)

### 3.4.2 Activity: Writing a Summary of Your Readings

#### Learning Activity

In this activity you will read an academic article and write a summary using Obsidian and Zotero.

- **Read:**
  - First, search for a peer reviewed journal article in support of a research topic of interest
  - Remember to add the source to your citation management tool, Zotero
- **Write:**
  - Prepare a summary of the journal article based on this example
  - Use the Markdown formatting in Obsidian. Your summary must at a minimum demonstrate the following text formats:
    - \* headings and subheadings
    - \* bold and italics
    - \* numbered or unordered list
    - \* labelled link
    - \* horizontal rule
    - \* block quote for one or more citations from the article
  - Copy your summary prepared in Obsidian and paste this text summary into Zotero using the notes feature so that you have a copy for your personal library as backup.

Reflect on your progress in practicing these digital skills. Share your thoughts in your journal and/or in Discourse.

## 3.5 Digital Tools To Support Learning

So far in this course you have had opportunities to explore a number of learning tools, including [Obsidian](#), [Zotero](#), and [LitMaps](#).

We anticipate these tools will help you think critically, collaborate, and ultimately succeed in your studies.

There is a plethora of other learning tools out there. We encourage you to explore various apps and evaluate them based on criteria you value (effectiveness, privacy, cost, data ownership, accessibility, and so on).

### 3.5.1 Activity: Tools for Learning in University

#### Learning Activity

- **Explore:** Search for the following apps or websites using the key words listed below. Try adding “top,” “best,” “free,” “university,” or “students” and see how that changes your search results.
  - note taking apps
  - annotate web resources
  - collaborative tools
  - project management tools
  - graphic organizers
  - study tools
  - focus tools
  - research tools
  - writing tools
- **Share:** In Discourse, share some tools that you’ve used or that you plan to use to help in your studies.

## Summary

As we conclude our unit, reflect on your learning. Throughout this unit, you’ve acquired a multifaceted skill set that empowers you to harness the potential of technology in synthesizing and organizing knowledge. From understanding the intricate dance of hyperlinks and tags, to mastering the art of digital note taking, you’ve explored tools and strategies that redefine how we connect ideas in the digital age.

Concept maps have become your canvas, allowing you to visually articulate complex relationships and hierarchies with precision and clarity. The curated digital tools we've explored are now at your disposal, enhancing your learning experience and catering to your unique preferences. Remember, this unit isn't just about understanding concepts; it's about applying these newfound skills in real world scenarios.

As you move forward, carry this digital toolkit with you, leveraging technology as a powerful ally in your ongoing pursuit of knowledge. Your ability to connect ideas seamlessly through hyperlinks, tags, note taking, and concept maps positions you as a dynamic learner in an ever evolving educational landscape. The skills you've honed here are not just for this course but are lifelong assets that will continue to enrich your learning journey.

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit check that you are able to:

- Build and customize technology integrated workflows to enhance and enrich your learning journey
- Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge
- Evaluate digital tools, platforms, and interactions based on ethical principles

# 4 Building Your Online Presence

## Overview

Welcome to Unit 4! In previous units, you've been introduced to the world of digital literacies and learned how to utilize various tools for organizing and connecting ideas. You have started to build a workflow to help you learn more effectively and have applied the critical skill of metacognition to explain your process for learning.

Now, let's dive into the next phase of our learning journey.

In the second half of the course, you will continue to build your digital skills and apply critical thinking to document your learning process. Our focus will shift from creating a personal collection of ideas to presenting your learning in a more open platform. It's important to emphasize that *you* will decide how public you want this to be. We'll also explore the significance of knowledge sharing and examine user-friendly methods to do so while maintaining control over your work and addressing privacy concerns. As you begin this unit, take a moment to reflect on your personal and academic goals as they relate to digital literacy. Consider which digital tools you'd like to explore, and reflect on how your online contributions can not only benefit your own growth but also contribute positively to others.

## Topics

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Personal learning environments
2. Building a learning blog
3. My digital footprint
4. Evaluating digital tools

## Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Create a personalized narrative to document and express your learning process
- Examine your digital footprint and develop a positive digital online identity

- Evaluate digital tools, platforms, and interactions based on ethical principles
- Critically evaluate the affordances and restraints of digital tools and platforms
- Identify the digital skills needed in your field of study
- Describe how to protect yourself and other students and colleagues to stay safe in the digital environment
- Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge

## Activity Checklist

Here is a checklist of learning activities you will benefit from in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### Learning Activity

#### Learning Activities

- Reflect on your personal learning environment (PLE) as you engage with the resources on PLEs
- Create a new blog on WordPress and personalize your blog site
- Conduct a digital footprint audit to assess your online presence
- Document and share your learning experience by publishing a blog entry
- Evaluate a digital tool, considering the ethical implications

*Note: Working through course activities will help you to meet the learning outcomes and successfully complete your assessments.*

### Assessment

- See the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details and due dates.

### Resources

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

### **i Resource Reminders**

- Remember to continuously add resources to your Zotero library that align with your learning goals
- Utilize your community—peers, coworkers, and online communities—as valuable resources! Stay engaged to seek assistance and exchange helpful resources and insights

## **4.1 Personal Learning Environments**

This unit aims to guide you in creating your Learning Blog, the central component of your personal learning environment (PLE). Blog posts serve as reflections on your learning journey and facilitate networking with peers. Your blog also provides your instructor with valuable insights into your course engagement and learning process. Ultimately, the goal of a PLE is to put the learner at the centre of the online learning environment.

### **So What is a Personal Learning Environment?**

Personal Learning Environments [are] systems that help learners take control of and manage their own learning. This includes providing support for learners to set their own learning goals, manage their learning; managing both content and process, communicate with others in the process of learning, and thereby achieve learning goals. A PLE may be composed of one or more sub-systems: As such it may be a desktop application, or composed of one or more web-based services. (van Harmelen, 2007, as cited in Edutech Wiki, 2014, Definitions, para. 2)

As described by Casteneda et al.,

A Personal Learning Environment is ... a structure and process that helps learners organize the influx of information, resources and interactions that they are faced with on a daily basis into a personalized learning space or experience. In a PLE, the learner develops an individualized digital identity through the perceptual cues and cognitive affordances that the personal learning environment provides, such as what information to share and when, who to share it with, and how to effectively merge formal and informal learning experiences. (2017, para. 2)

Which aspects of the two definitions do you find most meaningful? How do you structure your daily interactions and manage the flow of information? In what ways do you communicate your learning experiences to others? Lastly, what specific goals are you aiming to accomplish through your learning journey?

#### 4.1.1 Activity: What Is a PLE?

##### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Before you start building your PLE, read the following article: “*7 Things you Should Know About Personal Learning Environments*. After reading the article, consider the following:
  - How do PLEs promote authentic, student-centred learning?
  - What are the benefits of a PLE? How would it benefit you?
  - What tools do you currently use as part of your learning environment?
- **Questions to Consider:**
- **Watch:** Finally, consider the approach taken at TWU as it supports inquiry-rich learning. As you watch the short video below, think about how you could use your PLE to enrich your learning at TWU.

Watch: \* Inquiry-Rich Learning\*(2018)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/SCa9Nt3X1vU>

#### 4.1.2 Activity: What Is Your Ple?

##### Learning Activity

- **Write:** Take a couple of minutes to brainstorm the tools, services, and communities that you use to pursue your educational goals. Use your notetaking tool (e.g., Obsidian) to create a list of these.
- **Create:** Next, create a graphic organizer to visualize your PLE. You can use Obsidian, or see *Best Graphic Organizers for Education* (2023) for other free options.

Note that you completed a Visitor and Resident Diagram Activity in Unit 1. Feel free to use that graphic organizer and add other tools you use for learning, or that you have been introduced to in this course.

You will be encouraged to post your PLE graphic on your blog ... which you will start in the next activity!

## 4.2 Building a Learning Blog

In the next activity, you will gain firsthand experience in using blog technology for publishing your own website. You will “declare” yourself online using your PLE as an alternative to posting an introduction in a closed course forum typically used in a conventional online course. Note that TWU online courses often use Moodle Discussion Forums to facilitate conversations. By using a platform such as WordPress you can retain the contents of your posts as well as the comments of your peers. In a learning management system (LMS) such as Moodle you may lose access to what you have posted in discussions, and more importantly, conversations with your peers. As you create your personal blog in WordPress (or your own selective blog site), you control your data and who can see it.

You will retain control of your data and learning outputs generated during this online course, even after the course is completed. You get to choose:

The blog service you would like to use, although **we recommend WordPress as it is supported by TWU**. Whether to accept comments on your blog from your peers. Whether to register your blog for the aggregated course feed so that any posts tagged with the course code (LDRS101) will be harvested for the feed. A key teaching philosophy of this course is to embed the acquisition of new digital literacies into your learning journey. Knowledge of how to use the internet and social media technologies will better prepare you for life in a digital world. If this is your first time blogging, you should spend time setting up your personal digital learning environment. Please remember that your learning blog and the social media technologies you use on this course are public, and that you take full responsibility for anything you publish. Do not disclose any confidential information and respect the privacy of others. In short, don’t say anything that you would not want to read on the internet.

### 4.2.1 Activity: Setting up Your Learning Blog

#### Learning Activity

As this is a course focusing on digital literacies, you are asked to establish a Learning Blog, which will improve your skills and enable you to network with your peers. We recommend using WordPress, as it is supported by TWU. WordPress is an open source website builder and is one of the most popular systems available because of its versatility. If you already have your own website or you have previous experience using WordPress, you may set up your blog on it and skip the set-up steps described below, but you still need to complete the learning activities.

We are here to help you create your site, so do not hesitate to ask for technical support. There are a number of resources below, but if you get stuck, please reach out on Discourse, or email [elearning@twu.ca](mailto:elearning@twu.ca).

To get started on creating your site we suggest the following steps:

- **Sign up to create a website**

- Go to [create.twu.ca](http://create.twu.ca) to sign up for your free WordPress site. *Please read all the prompts and instructions carefully!* Be sure to read the Privacy Statement carefully before clicking “I Agree.” The information provided gives you excellent guidance regarding digital citizenship, privacy, and how to build a professional digital persona.
- You will be prompted to **create a domain name**, which is your website’s address on the internet. Often this is referred to as a URL (Uniform Resource Locator). This is what your users will type in their browsers to reach your site. Make sure that you choose a domain name that is related to you, easy to pronounce and spell, and easy to remember. Once you have done that, we suggest you write all this information somewhere you can access it easily—just in case.
- You will also be asked to **select a theme** for your website. You are free to choose any template you wish. TWU Spark, TWU Hope, and TWU Spartans portfolios are simple to set up and provide easy navigation.
- When you choose your theme, your new site will come with a simple menu and instructions for portfolio and website creation.
- Once you have activated your site (look for a notification in your TWU email) you are ready to create.

- **Explore your dashboard**

- The dashboard is the initial area you see when you log in to TWU Create. It’s the centre for your site management and where you create content. From the Dashboard you can navigate to content, settings, themes, plugins, and more.
- When logged in to TWU Create, you will always have access to an **admin menu** visible on your sites. From the menu item that is the name of the blog (second from left), you can find the link to the dashboard. While in the dashboard, the same menu can be used to return to the front view of your site.
- Determine the difference between the dashboard used for editing and the published view of your blog. (It is important to know the difference because when you register your blog for the course feed, you must use the URL for the public view of your blog).

*Progress check:* - Do you know how to open the published (public view) of your blog in a new window? - Have you added a browser bookmark to your dashboard and the public version of your blog?

**Help Tips:** When you are in the site administration area of your site, you can get tips on what you are doing by clicking the “Help” menu on the top righthand corner. Click “Help” and read through the Overview describing the elements of the dashboard.

- **Review your settings:** Review and customize your blog settings from the dashboard according to your preferences.
  - **Enable categories and tags:** We recommend that you enable **categories** and **tags** on your blog. **Categories** are best used for broad groupings of topics. For example, if you’re creating a site that reviews pop culture you might use categories such as books, film, and TV. **Tags** are more specific keywords that you want to use to associate related content. For example, if you were creating a site that reviews pop culture you might want to use tags such as science fiction, horror, and action adventure. You can combine the two! For our review site example, you might be reviewing a romantic comedy. You can assign the broader category “film” to the post, then give it some more specific tags such as romantic comedy, or even use the name of the actors and director as tags. People who view that post could use the tags to find related posts around that topic.
  - **Set up comments settings (optional):** WordPress comes with a built-in comment system allowing your users to leave comments on your posts. This comment system is great for user engagement, but it can also be targeted by spammers as well. If you don’t want comments on your posts ensure that the “Allow comments” box is unchecked at the bottom of the editor page. If you do want comments, but want to manage the spam you’ll need to enable comment moderation on your website. Visit [Settings » Discussions](#) page and scroll down to “Before a comment appears” section. Check the box next to the “Comment must be manually approved” option.
- **Personalize your blog:** Visit the appearance option on your dashboard and personalize your blog by:
  - Changing your theme, header image, background colours, and/or image
  - Adding at least one widget to your blog. Remember—“less is more.” One or two of the following are functional choices: archives, recent posts, categories or category cloud, and “blogs I follow.”
  - Be sure to save your changes!
- **Add a page and a post:** Pages and posts are where your content is housed on WordPress. The biggest difference between the two is that posts are timestamped, whereas pages are timeless.
  - **Pages** are for static content. They do not need a publish date. Use pages when you want your visitors to always be able to see that content in that spot, no matter when they visit.
  - **Posts** are for timely content. They have a publish date, and they are displayed with the newest content at the top (reverse chronological order) of your site’s blog page. Older posts can “fall off” the blog page (the content is still kept,

but no longer visible). Posts are what you should think of when you hear the term “blog post.” Usually posts have a comment section, and this is where viewers can write a comment in response to your post. This may be a handy way to receive feedback from your peers. Also, you can categorize or tag your posts, which is useful to help readers locate posts on your blog.

- To add a new Page or Post, click the Pages or Posts menu option and then click “Add New Link” underneath. Another way is to hover your cursor over Pages or Posts and click the add new link in the drop-down menu.

### **BLOG CHALLENGE!**

- **Edit a Page:** Complete your personal details for display on the “About” page of your blog.
  - *Progress check:* Can you see the updates on your “About” page in the published view of your blog?
- **Edit a Blog Post:** Reflect on your experience of this activity on creating a blog. Click “Save Draft” (so you can review before publishing live on the web). Your reflection could for example:
  - Introduce yourself and reflect on what you would like to achieve by maintaining a blog to support your learning.
  - Reflect on what you thought of the activity—was it easy or hard?
  - Share links to any additional resources you found useful in completing the tasks.
  - Provide tips for future learners who will be completing this activity. If you were to set up a new blog again, what would you do differently?
  - Add anything your readers may find interesting or useful.
- **Add media**
  - Using different types of media to represent your artifacts is a great way to make your portfolio dynamic and keep your audience engaged. Text-heavy pages can get cumbersome, regardless of how you arrange them. Adding media can help by breaking up content or replacing text all together. Consider how you can “show what you know” rather than just simply telling. Media can also be an alternative to simply hyperlinking all your artifacts. Instead of sending your audience off to another site or tab, media can be embedded (see [Media Library](#)) to keep your audience contained to your page.
  - The Media Library on your WordPress site houses the media you upload to your site. WordPress supports a variety of media types such as images, audio, video, and documents. We do suggest that you host your video files in your TWU Microsoft Stream account for optimal playability. Other types of media

are typically uploaded and inserted into the text editor when writing a post or page.

### **BLOG PHOTO CHALLENGE!**

- **Choose a photo** to add to your blog post. Be sure you have permission to upload the photo. We suggest using an open license site such as [Pixabay](#), [Unsplash](#), [Pexels](#), [Wikimedia Commons](#), or [Flickr](#). Alternatively, upload your own photo, take a selfie, or ask someone to take a photo of you working on this blog post challenge. You might find the following videos helpful:
  - [\*How to Add an Image to a WordPress Website\*](#) (2017)
  - [\*How to Add Featured Images in WordPress\*](#) (2017)
  - Watch: [\*How to Add Featured Images or Post Thumbnails in WordPress\*](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/9admKGpM3A0>

### **BLOG VIDEO CHALLENGE! (Optional)**

You might find as you continue the course that you want to share videos you find on the web or perhaps even your own. If you're up for the challenge, consider recording a short video introduction and embed this in your blog post.

Here is a tutorial on how to add a YouTube video or embed one of your own videos to your blog:

Watch: [\*WordPress How To Add Video To A Page Or Post \[2021\]\*](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/3hCMpnok2Kw>

- **Publish!**
  - Review your draft post, and when you're happy with what you've written click “Publish post.”
- **Share your blog**
  - Add a category or tag for your post using the course tag: LDRS101
  - Post in the LDRS 101 Discourse forum to let your peers know the web address of your blog and ask them to post a comment. This will give you the opportunity to experience how comments function on your blog and to test if they are working properly.
- **Additional Customizations**

When you're ready to start customizing your blog and adding content, check out some tutorials available to you:

- [\*TWU's WordPress Support Page\*](#)(n.d.)

- *WordPress Support Guides*(n.d.)
- *Start Here: WordPress Beginner* (2016)
- *WordPress Tutorials; University of Victoria*(n.d.)
- If you are confused about anything it is always good to do an initial Google or YouTube search, reach out on Discourse, or email elearning@twu.ca

Congratulations! You created your PLE for TWU!

## 4.3 My Digital Footprint

Now that you have created your learning blog and introduced yourself online let's take a closer look at the information about you available on the internet. Imagine if potential employers were to search for you online. What would they discover, and what would you prefer them to find? As we examine online identities in this topic, we will ask you to consider how you can improve your digital identity in support of your online learning, as well as future employment prospects.

First, let's clarify some key terms.

We need to distinguish between the technical and human elements of online identity. In this course we are more interested in the human side of online identity, but in part, this is determined by how technology automates the process of building your digital footprint.

**Digital identity** refers to the information utilized by computer systems to represent external entities, including a person, organization, application, or device. When used to describe an individual it encompasses a person's compiled information and plays a crucial role in automating access to computer-based services, verifying identity online, and enabling computers to mediate relationships between entities. Digital identity for individuals is an aspect of a person's social identity and can also be referred to as online identity. ("Digital Identity," 2024)

**Digital footprint** or digital shadow refers to one's unique set of traceable digital activities, actions, contributions, and communications manifested on the internet or digital devices. Digital footprints can be classified as either passive or active. The former is composed of a user's web browsing activity and information stored as cookies. The latter is often released deliberately by a user to share information on websites or social media. While the term usually applies to a person, a digital footprint can also refer to a business, organization or corporation. ("Digital Footprint," n.d.)

#### **4.3.1 Activity: What Is a Digital Footprint?**

##### Learning Activity

- Watch *What is a Digital Footprint?* (2021) and consider the steps you would take to control your digital footprint.

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/dmQGq\\_FNBpE](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/dmQGq_FNBpE)

#### **4.3.2 Activity: Who Am I Online ... and Why Should I Care?**

## Learning Activity

- **Read** the following:
  - *Understanding Your Online Identity* (2017)
  - *How To Manage Your Digital Footprint in 2024: 20 Tips for Students* (2022)

### Questions to Consider

How does your real world identity differ from your online identity? What factors inhibit or support the sharing of information in building an online identity? What is the value of an online identity for learning?

Reminder: As you view online resources in this course, feel free to annotate and discuss web resources publicly in support of your learning (e.g., using digital tools such as Hypothes.is, Discourse, WordPress, or others).

In addition to evaluating who you are online, ask yourself, “why should I care?”

- **Watch:** *Four Reasons to Care About Your Digital Footprint* (2016), and then select from the following resources to inform your views:

Watch: *Four Reasons to Care About Your Digital Footprint*

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Ro\\_LlRg8rGg](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Ro_LlRg8rGg)

- *Students Turn to Internet to Build Online Presence, Showcase Work* (2013)
- *Your Online Presence and Your Career* (n.d.)
- *Digital Tattoo Project* (n.d.)
- *Policy Brief: Privacy* (2015)

Finally, consider how much someone could find out about you from your digital footprint. Here's an interesting video that might cause you to reconsider what you post online.

- *Amazing Mind Reader Reveals his ‘Gift’* (2012)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/F7pYHN9iC9I>

### 4.3.3 Activity: Digital Footprint Audit

## Learning Activity

In this activity you will audit your own digital footprint in order to find out what exists on the internet about you and reflect on what you want your online identity to be. Follow the steps below to begin.

- **Search:**
  - Conduct a Google search of your own name (using an incognito or private

window in Chrome or Firefox). Search for your first name and surname without quotation marks (e.g., snow white) and then with quotation marks (e.g., “snow white”). Explore the results of your search.

- Conduct a Google search of your name with the name of current and previous employers.
- Conduct a Google search of your name with the name of previous schools you attended.
- Expand your search to include social media sites, for example, “snow white” twitter; “snow white” Facebook; “snow white” YouTube.
- Note any interesting or surprising findings.

#### 4.3.4 Activity: Blog: My Digital Footprint

##### Learning Activity

- **Write:** Prepare and publish a short blog post of about 250 to 300 words focusing on what you hope to achieve with your online digital identity for learning. Your post can include:
  - **Reflection:** Share your thoughts on the outcomes of your footprint audit. Remember that your blog post is public, so only share what you are comfortable sharing with the world. You don’t need to be specific; for example, you can generalize: “I am satisfied with my digital footprint because ...” or “I would like to improve my digital footprint for learning because ...”
  - **Professional versus private considerations:** Consider how you want to separate your “private” online identity from your professional or learning identity. If you already maintain an online presence (existing blog or social media accounts) think about how you will separate professional or learning posts from private and social life interactions online. For example, maintaining a separate course or learning blog is one way to achieve this distinction. Will you link your personal online identities (e.g., an existing X (formerly Twitter) username or Facebook account) with your learning blog? Will you link your professional online identity (e.g., published online biography or resume) with your learning blog?
  - **Objectives:** List a few objectives for developing or improving your online identity.
- **Tag:** Add a category or tag to your post using the course tag: LDRS101 (this is needed to harvest links to posts from registered blogs for the course feed).

**Remember:** *You are in charge of what you post online and you decide what you would like to share for your digital identity for the purposes of this course. Don’t share high*

*risk personal details such as your physical address, date of birth, name of first pet, and so on which may make it easier for identity thieves to appear more credible. If unsure, consult online resources for internet safety; for example [Get Cyber Safe](#) (2021) from the Government of Canada.*

## 4.4 Evaluating Digital Tools

So far in Unit 4, you have created a learning blog in WordPress, explored your social media platforms, and used a range of other tools such as Zotero, Discourse, Obsidian, and more.

As we step into this new topic, we encourage you to engage in a critical examination of the online tools you use or are interested in. Beyond the basic considerations of functionality and user friendliness, we invite you to assess digital tools, platforms, and interactions through the lens of ethical principles.

So how do we evaluate technology on ethical principles? Here are some guiding questions from Ethical EdTech:

### Guiding Questions

Where does power lie, and where are we expected to place our trust? To whom is it accessible—for instance, in terms of usability and cost? Does it lock us into closed, commercial systems or invite us into open communities? Does it give us more control over the learning process, or does it cede that control? Does it respect and protect our privacy appropriately? Can we access, study, and modify the underlying code or design? Who owns the infrastructure and our usage data? Does it produce private profit or public commons? These crucial questions highlight the importance of privacy, data ownership, and accessibility. What other questions would you ask to ensure a tech tool is ethical?

### 4.4.1 Activity: What Are My Criteria?

#### Learning Activity

- **Read** the following [Tool Evaluation Criteria](#). Note some criteria may not apply to the tool you choose to evaluate. Also see the [Tool Evaluation Scoring Rubric](#) and [Notepad](#) (an editable Google Sheet).
- **Write:** Create your own criteria for evaluating digital tools. Set up a spreadsheet or notepad (in Obsidian for example) and as you list your criteria, consider why that detail is important to you. To help you select your criteria, read the following:
  - [Policy Brief: Privacy](#) (2015)

This next website might be a bit of an eye-opener. You may want to browse through some common tech examples and see their score. - *Terms of Service. Didn't Read* (n.d.) Finally, read the following questions and consider what you want to add to your rubric considering the context of the tool, the terms of service, and the purpose.

**Business Context** - Who owns the tool? - Who is the tool maker or CEO? - What are their politics? Does that matter? - What is the tool's history? - How do they market themselves? - How does the company generate revenue? - What is their market position in/point of difference? - Who are the competitors? - What do others say about the product? Are these sources reliable?

**Terms of Service** - What are the terms of service? Are they easy to find? - What personal data is required to use the tool (username, real names, email, date of birth, and so on)? - Who owns the data? - How is the data protected? - Where is the data housed? - What flexibility do users have to be anonymous? - Does the tool support open licensing of user generated content? - How is copyright infringement managed? - How is user generated content distributed by the company? What license does the user give the company for distributing to third parties? - Can users delete their accounts or leave the service? - Can users export their data? What export formats are supported? - How is personal information managed? - Can information be shared with third parties, and if so under what conditions? - Can the company terminate a users account? Under what conditions? - How are changes to the terms of service managed?

**Fit For Purpose** - Is the tool suitable for the stated purpose? - How does the design of the tool influence what users can do with the tool? - Does the tool provide support resources or help tutorials? - Search the web to find out if others provide help and advice on using the tool (for example YouTube, blog posts, and so on) - What are the implications or opportunities of the tool to support learning in a digital age?

#### 4.4.2 Activity: Evaluate a Digital Tool

##### Learning Activity

In this activity, you are invited to critically evaluate an online tool.

- **Set Your Goals:** As you select the tool you want to evaluate consider your goals for improving your digital skills.
  - What do you want to do or learn online?
  - What skills are needed in your academic area and profession?
  - What tool would be helpful for you and your peers to know more about?
- **Choose a Tool:** Select any online tool or choose one from the list below.
  - *Blogging:* Blogger, WordPress, Medium, Tumblr

- *File sharing:* Dropbox, Nextcloud, MediaFire, Google Drive, SugarSync
  - *Presentations:* Haikudeck, Prezi, Google Slides, Slides (using Reveal.js)
  - *Online collaboration:* Basecamp, Slack, Rocket.chat, Hipchat
  - *Video conferencing:* jitsi, AnyMeeting, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams
  - *Feed aggregators:* Feedly, Panada, NewsBlur, Inoreader, Feedreader
  - *Project management:* Trello, Kanboard, Freedcamp, Asana, Notion, GitHub
- **Evaluate the Tool:** Use your chosen rubric or guiding questions to complete your review.
  - **Share Your Insights:** Prepare a blog post (about 450–600 words) where you publish a critical review of your selected tool. Your blog post must:
    - State your intended purpose for the tool
    - Highlight strengths and weaknesses (company reputation, software features, terms of service, and so on)
    - Include hyperlinks to appropriate web pages
    - Include references using APA style if required
    - Include if applicable a disclaimer or disclosure; that is, whether you have any association with the company or tool that may impact on the review
    - Include concluding recommendation(s)
    - Include a comment on whether the tool is fit for your stated purpose
    - Include a comment on the extent to which the tool would be useful for learning in a digital age
    - Add a category or tag for your post using the course tag: LDRS101

**Optional:** On Discourse, let us know what tool you selected and why. Share the link of your review blog.

## Summary

In this unit you have had the opportunity to learn about your personal learning environment and build your presence on the web using a blog. You've examined your digital footprint and reflected on your online identity—what it is now, and where you want it to be. You've also had an opportunity to evaluate digital tools and their ethical implications, and to consider what tools will help you academically and personally. As you continue with the last two units of the course we want to encourage you to examine your purpose in using technology, as well as how your contributions online can benefit others.

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit check that you are able to:

Create a personalized narrative to document and express your learning process  
Examine your digital footprint and develop a positive digital online identity  
Evaluate digital tools, platforms, and interactions based on ethical principles  
Critically evaluate the affordances and restraints of digital tools and platforms  
Identify the digital skills needed in your field of study  
Describe how to protect yourself, as well as other students and colleagues, to stay safe in the digital environment  
Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge

# **5 Building a Network of People**

## **Overview**

In Unit 5 we engage in academic learning as a digital citizen of the internet. In this unit you will continue to develop a positive digital online identity in support of learning, while adhering to best practices for privacy, security, and interpersonal communications. We will discuss digital citizenship and how that relates to our personal and professional online identities. You'll have the opportunity to evaluate your social networks and join new online communities, including the TWU Online community. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to connect, build your personal and professional learning networks, and share your knowledge.

## **Topics**

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Digital citizenship
2. Online communities
3. Connecting and learning through social media
4. Joining the TWU community

## **Learning Outcomes**

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Discuss the dimensions of digital citizenship for work and learning in the 21st century and how these differ from the offline environment
- Outline the rights and responsibilities of a digital citizen
- Explore professional online identity and networking in the field of your choice
- Reflect on the balance between public and private in a digital world
- Evaluate a range of social media, technologies, and communities appropriate for supporting learning
- Develop online learning networks to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens
- Consider how you might connect, thrive, and serve in the TWU learning community

## Activity Checklist

Here is a checklist of learning activities you will benefit from in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### Learning Activity

#### Learning Activities

- Read *Global Citizenship Education* (2024) and *John Dewey Would Hate Your Digital Citizenship Curriculum* (2016) and write your personal definition of a digital citizen.
- Listen to the podcast on *Digital Citizenship* (2016).
- Read *Nine Elements of Digital Citizenship* (2023) and apply elements to your academic study.
- Explore resources on digital rights and responsibilities and join a discussion on an issue that interests you.
- Explore resources on professional online identity and networking in the field of your choice and reflect on your findings.
- Update your professional online biography and the “About” page of your course blog.
- Map your social network and consider the online communities you might join.

#### Notes:

*You will be directed to complete these activities as they come up in the unit. The learning activities in this course are designed to prepare you for the graded assignments in this course. You are strongly encouraged to complete them.*

### Assessment

- See the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details.

### Resources

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

### Resource Reminders

- Remember to continuously add resources to your Zotero library that align with your learning goals
- Utilize your community—peers, coworkers, and online communities—as valuable resources! Stay engaged to seek assistance and exchange helpful resources and insights.

## 5.1 Digital Citizenship

Before attempting to define digital citizenship, let's consider the concept of citizenship in its own right. In its simplest form, citizenship refers to the rights, privileges, and duties of being a national citizen. However, the concept of being a good citizen encompasses much more, particularly if you think about full engagement as a member of society.

*Citizenship is a status that is bestowed on those who are full members of a community.* (Marshall, 1950)

### 5.1.1 Activity: Reflecting on Digital Citizenship

#### Learning Activity

If good citizenship means fulfilling your role as citizen, can you think of five things good citizens do?

- **Read:** Consider the following questions while you read the resources below:
  - In a digital world, is loyalty to your country a necessary component of the definition of good citizenship?
  - Is education a prerequisite for good citizenship?
  - In a digital world, what does it mean to be a global citizen? Read the Wikipedia article on *Global Citizenship Education* (2024), where learners engage in solving real world problems.
  - Has the concept of good citizenship changed over time? In what ways?
  - Does citizenship require active community engagement? Read this post by Kristen Mattson, director of a high school library media center: *John Dewey Would Hate Your Digital Citizenship Curriculum* (2016). Why has the concept *digital* been linked with *citizenship* or should we drop the word *digital* and just talk about *good citizenship*?
- **Write** your thoughts in your Reflective Journal (using Obsidian or WordPress).

Conclude by writing a description of digital citizenship in your own words. (You will need this later for your Digital Citizenship Blog assessment. It does not need to be a scholarly definition—just your personal thoughts on the concept.)

#### 5.1.1.1 Defining Digital Citizenship

Defining digital citizenship is not easy because it means different things to different people. It is also a concept which is debated among scholars researching the field.

If you conduct a general search for “digital citizenship” you will find many links referencing resources targeting elementary and high school levels with a focus on safe, skilled, and ethical use of online technology. While these aspects are important, for the purposes of this tertiary-level course, we need to explore the concept of digital citizenship in more detail.

#### 5.1.2 Activity: Podcast on Digital Citizenship

##### Learning Activity

- **Listen:** In this activity you will listen to a podcast that focuses on the people dimension of digital citizenship.

Meet [Autumm Caines](#), associate director of academic technology from the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Capital University, speaking in a podcast with Bonni Stachowiak.

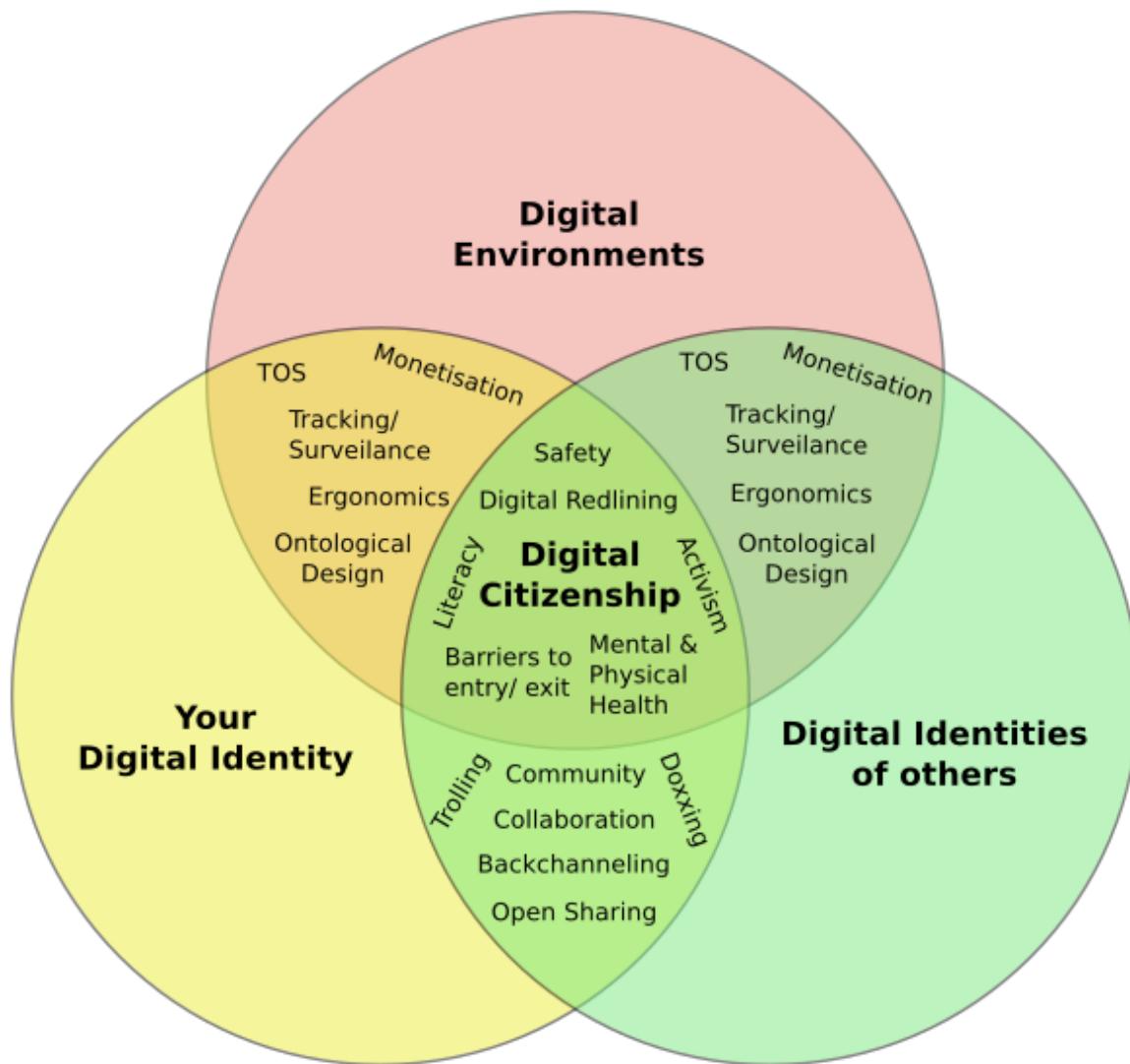
Listen to the first 15–20 minutes of this [Teaching in HigherEd](#) (2016) podcast on digital citizenship. The podcast introduces aspects of digital citizenship and the learner experience in starting out with engagement with social media.

#### 5.1.2.1 Guiding Framework

Caines (2016) provides a useful framework for thinking about digital citizenship:

- *Digital identities:* that is, who you are online including the identities of others (individuals and organizations)
- *Digital environments:* specifically the tools and online spaces we use to interact with each other; for example, Facebook, Discourse, X, blogs, forums, and so on.
- *Interactions:* between these identities and environments

Figure 5.1: Model for Digital Citizenship



*Note:* From “Digital Citizenship,” by A. Caines, 2016, August 25, *Teaching in Higher Ed* [Podcast] (<https://teachinginhighered.com/podcast/digital-citizenship/>) {target=\_blank}. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

### 5.1.3 Activity: Refined Definition of Digital Citizenship

#### Learning Activity

The purpose of this activity is to explore the elements of digital citizenship with particular emphasis on those relevant to your academic study.

Read through the following resources in order to refine your own definition of what it means to be a digital citizen.

- **Online search:**

- Read the introductory section of the Wikipedia article *Digital Citizen* (2024).
- Conduct a general search for “definition of digital citizen.” Choose the two best definitions and add these to the library of your citation management tool (Zotero or Obsidian), or keep a record for citation purposes.
- Locate one recent scholarly definition for “digital citizen.” Record the reference for citation purposes. How recent is the reference?

- **Social media search:**

- Explore recent tweets or posts (on X or whichever social media app you prefer) using the following hashtags: #digitalcitizenship, #digiciz, and #digicit. Compile a list of elements relating to the concept of digital citizenship.

- **Read and identify:**

- Read *Nine Themes of Digital Citizenship* (2023), and search for other academic articles on digital citizenship using Google Scholar, LitMaps, or the TWU Library.
- Generate a table listing the nine elements of digital citizenship and identify a practical example of each element for your academic study. For example:

- **Define** digital citizenship

- After completing the steps above, revise your personal description of digital citizenship. Does your new definition differ from your initial description?

- **Share** your insights. Share a reflection on this activity by posting either in your blog or on Discourse. For example:

- I didn’t realize the ... is part of digital citizenship because ...

- ... is not particularly relevant for university learners because ...
- ... is particularly relevant for university learners because ...

## Rights and Responsibilities

The concept of citizenship encompasses the rights and responsibilities of individuals. We need to consider what rights and responsibilities come with digital citizenship. In this mini challenge, we explore this topic with particular emphasis on the rights and responsibilities associated with learning in a digital age.

Following the hype of massive open online courses (MOOC) and the New York Times declaring 2012 the “[year of the MOOC](#),” a small group of educators drafted *A Bill of Rights and Principles for Learning in a Digital Age* (Ng, 2013). This document forms the basis for a course discussion on the rights and responsibilities of digital citizens.

### 5.1.4 Activity: Rights and Responsibilities of Digital Citizens

#### Learning Activity

- **Search:** Conduct a general search for rights and responsibilities of digital citizenship to assist in refining your own list for university online study. Your search is likely to generate many results developed for the school sector, so you need to evaluate whether these rights and responsibilities are appropriate for you.
- **Read:** Read the following and then conduct a search through the TWU library for digital rights and responsibilities.
  - *A Bill of Rights and Principles for Learning in the Digital Age* (2013)
  - *‘Bill of Rights’ Seeks to Protect Students’ Interests as Online Learning Rapidly Expands* (2013)
  - *Critique of ‘Bill of Rights and Principles for Learning in the Digital Age* (2013)
- **Blog:** Prepare a table summarizing the primary rights and responsibilities for university learning in a digital age.
- **Discuss:** Drawing on your knowledge and experience, join the discussion on Dis-course regarding rights and responsibilities for learning in a digital age at TWU. You can discuss the topical issues listed below or add new ones to the forum. In each case, justify your position, taking opposing views into account.

#### Topical Issues

- Should higher education institutions have the right to determine what software applications learners should use for their studies?

- Data generated by learners belongs to the learners, therefore should they have the right to access their data (for example forum discussion contributions) even after the course is completed?
- Should higher education institutions reserve the right to ban disruptive learners from their learning platforms?
- Where legally permissible, should learners have the right to access all course materials without the need to register a password?
- Should higher education institutions have the right to limit the time required for completing a course?
- Others?

We encourage you to reply and to “like” posts on Discourse. (Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101).

## **Personal and Professional Identity**

In short, digital citizenship is about being a person on the web. In the previous unit on building your online presence we noted that individuals portray different personas online; for example, personal, academic, and professional.

On the one hand, we need to be careful about what we post online because this can have a negative impact on future career prospects or current employment. We must also be cognizant of the different limitations that various careers place on what can be shared publicly and what needs to stay private. On the other hand, building a strong learning or professional network online is very powerful in staying up to date with new trends and establishing connections with your peers.

In this section, we reflect on the balance between public and private in a digital world, recognizing that this is going to be different for each person depending on their own environments and professional circumstances. We will also explore how like-minded professionals in your field of interest network online.

The ... impact exercised by ICTs is due to at least four major transformations: “the blurring of the distinction between reality and virtuality,” “the blurring of the distinction between human, machine and nature,” “the reversal from information scarcity to information abundance,” and “the shift from the primacy of stand-alone things, properties, and binary relations, to the primacy of interactions, processes and networks. (Floridi, 2015, p. 2)

### 5.1.5 Activity: Professional Online Identity and Digital Citizenship

#### Learning Activity

In this activity we will explore professional online identity and networking in the field of your choice.

- **Read:** First, scan the following resources:
  - *High Court Rules Public Servants can be Sacked for Political Social Media Posts* (2019)
  - *'Think of Social Media as a Virtual Resumé, Expert Warns in Light of Health Board Resignation* (2017)
  - You can also search online using the terms “fired over tweet” or “social media firing cases.”
- **Watch:** Watch the short video [Watch: Using Twitter effectively in education - with Alec Couros](#) Couros summarizes how educators are using Twitter (now X) to connect professionally.

Watch: *Using Twitter effectively in education - with Alec Couros*

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/EqSCR3HU4eg>

- LinkedIn: Finally, visit the LinkedIn [help page](#) on finding and joining a LinkedIn group. **Questions to Consider**

After completing the activities above answer the following questions:

- How do like-minded professionals in your career or future career, field, or discipline network online (e.g., X, LinkedIn groups, other websites)?
- What hashtags, if any, are being used for conversations in your chosen field?
- What are the topical areas of discussion at the moment?
- How could your field of interest improve professional networking online?
- Do organizations in your field place restrictions on employees participating in social networks? (See for example *Corporate Social Media Policies: The Good, the Mediocre, and the Ugly* (2010a), and *More Social Media Policies: LA Times, Harvard Law, Microsoft, and Cisco* (2010b)).

### **5.1.6 Activity: Blog: Professional Online Identity and Digital Citizenship**

#### Learning Activity

Prepare a short blog post (about 300–400 words) summarizing your findings on professional online networking in your field of interest. Consider the following questions:

- How do like-minded professionals in your field network online and what do they talk about?
- What does this mean for your online identity and being a digital citizen?

Remember to add a category or tag for your post using the course tag: LDRS101.

### **5.1.7 Activity: Blog: My Online Biography**

#### Learning Activity

In this challenge you are asked to build or update your professional online biography and the “About” page of your course blog.

- **Reflect** on the following online personas, target audiences, and how these will impact on the style and voice of the communication medium.

Persona	Primary audience
Personal	Friends and family
Professional	(Future) Employers and professional network
Academic	Peer learning network

- **Choose** the most appropriate medium for each of your online personas, for example:

Persona	Medium example
Personal	<a href="#">Facebook</a>
Professional	<a href="#">Linkedin</a>
Academic	Learning blog or website

- **Identify** one or two professionals from your field of interest who maintain an active web presence and contribute regularly via social media. Explore their respective websites and professional listings as examples.
  - X (formerly Twitter) is a good place to search for individuals using popular hashtags from your field or area of study, for example, “#highereducation”
  - Click through to their respective X user page. If they have a personal website listed on the user page visit the site and review their “About” page
  - Visit their employer’s page and try to locate their biography on the employer’s website
  - Search for the user on LinkedIn
  - Compare the user information on these different sites. Observe how they link to social media account, and vary the style and content presented for the different personas
- **Create** or update your professional profile on LinkedIn.
  - Consult TWU’s *Student Resources* website (n.d.-b) which includes information about LinkedIn. TWU gives you access to LinkedIn Learning, which includes several great courses and videos, such as *Rock Your LinkedIn Profile* (2024).
- **Create** or update your “About” page on your learning blog. You may prefer using a more informal style for this page aligned with your own personality and interests. Include links to your professional profile and respective links to social media that you use.
- **Visit** the profile pages of your active social media accounts. Update if necessary, providing links back to your main page (for example, the “About” page on your website).
- **Think carefully** about information you post publicly and keep a clear distinction between your personal online presence and your professional online persona. Review your privacy settings on your personal account(s).

## 5.2 Online Communities

In this section we explore the topic of online communities and how we can engage in social media to enhance our learning.

In the early years of the internet there was strong research interest in studying the differences between virtual and real communities. However, in more recent years we have observed a blurring of the boundaries between online and real communities. In *The Difference Between Online & Real Life Community?* Alison Michalk states:

Community boundaries are blurred to the extent that the Internet is nothing more than a conduit for communication. The Internet is now just another tool that we use to communicate within our various communities. The same as we use mail, telephone and even a car to keep in touch with our friends, family and colleagues. Our ‘real life communities’ are not mutually exclusive from our ‘online communities’ given that it all comes down to implied physical presence. (2013, para. 2)

So how do we join and contribute constructively to these digital communities? If you don't have much experience with online communities, we encourage you to participate in the course forums and become an active member of the TWU online learning community.

### Research on Online Communities

Research on the efficacy of online communities provides insights on selecting productive communities and how to engage. Community contributors can be classified into three types ([Mocus et al 2002](#)):

1. Core members are responsible for guiding the development of the community and have usually been involved with the community for a long time. These members have made significant contributions to the community's evolution and have earned leadership status. Frequently they also play an active role in moderation of the group.
2. Active members make regular contributions to the community.
3. Peripheral members occasionally contribute to the discussions and the periods of engagement are short and sporadic. “Lurkers”, that is individuals seeking answers without making contributions, are normally associated with this group. The nature of engagement in a community is influenced by the community's life cycle stage [A. Iriberry and G. Leroy 2009](#):

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#### Life cycle Characteristics\*\* stage\*\*

- Inception stage Focus is on determining the purpose, codes of conduct, funding and sustainability
- Creation stage User-centred design and evolution including issues of privacy, anonymity, open versus closed communications

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Growth stage Focus is on community building, for example, recruiting members, growth management, integrating new members, trust building, up-to-date content, interaction support, a few offline and online events and meetings

Maturity stage By this stage a community culture will have emerged with identifiable community leaders. Focus shifts to permeated management and control, recognition of contributions, recognition of loyalty, member satisfaction management and subgroup management.

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Additional factors identified by the research to keep in mind include:

- *Network cohesion*, that is the overall level of connections indicated by the network density has a positive impact on the core group as well as the success of the community (Toral et al 2010).(Toral et al., 2009).
- *Network structure*. Successful communities need a critical mass of contributors, however there is no fixed number that determines success. Most communities can expect between 45–90 % of nonactive members, but communities with a strong and experienced core group will have a positive impact on success (Nonnecke & Preece, 2000, as cited in Toral et al., 2009). Moreover, the positive effects of network structure on participation persist irrespective of the life cycle stage of the community, and activity participation influences network structure (Igl 2014).(Igl, 2014).
- *Centralization*. Communities with a high degree of centralization and control exert a negative impact on all participation variables (Igl, 2014).

### **Practical Implications**

There are many online communities, and it will be worth your effort in doing a little online research to determine the network cohesion and network structure of the community. You will be able to determine this by reviewing the archive history. Avoid communities with overly centralized control; in the long run, they are not likely to be productive.

When joining an online community try to identify its life cycle stage by scanning the archive of posts. Young communities are likely to be more tolerant of newbie questions, as responses to these questions will provide support resources for new members in the future. It's a good idea to search the forum for your answer before posting a question. Don't be surprised if newbie questions go unanswered in mature communities; they may even attract curt rebuttals. If you're a longstanding member of the community, post a tactful reply, for example, "Your question has already been answered" and post a link to the appropriate reply.

The best advice when joining a new community is to lurk for a while before introducing yourself so that you can become familiar with the culture and practices of the community. Fill out your profile page on the forum site, rather than posting a biography in the main discussion

threads. Of course, if the community is in the creation phase, you may want to play a more active role in building the community and becoming part of the core contributors.

## **Communities of Practice**

As you continue to reflect on your social network and consider other learning networks to join for personal or professional growth, we want to present another framing of an online community called a *community of practice*.

A community of practice is a group of people who “*share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.*”  
(Wenger-Trayner, 2022)

Cognitive anthropologists Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger coined the term community of practice when studying apprenticeships as a learning model—the term referred to the community that acts as a living curriculum. Once the concept was articulated the researchers started to see communities everywhere, even when no formal apprenticeship system existed.

The basic premise behind communities of practice is simple: we all learn in everyday life from the communities in which we find ourselves. Communities of practice are everywhere. Nearly everyone belongs to some community of practice, whether it is through our working colleagues or associates, our profession or trade, or our leisure interests, such as a book club. Wenger-Trayner (2022) argues that a community of practice is different from a community of interest or a geographical community in that it involves a shared practice: ways of doing things that are shared to some significant extent among members.

## **Characteristics of a Community of Practice**

According to Wenger-Treyner (2022) there are three crucial characteristics of a community of practice:

1. **Domain:** A common interest that connects and holds together the community;
2. **Community:** A community is bound by the shared activities they pursue (for example, meetings, discussions) around their common domain;
3. **Practice:** Members of a community of practice are practitioners; what they do informs their participation in the community; and what they learn from the community affects what they do. Wenger- Treyner has argued that although individuals learn through participation in a community of practice, more important is the generation of newer or deeper levels of knowledge through the sum of the group activity. If the community of practice is centered around business processes, for instance, this can be of considerable benefit to an organization.

## Types of Communities of Practice

Today, communities of practices are increasingly being used to improve knowledge management and connect people within business, government, education, and other organizations.

The design of the community will look different depending on the purpose and needs of the participants. There are four basic types of communities:

- **Helping communities** provide a forum for community members to help each other with everyday work needs
- **Best practice communities** develop and disseminate best practices, guidelines, and strategies for their members' use
- **Knowledge stewarding communities** organize, manage, and steward a body of knowledge from which community members can draw
- **Innovation communities** create breakthrough ideas, new knowledge, and new practices

As you reflect on digital practices in university and the workplace, consider how engaging in a community of practice could benefit you as a learner and in your future career.

### 5.2.1 Activity: What Is a Community of Practice?

#### Learning Activity

- **Watch:** *Communities of Practice* (Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner) (2022)

Watch: *Communities of Practice* (Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner)  
<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/SmqLyOLIjos>

- **Read:** To learn more about the origins and theory of communities of practice, see *Introduction to Communities of Practice* (2015)

Feel free to discuss your topics of interest in Discourse, or search online for communities of practice that interest you.

## 5.3 Connecting and Learning Through Social Media

### 5.3.1 Activity: Mapping My Social Network

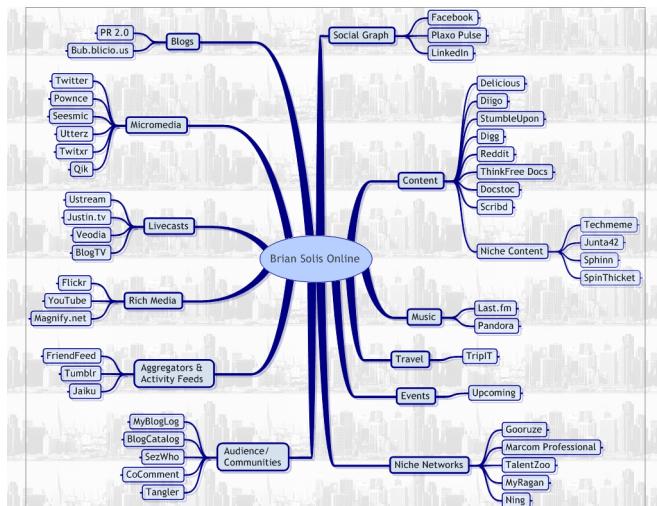
#### Learning Activity

Online communities are varied and can be categorized by their purpose: social, academic, professional, and so on. For this activity, we encourage you to consider your purpose in building an online community.

What are your goals?

- Do you want to connect with TWU peers internationally and in Canada? Is your focus on academic support or building personal relationships?
- Are you interested in the communities that relate to your chosen profession? If so, do a quick search for online communities for a career that interests you (e.g., for businesses: 15 Best Online Community Platforms of 2023 (Ranked)).
- Do you want to engage with online communities that align with your personal interests? (e.g., sports, arts, politics, gardening, coding)
- **Write:** Write down your goals for joining an online community. Next, consider the networks you are currently a part of. You may want to refer back to Unit 1 in which you created a Personal Learning Network map.
- **Map:** Now, with a focus on networking create your own Social Map. See the following example from Brian Solis, a digital analyst, anthropologist and author.

Figure 5.2: Brian Solis Online: Social Map



Note: From “Brian Solis Online,” by B. Solis, March 30, 2008, [@BRIANSOLIS](#) ([Home](#)-

page - Brian Solis). [CC BY 2.0.](#) - Finally, reflect on the social media technologies you use for learning and how these impact your digital footprint and online identity.

### 5.3.1.1 Collaboration and Annotation Tools

Another way to join an online community or discussion forum is to annotate the web. Hypothes.is is one tool used at TWU for students to collaborate and discuss online resources.

Hypothes.is is an open source platform that allows users to annotate any website, communicate with others, and collaborate with peers.

### 5.3.2 Activity: Introduction To Hypothes.is

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Go to the Hypothes.is website and have a quick read to see what the tool is and how it works.
- **Watch:** *How to Annotate the Web with Hypothes.is* (2017)

Watch: [How to Annotate the Web with hypothes.is](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/e235JwmmEcQ>

Finally, skim these articles highlighting the benefits of using annotative tools such as Hypothes.is:

- [Sharing Notes Is Encouraged: Annotating and Cocreating with Hypothes.is and Google Docs](#) (2021)
- [\[Jottings in the Margins - Using Digital Annotation to Support 21st Century Learning\]](#) ([https://www.thescopes.org/assets/scopes/SCOPE\\_104-Wood\\_LT9.pdf](https://www.thescopes.org/assets/scopes/SCOPE_104-Wood_LT9.pdf)) (2020)

### 5.3.3 Activity: Annotating and Collaborating in Hypothes.is

#### Learning Activity

In this activity, we will practice using Hypothes.is by annotating an article on the difference between digital skills and digital literacies.

- **Quick-Start Guide for Students Open account:** Read the Hypothes.is (2023b) *How to use Hypothes.is on Mobile Devices* and create an account on Hypothes.is. We

recommend that you use the Chrome browser and install the Hypothes.is extension. Alternatively, you can annotate web pages directly from the Hypothes.is website by pasting the link into the text area after you have logged into the site. If you are working on a mobile device, please follow these instructions: (2023a).

- **Read:** *Knowing the Difference Between Digital Skills and Digital Literacies, and Teaching Both* (2016)
- **Annotate:** Activate annotations after logging in to Hypothes.is—click the search icon () and enter the course code (LDRS101) to filter posts for this course from the public feed. Annotate or reply to posts by visiting the annotation page (you will need to be logged into the Hypothes.is site to post).

Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101 (the course tag is required to harvest posts for the course feed).

#### 5.3.4 Activity: Hypothes.is Challenge!

##### Learning Activity

In this course we have provided numerous articles, websites, videos, and other resources to support your learning. Perhaps you have added these resource links to Obsidian or Zotero for future reference (e.g., preparing for citations needed for course assignments). Here is one more step we encourage you to take advantage of:

- Review the course learning outcomes.
- Refer to the Course Book table of contents and look at the Unit topics, subtopics, and activities listed.
- Recall any resources that stood out to you. What article, video, or website do you want to engage with further? What key points would you like to discuss with your peers?
- Select three or more resources to reread and annotate using Hypothes.is.
- Reply to posts by visiting the annotation page (you will need to be logged into the Hypothes.is site to post).

Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

### 5.3.5 Activity: Social Media for Connecting and Learning

#### Learning Activity

In this activity we will explore how social media can support online learning and engagement.

- *Social Media for Learning* **Read:** (n.d.)
- **Watch:** *Building More Creative Social Networks* (2020)

**Watch:** *Building More Creative Social Networks*

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Acc4zY1sQ0o>

- *The Conversation Prism* **Explore:** Check out (2008) and also refer to the graphic below listing numerous apps for listening, learning, and adapting (click the graphic to enlarge).

Feel free to annotate the articles you read or reply to annotations using Hypothes.is. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

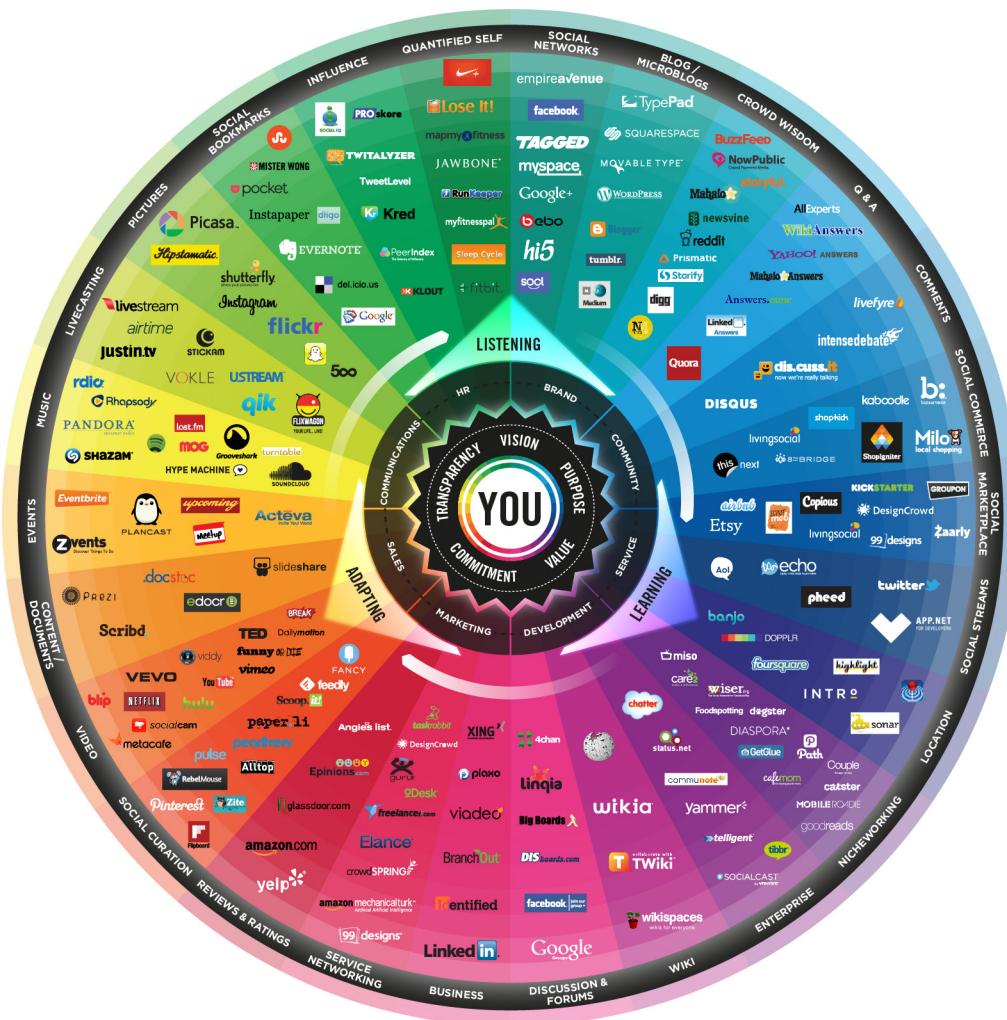
*The Conversation Prism*

[Alt text: colourful segmented circle containing many media apps]

Figure 5.3: A colorful circular chart with many different colored icons Description automatically generated with medium confidence

# THE CONVERSATION PRISM

Brought to you by  
Brian Solis & JESS3



For more information  
check out [theconversationprism.com](http://theconversationprism.com)

*Note:* From “Conversations Prism 4” by Solucionafacil.es, December 12, 2013, Flickr (<https://flickr.com/photos/solucionafacil/11327713066/>). CC BY-ND 2.0.

### 5.3.6 Activity: Social Media, Online Identity, and Learning

#### Learning Activity

- **Write:** Join the Discourse forum on social media, online identity, and learning by sharing your personal views and thoughts. Choose one or more of the following questions as a catalyst for your contributions to the forum:
  - How much of what you learn should be open and transparent (i.e., public) and how much should be kept private? Why?
  - In a digital age, how important is it for you to build a digital footprint of your learning?
  - What are the challenges and opportunities for building your online identity?
  - What levels of online engagement do you feel are appropriate for your own learning on this course? Does this differ from your engagement in other online communities?
  - Other?

Like, share and reply to posts. These are forms of engagement and a contribution to your online learning identity. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

## 5.4 Connecting to the TWU Community

Our final topic focuses on the TWU community and how you can participate both online and on campus. As a TWU student you have the opportunity to connect with a diverse student body, faculty, and staff. What role does technology play in how you communicate with your peers, collaborate on projects, and build relationships?

In this unit we have discussed what it means to be a digital citizen and how we can engage with online communities. How does this apply to you as a TWU student? As we wrap up this unit, we encourage you to reflect on your personal and academic goals and how you can engage with the TWU community.

### 5.4.1 Activity: TWU’s Learning Community

## Learning Activity

- **Read:** Take a moment to reread the course description for this course:

Introduces theories and competencies related to learning and thriving in a digital world. Explores how learners are situated in “the digital” throughout their lives and how they can use digital technologies to enhance and enrich their experience of learning, working, and playing. Learners will begin to build a curated digital footprint, initiate and develop personal and professional learning networks; develop competencies to allow them to evaluate and choose digital platforms and tools that are safe and ethical; and explore how to use digital technologies to discover, curate, connect, and share knowledge with their communities.

Next, focus on two key course learning outcomes:

- Develop personal and professional learning networks to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens.
- Create inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality.

Finally, take a look at Trinity’s *Life at TWU* (n.d.-a) website.

We invite all TWU students to connect, thrive, and serve in a dynamic, Christ-centred learning community where they can develop as maturing disciples, thoughtful global citizens, and compassionate servant leaders. *Experience life and learning here.*

- **Reflect:** How might you connect, thrive, and serve through your connections and contributions online, and if applicable, on campus?

What experiences have you had so far in connecting with your peers and getting to know the TWU community? If you have not participated in the engagement opportunities presented in this course (Discourse, WordPress blog), take the time now to connect!

### **TWU on Social Media**

Here are some other websites you might want to check out for more about the TWU community:

- TWU Facebook
- X (Twitter)
- Instagram
- **Write:** Jot down your responses to the following questions in your reflective journal (Obsidian):

- What are your personal and academic goals for making connections at TWU?
- What steps will you take to make those connections?
- What technology or digital skills will you need to fully engage?
- How can connecting to the TWU community enhance your understanding of digital citizenship and online networking?

## 5.5 Summary

In this unit you have had the opportunity to learn what it means to be a digital citizen, including the rights and responsibilities we should abide by. You have had the opportunity to explore and connect with an online community and have reflected on your personal and academic goals for networking. Finally, you have considered your role as a TWU student and how you might build connections with peers, faculty, and staff. As we move on to our final unit, consider how you might share your knowledge online and create an inclusive digital community.

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit check that you are able to:

Discuss the dimensions of digital citizenship for work and learning in the 21st century and how these differ from the offline environment  
Outline the rights and responsibilities of a digital citizen  
Explore professional online identity and networking in the field of your choice  
Reflect on the balance between public and private in a digital world  
Evaluate a range of social media, technologies, and communities appropriate for supporting learning  
Develop online learning networks to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens  
Consider how you might connect, thrive, and serve in the TWU learning community :::

# 6 Sharing Your Knowledge

## Overview

Congratulations! You've made it to the final unit in our course, *Learning with Technology*. In this last unit we will have a chance to explore some digital tools that you may encounter in your academic studies at TWU. We'll look at how these skills translate to preparing you for the workplace and will examine the role technology plays in your chosen field of study. You'll also have the opportunity to research some current events related to societal issues and the internet and will discuss how to address these challenges. Finally, we'll conclude our course with a discussion on digital wisdom. As you begin this unit, here are some guiding questions to consider:

- How will my use of technology support my social, academic, and spiritual goals?
- How will I share my knowledge and skills to engage as a digital global citizen?
- How will I connect and collaborate with others as part of an inclusive digital community?

## Topics

This unit is divided into the following topics:

1. Sharing your learning at TWU
2. Digital practices in the workplace
3. Societal issues and the internet
4. Digital wisdom

## Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this unit you will be able to:

- Discuss how technology has changed business practices in your field of interest or career
- Utilize technology to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens
- Describe societal issues and problematic online behaviours which have emerged in the digital world, and how to deal with these challenges in an ethical manner

- Create inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality
- Create a personalized narrative to document and express your learning process
- Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge

## Activity Checklist

Here is a checklist of learning activities you will benefit from in completing this unit. You may find it useful for planning your work.

### Learning Activity

#### Learning Activities

- Watch the video [Higher Ed Trends: Student Career Anxiety and the Future of Work \(2015\)](#)
- Read the articles on how the internet impacted the newspaper and music industries.
- Discuss the impact of digital technology on business.
- Explore AI tools for university students and view the resources provided.
- View the resources on AI and plagiarism.
- Discuss the impact of automation and AI in the workplace.
- View the resources on the price of AI and discuss the ethical implications.
- Explore the topics focusing on societal issues on the internet, including website tracking, trolling, net neutrality, and equity.
- Publish an editorial on your blog about an issue that interests you.
- Read the article on digital wisdom and reflect on how technology serves both personal and communal benefits.

#### *Notes:*

- *You will be directed to complete these activities as they come up in the unit.*
- *The learning activities in this course are designed to prepare you for the graded assignments in this course. You are strongly encouraged to complete them.*

### Assessment

- *See the Assessment section in Moodle for assignment details.*

## Resources

- All resources will be provided online in the unit.

### *Resource Reminders*

- Remember to continuously add resources that align with your learning goals to your Zotero library.
- Utilize your community—peers, coworkers, and online communities—as valuable resources! Stay engaged to seek assistance and exchange helpful resources and insights.

## 6.1 Sharing Your Learning at TWU

Community is an essential component of Trinity Western University. Just have a look at the [TWU website](#) and you will find several references to learning within a community. For example:

At Trinity Western University, you'll experience an authentic and engaging community as you enrich your understanding of the world—preparing for a life of faithful engagement in your community and profession. We are deeply committed to providing a transformational education, where you will develop practical professional skills while exploring bigger ideas about who you are, what you believe, and what you're called to do in the world. (Trinity Western University, n.d.-c)

Why is community so important to TWU, and how does it help us learn? Have a quick read about TWU's [Core Values](#) (n.d.-b). At this point in the course, we hope you have taken full advantage of the online community and have personal examples of how these interactions have impacted you.

As for learning ... how does sharing our learning within a community help us achieve our personal and professional goals?

There are several social learning theories and practices that explain how social interactions impact our learning (e.g., situated learning, social constructivism, connectivism, cooperative and collaborative learning, communities of inquiry, and so on). If you're interested, feel free to look these up online or use tools such as LitMaps.

In this course we have promoted the use of tools that allow you to share your learning online: Discourse, Hypothes.is, and WordPress. Our goal is to help you utilize technology to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens. In the next activity, we ask you to reflect on your learning experiences and your goals.

### 6.1.1 Activity: Learning in Community

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Here are several resources that explain how we learn in community.
  - [Social Learning in Online Environments](#) (n.d.)
  - [Social Learning Theories](#) (2021)
  - [Social Networking, Knowledge Sharing, and Student Learning: The Case of University Students](#) (2016)
  - [Collaborative Learning in Higher Education: Evoking Positive Interdependence](#) (2016)
- **Watch:** [What is Social Learning?](#) (2017)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/AB-\\_822TRms](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/AB-_822TRms)

- At TWU you may be asked to participate in various group activities, such as group work, partner projects, team presentations, and so on. Have a look at this resource that explains examples and reasons for these activities:
- [Group Work: Using Cooperative Learning Groups Effectively](#) (2015)

Students also have the opportunity to share their learning beyond the classroom. Here are some examples highlighting student collaboration and sharing at TWU:

- [TWU Media + Communications Students Showcase Their Work at Student Film Festival, Cinergy 2023](#) (2023)
- [Students Attend the Western Division of Canadian Association of Geographers](#) (2017)
- **Write:** What do you think? How have you experienced social learning in your educational experiences? How did it help or hinder your learning? What are your goals for sharing your learning in your TWU classes and beyond? Share your thoughts by posting a comment on Discourse, for example: “Sharing learning in academia is valuable because ...”

### **6.1.2 Activity: Preparing for the Future**

#### Learning Activity

Throughout your studies at TWU you will share your learning with instructors, your peers, and the community. You will also practice and master various skills including digital skills, leadership skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills. Why are these important? How do your studies and activities at TWU prepare you to meet those necessary skills?

TWU has a [Centre for Calling & Career Development](#) that aims to equip students for their future careers. Have a look at their Career Ready Framework in the figure below.

Figure 6.1: Career Ready Framework



*Source:* From “Centre for Calling & Career Development,” by Trinity Western University. n.d., ([Centre for Calling & Career Development | Trinity Western University](#)).

- **Write:** What competencies do you see that relate to social learning and digital skills? As this course aims to prepare you for the technology skills that are needed in this digital age, we also want to encourage you to develop personal and professional learning networks to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens.

Consider the following questions:

- What skills and competencies do you want to practice to be successful in your future career?
- How does collaborative learning and sharing your learning contribute to your learning journey?

Feel free to share your thoughts in your Obsidian journal, Discourse, or your WordPress blog.

## 6.2 Digital Practices in the Workplace

Let’s fast forward to a time when you graduate from Trinity—fully equipped with the knowledge, skills, character, and creativity to make a lasting impact in the world. What digital skills will you have to prepare you for your future career? In this topic we consider how changes in technology have and will continue to impact digital practices in the workplace. Pause and consider the following questions:

- How do professionals in your field of interest network online?
- How has technology changed business practices in your field of interest or career?
- What are the implications for learning and skills development in your future career precipitated by changes in digital technology?

### 6.2.1 Activity: The Future of Work

#### Learning Activity

In the following short video, [Ken Steele](#) from Eduvation speculates about the future of the labour market and the value of higher education in a digital age.

- **Watch:** [Higher Ed Trends: Student Career Anxiety and the Future of Work](#) (2015)

Watch: *Higher Ed Trends: Student Career Anxiety and the Future of Work*  
<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/iY4UhfQefdU>

What do you think? Share your thoughts by posting a comment on Discourse, for example:

- Higher education is valuable because ...
- In a digital age ...
- I am confident that ...
- I am concerned about ...

## Technology and Change

Throughout history there are technologies that have influenced change in society. Consider, for example, the invention of the steam engine and its contribution to the Industrial Revolution. In more recent times, the advent of digital photography displaced Kodachrome (at one time, the market leader in colour film sales) which ceased production in 2009.

### 6.2.2 Activity: Newspaper and Music Industry in a Digital Age

#### Learning Activity

The readings that follow take a retrospective look at the impact of the internet on the newspaper and music industries.

- **Read:**
  - [The age of Digital; Music Executive Reacts to the Impact of Digitalization in the Music Industry](#) (2022)
  - [The Future of Newspapers in the Digital Age: Embracing the Change!](#) (2023)
- **Annotate:** Add or reply to annotations using [Hypothes.is](#), sharing personal insights and experiences. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

### 6.2.3 Activity: Impact of Digital Technology on Business

#### Learning Activity

- **Discuss:** Join the Discourse discussion on the impact of digital technology on business:
- Choose any business or work environment (for example, your current career or future career).
- Think about examples of how digital technology has had an impact on your chosen business over the last 30 years.
- State your business or work environment and share a practical example of how digital technology has influenced change in your chosen area:
- Has the example contributed to a fundamental change in the way things were done, or is this a minor change?
- Do you anticipate significant changes in your industry as a result of digital technology in the future? Provide an example.

Like, share, and reply to posts. These are forms of engagement and a contribution to your online learning identity. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

## Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is predicted to have a significant impact on society and business. Examples include autonomous cars, computers understanding human speech, and machine learning. Consider for instance that computer chess games available for commercial desktop machines have the ability to beat accomplished chess players including grand masters. And of course, Chat GPT.

In this section we introduce a few interesting examples of artificial intelligence to provide a sense of how sophisticated these technologies are becoming.

First, let's define AI:

The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages. (Oxford Reference, n.d.)

The capacity of a computer, robot, programmed device, or software application to perform operations and tasks analogous to learning and decision making in humans, such as speech recognition or question answering. (Dictionary.com, 2024)

What is your experience with AI? Have you used an AI tool such as Grammerly or ChatGPT? How has this technology affected you as a student, and what effect do you think it has had or will have on your chosen profession?

In the next activity, we'll explore some of these questions and concerns.

#### 6.2.4 Activity: How Can I Use AI as a Student?

##### Learning Activity

- **Read:** First, do a quick search online for AI tools for university students. Examples:
  - [How can AI be Used by University Students?](#) (2023)
  - [10 Best AI Tools for Homework and Studying in 2024](#) (2023)

Intrigued? Do you find any tech tools that would be useful in understanding course topics, studying, generating flashcards, transcribing lectures and voice notes, correcting grammar, writing an essay, creating a slideshow presentation, drafting a forum discussion post, and so on?

Do any of these capabilities concern you? Do you think they concern your professors or fellow students?

Review TWU's policy on [Academic Misconduct & Fraud](#) (n.d.-a). Is it academic fraud if you use Chat GPT to complete assignments?

Prote: italicize linked titles in paras above and below

Search online for key words related to this issue, such as “university concern policy artificial intelligence” and you will find numerous articles on the use of AI in universities, as well as emerging policies. The University of Toronto’s guidelines and FAQ for [ChatGPT and Generative AI in the Classroom](#) (2024) are one such example.

Here are some guidelines you may receive from your instructors at TWU:

- Students are encouraged to make use of technology including generative artificial intelligence tools to contribute to their understanding of course materials. Students must submit as an appendix with their assignments any content produced by an artificial intelligence tool, and the prompt used to generate the content.
- Any content produced by an artificial intelligence tool must be cited appropriately. Many organizations that publish standard citation formats now provide information on citing generative AI (e.g., [MLA Style Center](#)).
- Students may use artificial intelligence tools for creating an outline for an assignment but the final submitted assignment must be original work produced by the individual student alone.
- Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests, writing research papers, creating computer code, or completing major course assignments. However,

these tools may be useful when gathering information across sources and assimilating it for understanding.

If you have any question about the use of AI applications for course work, please speak with your instructor.

- **Watch:** [How AI Could Save \(Not Destroy\) Education](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/hJP5GqnTrNo) (2023)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/hJP5GqnTrNo>

Here is one more article that discusses the pros and cons of English learners using AI in their studies:

- [\*Perspectives of the Use of ChatGPT as a Tool for Online Education of English\*](#) (2023)

### 6.2.5 Activity: How to Identify AI Generated Text

#### Learning Activity

Explore the infographic below by Ryan Morrison.

Consider trying out ChatGPT to see if you can spot the ways to identify AI generated writing.

- **Watch:** [Plagiarizing ChatGPT - Is it Illegal?](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/zuvN8_6QIKk) (2022)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/zuvN8\\_6QIKk](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/zuvN8_6QIKk)

- **Read:** [\*Optional resource: ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Quick Start Guide.\*](#) (2023)

### Jobs and Automation

In this section we consider the impact of automation on the future job market and the implications for education and training. Consider:

- Will robots replace humans?
- What jobs are most at risk of being replaced by robots?
- What are the implications for learning in a digital age?

### 6.2.6 Activity: Impact of Automation and AI in the Workplace

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** [\*Collaborative Intelligence: Humans and AI are Joining Forces\* \(2018\).](#)
- **Watch:** [Humans Need Not Apply](#) (2014)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/7Pq-S557XQU>

Consider your chosen field of study. How can AI benefit your industry? Are there any concerns regarding how AI might be used?

### 6.2.7 Activity: The Price of AI

#### Learning Activity

In this topic we've explored AI—its possibilities for study and careers, and some concerns about using AI. This activity focuses on how AI moderates harmful content. How does AI know what is harmful? Since AI tools are built on all kinds of information, including harmful and hateful content, how is this content identified?

AI systems require lots of work from humans to function correctly. A 2023 report from Time magazine showed that people in Kenya were paid poverty wages to build a safety system into ChatGPT (Perrigo, 2023). Since the platform was fed data from various places sometimes it would make racist or abusive remarks. To build a safeguard into the system workers were exposed to vile and offensive web content in order to tag it so that the platform could eventually recognize offensive speech on its own. A large portion of this content was very traumatic, and workers interviewed said they were mentally scarred from the work.

- **Read:**
  - [OpenAI Used Kenyan Workers on Less Than \\$2 Per Hour to Make ChatGPT Less Toxic](#) (2023)
  - [Inside Facebook's African Sweatshop](#) (2022)
- **Watch:** [Doing Grueling Work for an AI: Data Labeling](#) (2023)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/ug\\_p2wHhla0](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/ug_p2wHhla0)

- **Questions to Consider:**

- Is it ethical to submit Kenyan workers to trauma in order to sanitize ChatGPT for other users?
- What other solutions are there for training AI to moderate content?

- Share your thoughts on AI by posting a comment on Discourse, for example:
  - AI will ...
  - I was surprised that AI ...
  - In [insert business] AI will ...

## 6.3 Societal Issues and the Internet

In this next topic we introduce a number of societal issues and problematic online behaviours that have emerged in the digital world. Our list is not comprehensive and does not provide a thorough examination of the issues. Here, we encourage you to choose an issue for further investigation.

Choose one societal issue or antisocial behaviour associated with the internet that you would like to investigate further, and publish as an editorial in your course blog. You will base your focus on your reading of open access resources you find online. Your blog post will also help you build your online identity.

- Website tracking
- Online impersonation
- Internet trolling
- Online harassment
- Psychological issues
- Net neutrality
- Digital redlining
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

### 6.3.1 Activity: Problematic Online Behaviours—Key Terms Quiz

#### Learning Activity

To test your knowledge of concepts associated with problematic behaviours online, we provide a short orientation quiz below. Once you have attempted your first answer, and in the event that you are not familiar or not sure what the alternatives mean, click the options to find out more about the concept.

How did you do? Have you encountered any of these behaviours online? Share your thoughts by posting a comment on Discourse.

## **Website Tracking**

Website tracking is the practice of collecting data about a user's online activities when they visit websites or use web services. This data is gathered primarily for marketing and analytical purposes, allowing website owners, advertisers, and service providers to better understand user behaviour, tailor their services, and deliver targeted content and advertisements. Before we delve into the details of web tracking, watch the video below.

### **6.3.2 Activity: The True Cost of Free Websites**

#### Learning Activity

Watch this *Matrix* parody, a comedy skit published by CollegeHumour, depicting that if you are not paying for the service, you are not the consumer but the product.

- **Watch:** [The Terrifying Cost of “Free” Websites \(2016\)](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/5pFX2P7JLwA)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/5pFX2P7JLwA>

Were you surprised by any ideas presented in the video? Do you think this is a valid and reliable source for the topic?

Next we will give an overview of how website tracking works, how your data is used, and how you can protect yourself online.

#### **How Does Website Tracking Work?**

**Cookies:** Cookies are small text files that websites store on your device. They contain information about your online activities such as login credentials, preferences, and browsing history. Websites use cookies to recognize and remember you when you return, and they can also track your movements across the site.

**IP Address Tracking:** Every device connected to the internet has a unique IP address. Websites can log and analyze these addresses to determine a user's approximate location and to track their visits.

**Analytics Tools:** Many websites use analytics tools such as Google Analytics to monitor user behaviour. These tools track which pages you visit, how long you stay on each page, and how you arrived at the website (e.g., through a search engine or a referral from another site). This data helps website owners optimize their content and user experience.

**Ad Trackers:** Advertisers and ad networks use various techniques to track your online behaviour. They place cookies on your device, which allows them to follow your movements

across multiple websites. This data is used to deliver personalized ads based on your interests and browsing history.

**Social Media Widgets:** Social media buttons and widgets on websites can track your activity, even if you don't click them. They often use this information to build a profile of your interests and habits.

**Fingerprinting:** Fingerprinting is a technique that collects data about your device and browser configuration such as your screen resolution, installed fonts, and plugins. This information can be used to create a unique identifier for your device and track your online activities.

**Location Data:** Many websites request access to your device's location information. This can be used to provide location-based services, but it also allows websites to track your physical movements.

**Data Brokers:** Your data may be collected, aggregated, and sold to data brokers who build detailed profiles about individuals. These profiles can include your demographic information, interests, and online behaviour.

### **How is my Data Used When I use the Internet?**

**Personalization:** Websites and online services use the data they collect to personalize your experience; for example, they may recommend products, content, or services based on your browsing history and preferences.

**Targeted Advertising:** Advertisers use your data to show you ads that are more likely to be relevant to your interests. This is why you might see ads for products you've recently searched for online.

**Analytics and Optimization:** Website owners use tracking data to improve their websites and services, making them more user friendly and effective.

**Market Research:** Aggregated user data is often used for market research and to identify trends and consumer preferences.

**Data Profiling:** Your data may be used to build detailed profiles about you. These profiles can be used for a variety of purposes including credit scoring, job recruiting, and targeted marketing.

**Security and Fraud Prevention:** Tracking data can also be used for security purposes, helping to detect and prevent fraudulent activities.

## **What are the Privacy Concerns?**

Privacy concerns regarding website tracking primarily revolve around the collection and use of personal data without the explicit consent of users. Here are some key privacy concerns and ways in which users can protect themselves from tracking:

**Invasion of Privacy:** Website tracking can create a detailed profile of an individual's online behaviour, which may include sensitive information such as health concerns, financial status, or personal interests. This can be seen as an invasion of privacy.

**Data Breaches:** There is an increased risk of data breaches when your data is collected and stored by multiple parties. If a hacker gains access to a company's database that stores user data, your personal information may be exposed.

**Targeted Advertising:** While some users appreciate personalized ads, others find them intrusive and a form of manipulation. The extensive tracking of online behaviour allows advertisers to deliver highly targeted ads, which can feel invasive.

**Third-Party Sharing:** Data collected by websites is often shared with third-party companies, including data brokers and ad networks. Users may not be aware of who has access to their data and how it's used.

## **How can I Protect Myself From Tracking?**

**Use Privacy-Focused Browsers:** Consider using web browsers that prioritize user privacy, such as Mozilla Firefox or the Tor Browser. These browsers often include built in tracking protection features.

**Browser Extensions:** Install browser extensions or add-ons such as uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger, and HTTPS Everywhere, which can block tracking cookies, scripts, and enhance your online security.

**Opt-Out Options:** Some websites and advertising networks provide options to opt out of personalized ads. You can often find these settings in the privacy sections of websites or through industry specific opt-out platforms such as the Network Advertising Initiative (NAI) or the Digital Advertising Alliance (DAA).

**Use a VPN:** A virtual private network (VPN) can hide your IP address and encrypt your internet traffic, making it more challenging for websites to track your location and online activities.

**Cookie Settings:** Adjust your browser's cookie settings to block third-party cookies. You can choose to accept cookies only from visited websites, which limits tracking across different sites.

**Use Private Browsing Modes:** Most browsers offer private or incognito modes that don't store your browsing history or cookies. While this doesn't provide complete anonymity, it limits tracking to a single session.

**Search Engines:** Consider using privacy focused search engines such as DuckDuckGo or Startpage, which do not track your search queries.

**Review App Permissions:** On mobile devices, review and restrict the permissions granted to apps, including location access. Some apps collect more data than necessary for their core functionality.

**Regularly Clear Cookies:** Periodically clear your browser's cookies and browsing history to remove tracking data that has been collected over time.

**Educate Yourself:** Stay informed about online privacy and data protection practices. Understand the privacy policies of websites and services you use and be cautious about sharing personal information online.

**Consider VPNs and Encrypted Messaging:** For heightened privacy, use end-to-end encrypted messaging apps such as Signal, and consider using a reputable VPN service to protect your online communication.

It's important to note that while these steps can help reduce online tracking they might not completely eliminate it. Achieving complete anonymity on the internet is challenging, but these measures can significantly enhance your online privacy and data security. Additionally, privacy laws and regulations in your region may provide you with rights and options for controlling how your data is collected and used online.

### 6.3.3 Activity: Website Tracking Resources

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Choose from the resources below to inform your views on website and data tracking:
  - *The Real Cost of the 'Free' Internet* (2018)
  - *Stop Saying 'If You're not Paying, You're the Product'* (2012)
  - *Don't Be Evil: Should we use Google in Schools?* (2021)

Also review these resources on corporate sponsored research:

- [Funding Bias](#) (2024)
- [Sponsors' Participation in Conduct and Reporting of Industry Trials: A Descriptive Study](#) (2012)
- [Ad Blocking](#) (2024)

After viewing these resources, what do you think the cost of free websites is? Do you use ad blocking software? Think about the reasons for your choice.

- **Write:** Share your thoughts on Discourse or use Hypothes.is to annotate and share your comments.

#### 6.3.4 Activity: Forum: Philanthropy and Corporate Advertising

##### Learning Activity

Next, let's explore and reflect on the relationship between corporate commercial interests and digital citizenship for learning in a digital age.

- **Read** the following case study:

The OERu is a charitable organization which provides open online courses for free, using open educational resources which any educational institution can adopt, modify, and reuse. There are costs that must be covered to sustain the OERu; for example, the assembly of open online courses, hosting of server and software infrastructure, staff to coordinate and support the initiative, and so on. The OERu does not generate any revenue from corporate services; for example, it does not allow advertising on OERu course sites for a share of advertising revenue. Moreover, the OERu does not sell or generate revenue from personal data learners provide by using these free learning services, therefore users are not the product of this service.

- **Discuss:** Join the discussion in Discourse on philanthropy and corporate advertising. The key question is how can nonprofit organizations sustain free educational services for those who can't afford traditional education provision?

Consider the following issues:

- As a learner, how would you feel if course materials included corporate advertising? If advertising were to be supported, how would you feel if OERu course sites required you to switch off any ad blockers before gaining access to the course materials?
- Is it appropriate for publicly funded institutions and charities working in education to generate revenue from corporate advertising to support and sustain free online services? What are the risks and opportunities?
- Should education institutions and educational charities accept significant corporate sponsorship in return for profiling proprietary products?
- The OERu has recommended that learners use free blogging services to share their learning outputs. Many of these services carry advertising. How do you feel about

using these services—being the product rather than the consumer? Would it be better for OERu to recommend that learners use a paid service without advertising? How would this impact on learners who do not have sufficient funds to afford a domain of their own?

- Other?

Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101

### Online Impersonation

Impersonation online refers to the act of creating an online presence in someone else's name. This is potentially a complex issue as some social media sites permit parody accounts or accounts that are intended to represent real individuals. It is not necessarily illegal to impersonate someone per se, for example in comedy, but online impersonation is a growing problem. Many social media sites have anti-impersonation policies, but this is not sufficient guarantee or protection against the risks of online impersonation.

#### 6.3.5 Activity: Identify the Imposter!

##### Learning Activity

- **View:** Visit the profile page of following X (Twitter) accounts:
  - [Nelson Mandela](#)
  - [Mark Zuckerberg](#)
  - [Elon Musk](#)
  - [Darth Vader](#)
- **Read** the following articles on the social media response to impersonation:
  - [\*Misleading and Deceptive Identities Policy \(X\)\* \(2023\)](#)
  - [\*How to Report a Facebook Account or Page That's Pretending to be me or Someone Else?\* \(n.d.\)](#)
  - [\*Reporting Impersonation on Social Media\* \(2016\)](#)

Have you seen a fake account on social media? What clues did you have that it was not real?

**Note:** If interested, search on X for some parody accounts. Some can be quite entertaining, but you might notice that other accounts simply mock the person they are parodying. Would you create a parody account in order to ridicule someone—perhaps a political view you don't agree with? What should our response be to such messages on social media? How can we promote inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality?

### 6.3.6 Activity: How to Spot a Scammer

#### Learning Activity

- **Watch:** Check out these two videos that share signs to help you identify online impersonation.

– [Watch out for Scammers Using Fake Instagram Profiles \(2023\)](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/F57DE05FpgQ?si=Pq7GlHGpNCbTG0xu)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/F57DE05FpgQ?si=Pq7GlHGpNCbTG0xu>

- Cyber Sandra's Hacks - Social Media Impersonation (2021)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Ta6qq7wnpcA>

### 6.3.7 Activity: Case Study on Catfishing

#### Learning Activity

Catfishing is the deceptive practice of creating a fictional online presence to lure somebody into a relationship, for example, a romance scam.

Dr. Alec Couros is Associate Professor of Information and Communication Technologies at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan. Dr. Couros has experienced a number of scams where his personal photos have been used to lure woman into an online romantic relationship for the purpose of “borrowing” or extorting money. Check out his experiences:

- **Read:**

- [Your Photos can be Used in ‘Catfishing’ Romance Scams \(2018a\)](#)
- [Identity, Love, and Catfishing \(2013\)](#)
- [Would the Real ‘Alec Couros’ Please Stand Up \(2014\)](#)
- Visit this website that reports online scams: [ScamDigger Forum \(n.d.\)](#).

- **Watch:**

- Watch: *How to Detect a Facebook Scammer With Google Reverse Image Search* (2014)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/s6Q4U8DvJH8>

Optional reading: (expletive warning)

- *Facebook as Catfish Paradise: Its Community Standards Wears the Cone of Shame* (2015)

Feel free to share personal reflections on the phenomenon of online impersonation by posting a comment on Discourse.

## Internet Trolling

Sometimes trolls live under bridges. But not everyone living under a bridge is a troll. (Wikimedia Foundations, n.d.)

It is estimated that the internet has about 5.473 billion users, almost half the population of the world (Tsvetkova, 2023). With the growing number of internet and social media users we are witnessing an increase in antisocial behaviour online.

In this section we explore the phenomenon of internet trolling and strategies for managing disruptive online behaviour, taking the communication context into account.

In slang, a troll is a person who posts deliberately offensive or provocative messages online (such as in social media, a newsgroup, a forum, a chat room, an online video game) or who performs similar behaviors in real life. The methods and motivations of trolls can range from benign to sadistic. These messages can be inflammatory, insincere, digressive, extraneous, or off-topic, and may have the intent of provoking others into displaying emotional responses, or manipulating others' perception, thus acting as a bully or a provocateur. The behavior is typically for the troll's amusement, or to achieve a specific result such as disrupting a rival's online activities or purposefully causing confusion or harm to others. ("Troll (Slang)," 2024)

### 6.3.8 Activity: Trolling in Social Media

#### Learning Activity

- **Quiz:** Take the [Spot the Troll](#) quiz (n.d.), which uses images of real social media content. How did you do? Did some of the profiles surprise you? Have you encountered these types of profiles on social media?
- **Read:** As you read the following, pay particular attention to strategies for dealing with trolling behaviour.
  - [Troll \(Slang\)](#) (2024)
  - [What is a Troll?](#) (n.d.)
  - [Internet Trolling: How do you Spot a Real Troll?](#) (2024)
- **Watch:**
  - [The Secret Confessions of an Internet Troll](#) (2016)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/5BQp3V\\_34BE](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/5BQp3V_34BE)

- **Annotate:** Read the following articles and add or reply to annotations on Hypothes.is, focusing on how the research relates to your own online experience. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.
  - [‘Don’t Feed the Trolls’ Really is Good Advice – Here’s the Evidence](#) (2016)
  - [How Empathy can Make or Break a Troll](#) (2017)

After viewing the resources, how can you spot trolls online? Share your thoughts by posting a comment on Discourse.

## Online Harassment

41 % of Americans have been personally subjected to harassing behavior online, and an even larger share (66 %) has witnessed these behaviors directed at others (Duggan, 2017).

Many of us associate online harassment with extreme cases such as cyberbullying and teenage suicide, or cyberstalking leading to physical sexual harassment. Notwithstanding the seriousness of these offences, antisocial behaviours associated with other forms of online harassment are more pervasive than most people realize.

In this section, we will review research on the state of online harassment and consider how leading social media sites attempt to manage the challenge.

### 6.3.9 Activity: The State of Online Harassment

#### Learning Activity

- **Read** the following research reports on online harassment.
  - *Online Harassment* (2017). (Note that this is an 8-page report; click through to read it all.)
  - *Q&A: What We've Learned About Online Harassment* (2021)

Note in particular the finding that those “who have ever experienced more severe forms of harassment – such as physical threats, stalking, sexual harassment or sustained harassment – or multiple forms of harassing behaviors online have both risen substantially in the past three years. This is not the pattern we saw in prior surveys. There has been a markedly steeper rise in these measures since 2017, compared with the change between our 2014 and 2017 studies” (DeSilver, 2021).

- **Questions to Consider:**
  - What surprised you when reading these reports?
  - Why have the forms of harassment become more severe?
  - Have you or someone you know experienced some kind of online harassment?
- **Annotate:** Add or reply to annotations using Hypothes.is to share personal insights and experiences. Remember to tag your posts using the course code: LDRS101.

### 6.3.10 Activity: The Response From Social Media

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Choose from the following resources about Facebook and X (Twitter) policies on online harassment, and responses to them.

#### Suggested practices

- *Facebook Community Standards* (n.d.)
- *About Online Abuse* (n.d.)

#### Commentary

- *Twitter Tries new Measures in Crackdown on Harassment* (2017)
- *Using Digital Fingerprints and Deep Learning to Fight Online Harassment* (2017)

- *At Facebook we get Things Wrong – But we Take our Safety Role Seriously* (2017). Please watch the [video](#) in this link!

## Psychological Issues

The internet, social media, and mobile devices have introduced new psychological issues. These include, for example, phantom ringing syndrome, nomophobia, cybersickness, and internet addiction disorder.

In this section, we identify selected psychological issues that you may choose to research further as you select a societal issue on which you'll include comments on your blog.

### 6.3.11 Activity: How Online Personas Are Redefining Human Connection

#### Learning Activity

First, consider the following questions: - How does digital technology change what we do? - How does digital technology change who we are? - Do adolescents need to develop face-to-face communication skills in a digital world? - **Watch:** Watch this fascinating TedTalk video: - [\*Connected, but Alone?\*](#) (2012) - **Write:** Jot down your thoughts in your Reflective Journal (Obsidian).

**Watch:** [\*Connected, but alone? / Sherry Turkle\*](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/t7Xr3AsBEK4>

- **Read:** Finally, read the following article which summarizes a number of psychological disorders related to our use of digital technology:
  - [\*Eight new Mental Illnesses Brought to you by the Internet\*](#) (2013)

Share your thoughts by posting a comment on Discourse, for example:

- I was surprised by ...
- I think that ...
- I don't agree that ...

## Net Neutrality

The Web as I envisaged it, we have not seen it yet. The future is still so much bigger than the past. (Tim Berners-Lee, 2009, as cited in Medium, 2023)

The World Wide Web was originally designed to provide universal access to a large universe of documents. To achieve universal access it was paramount to design the web as an open system without a central locus of control. However, on the internet there are an increasing number of “walled gardens” that aim to control user’s access to content and services. In this section we explore the concept of net neutrality and reflect on the risks associated with universal access to online information.

**Net neutrality** is a critical concept in the realm of internet policy and regulation. It revolves around the principle that internet service providers (ISPs) should treat all data on the internet equally. In other words, they should not discriminate against, or charge differently based on user, content, website, application, or platform. The primary goal of net neutrality is to ensure that the internet remains an open and level playing field where all data and information can be accessed and transmitted freely.

### **Arguments For Net Neutrality**

- **Preservation of open internet:** Net neutrality proponents argue that it is essential to maintain the open nature of the internet, where all content is equally accessible to users. This fosters innovation, competition, and free expression.
- **Equal access:** Net neutrality ensures that users, regardless of their economic status, can access all online content without discrimination. It prevents ISPs from creating fast lanes for certain content, disadvantaging others.
- **Innovation:** Without net neutrality, ISPs could prioritize certain services or websites, potentially stifling innovation by making it difficult for new, smaller players to compete on a level playing field.

### **Arguments Against Net Neutrality**

- **Investment and infrastructure:** Opponents argue that without the ability to offer paid prioritization or tiered services, ISPs may have less incentive to invest in and improve network infrastructure, potentially hindering the growth of broadband services.
- **Regulatory overreach:** Some argue that government intervention in net neutrality is unnecessary, and that market forces should determine how ISPs manage their networks. They fear that regulation could lead to unintended consequences such as the government controlling access to online content.
- **Quality of service:** In certain cases, ISPs claim they need the flexibility to manage network traffic to provide a better quality of service for applications such as real-time video and gaming.

## **Key Concerns**

Concerns surrounding net neutrality involve potential discrimination, a lack of competition, and the profound implications for free speech and innovation. The absence of robust net neutrality principles could pave the way for ISPs to exert unwarranted control. They might throttle or obstruct access to specific websites, promote their own content, or levy extra charges for particular online services.

At the same time there is a significant concern about government overreach in this digital domain. The debate over how much the government should regulate the internet is a hot topic, as it could hamper innovation and limit the free sharing of information. Excessive regulation could put the power to control or tamper with online content in the hands of the government or regulators, potentially jeopardizing our democratic values and our basic freedom of expression. Navigating this tricky balance between rules and protecting our personal freedoms is a key challenge in the digital era.

## **Canadian Context**

In Canada, the discussion on net neutrality is intertwined with the debate over Bill C-10, also known as the Broadcasting Act. This bill, introduced in 2021, aims to update Canada's broadcasting and telecommunications regulations to account for the digital age. Critics of Bill C-10 have expressed concerns that it could infringe on net neutrality principles by giving more power to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to regulate online content, potentially leading to restrictions on free expression and innovation.

In addition to Bill C-10, another significant piece of legislation to consider in the Canadian context is Bill C-18, which is also known as the Online Streaming Act. This bill, introduced to the Canadian Parliament, is designed to regulate online streaming services, potentially affecting the content and accessibility of such platforms. Critics argue that Bill C-18 could raise concerns related to net neutrality by granting the government more authority over the content available on streaming platforms and potentially infringing on free expression and access to diverse content.

### **\*\*\* Questions to Consider \*\*\***

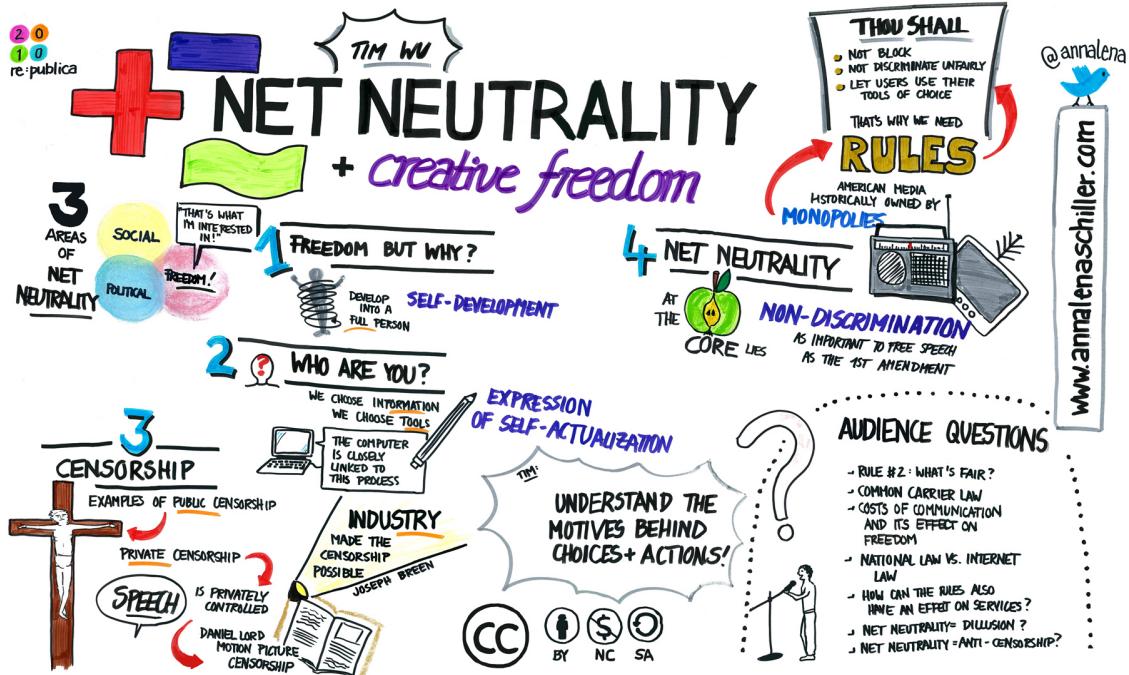
As you view the resources in the activity below, consider the following questions:

- How does the principle of net neutrality impact the way you access and use the internet, and how might changes in net neutrality regulations affect your online experience?
- What is the role of government and regulatory bodies, such as the CRTC in Canada, in ensuring a balance between net neutrality and the need to regulate online content and services?

- What measures can be taken to ensure that government regulations, while addressing valid concerns, do not lead to the overreach of power and the erosion of fundamental rights such as free speech on the internet?
- Can net neutrality coexist with the goal of ensuring high quality internet service and fostering investment in digital infrastructure, or are these objectives inherently in conflict?

Consider drawing a mind map such as the following to track your understanding of the subject.

Figure 6.2: Net Neutrality and Creative Freedom Mind Map Illustration



*Note:* From “Net Neutrality and Creative Freedom: Tim Wu at re:publica 2010,” by A. L. Schiller, April 10, 2010, Flickr, (<https://flickr.com/photos/frauleinschiller/4540678705/>) {target=\_blank}. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

### 6.3.12 Activity: The Meaning of Net Neutrality

#### Learning Activity

- **Watch:** Watch the following videos that explain the importance of net neutrality.

Watch: *Net Neutrality Explained* (2015)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/p90McT24Z6w>

Watch: *Internet Citizens: Defend Net Neutrality* (2014b)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/wtt2aSV8wdw>

### 6.3.13 Activity: Perspectives on Net Neutrality

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Explore the issue of net neutrality. Here are some sample resources, but please search for additional resources that interest you. Seek out different perspectives on the topic to inform your views.
- First, have a look at a summary of *Net Neutrality by Country* (2024).

Next, click the topics below to explore different perspectives on this issue in Canada.

- *Strengthening Net Neutrality in Canada* (2016)
- *Big Tech vs. Canadian News: The Battle Over C-18, Explained* (2023)
- *Bill C-18: The Fallout over Google, Meta’s Plans to Block News Links in Canada* (2023)
- *Debating Bill C-11—Internet Censorship for Canadians* (2023)
- *Poirievre: Warned About Justin Trudeau’s Online Censorship Law* (2023)

Dr. Michael Geist is a law professor at the University of Ottawa where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Internet and e-Commerce Law and is a member of the Centre for Law, Technology and Society. Browse through his *articles* on net neutrality.

Here are some key points of interest from Dr. Geist:

First, while the focus of net neutrality is typically on telecom companies, Bill C-10 envisions a different intermediary or third party – the Canadian government via the CRTC – choosing which content Canadians see by prioritizing or de-prioritizing content that appears in Canadians’ feeds. Internet sites and services will still be available to Canadians (assuming the sites aren’t blocked given the onerous regulations), but the government’s Internet regulatory framework will mean that Internet content will not be treated

in a neutral, equal fashion. The mandated Canadian content discoverability requirements will mean that a government regulator will influence what Canadians see when they access Internet services, invoking the same concerns regarding interfering with content and user choice. The intermediary may have changed, but the principle is largely the same. (Geist, 2021, para. 9) It is hard to overstate how dangerous it would be for the CRTC to be vested with new powers to regularly intervene in online content or consider “conditions of service” for Internet sites and services. While the government insists that Bill C-11 is designed for large streaming services with limited regulations, it would appear that the CRTC may have other ideas. (Geist, 2022, final para.) It is difficult to separate the government’s willingness to censor social media posts with its broader Internet regulation agenda, including Bills C-11, C-18 and online harms. Seeking to remove news links, mean tweets and other content without due process and without any apparent illegality does not bode well for the development of Charter-compliant regulations. The government may see itself as a model for others, but its willingness to muscle social media companies in an effort to remove lawful content is the very worst kind of example that should not be welcome in a democracy that prioritizes freedom of expression. (Geist, 2023, final para.)

Another interesting perspective on the issue comes from *Digital First Canada* a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of digital entrepreneurs in Canada. If you are choosing to focus on net neutrality for your blog post, browse the articles on their website. Here are a couple more resources focusing on the American debate on net neutrality.

- **Read** the following on net neutrality in America:
  - [Net Neutrality is BACK! FCC Tries to Take Away Internet Freedom AGAIN! \(2023\)](#)
  - [FCC Launches Effort to Reinstate Net Neutrality Rules — Update \(2023\)](#)
  - [The Net Neutrality Debate: Twenty Five Years After United States v. AT&T and 120 Years After the Act to Regulate Commerce \(2007\)](#)
- **Facebook and Big Tech:** *Facebook Zero: An Attempt to Bring Access to All?* Consider the following from Wikipedia (2024, Introduction):

Facebook Zero is an initiative undertaken by social networking service company Facebook in collaboration with mobile phone-based Internet providers, whereby the providers waive data (bandwidth) charges (also known as zero-rate) for accessing Facebook on phones via a stripped-down text-only version of its mobile website (as opposed to the ordinary mobile website m.facebook.com that also loads pictures). The stripped-down version is available online only through providers who have entered the agreement with Facebook. ...and then some criticism:

Facebook Zero became controversial in some countries due to several issues such as net neutrality. For instance, India's Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) bans zero-rated services on account of "discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content". A criticism also stated that Facebook is practicing digital colonialism because it is not introducing open internet but building a "little web that turns the user into a mostly passive consumer of mostly western corporate content" ("Facebook Zero," 2024, History section).

- **Read:** Choose from the following:

- *Who Really Wins From Facebook's 'Free Internet' Plan for Africa?* (2015)
- *European Regulators Just Stopped Facebook, Google and Big Telecoms' Net Neutrality Violations* (2022)
- *Internet.org* (2024)
- *India Bans Facebook's Basics app to Support Net Neutrality* (2016)
- *Facebook's Internet.org Isn't Going Over Well in India* (2016)

- **Write:** Share your thoughts on net neutrality by posting a comment on Discourse. For example:

- Net neutrality is important because ...
- Net neutrality can/can't coexist with Internet.org because ...
- Free basics is a good thing because ...
- Free basics is problematic because ...

Remember to add a category or tag for your post using the course tag: LDRS101.

### 6.3.13.1 Digital Redlining

*Digital redlining* refers to the discriminatory practice of denying or limiting access to certain services, information, or opportunities in the digital world, based on a person's location, economic status, race, or other demographic factors. It is an extension of the historical concept of redlining, which originally referred to the discriminatory practice of marking certain neighborhoods on physical maps and denying residents of those areas access to financial services, insurance, and other resources.

In the context of the digital age, digital redlining manifests in various ways:

**Limited internet access:** Some areas, often low income neighborhoods or rural regions, may lack access to high speed internet or affordable data plans. This limits people's ability to access online education, job opportunities, government services, and other online resources.

**Discriminatory algorithms:** Algorithms used in various online services such as lending, housing, and employment platforms may inadvertently or intentionally discriminate against

certain groups. For example, an algorithm may give preferential treatment to job applicants from specific demographics.

**Targeted advertising and privacy concerns:** Certain demographics may be disproportionately exposed to predatory or harmful online advertisements, while more privileged individuals receive personalized, less invasive content. This can lead to manipulation and exploitation.

**Educational disparities:** Inadequate access to technology and online educational resources can limit learning opportunities for students in underserved communities.

**Healthcare access:** Some communities may have limited access to telehealth services, which have become increasingly important, especially, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Data collection and surveillance:** Vulnerable populations are often subject to more extensive data collection and surveillance, leading to privacy concerns and potential discrimination based on the data collected.

Addressing digital redlining is essential to ensure equitable access to the benefits of the digital age. Efforts to combat digital redlining include policies aimed at closing the digital divide, regulating algorithms to prevent discriminatory outcomes, promoting net neutrality, and protecting data privacy. These measures aim to create a more inclusive and fair digital environment for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, or location.

#### 6.3.13.2 Activity: Indigenous Communities in Canada

##### Learning Activity

Digital redlining is a global concern, including Canada. While Canada is known for its social safety nets and relatively high internet penetration rates, digital disparities persist, particularly among marginalized communities. These disparities are evident in various aspects, such as internet access, online discrimination, and algorithmic biases.

- **Watch:**
- **Watch:** *Seneca Nation disconnected by Redlining* (2021)

[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/J5NV9BJx1\\_M](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/J5NV9BJx1_M)

This report highlights the digital disparities faced by Indigenous communities in Canada. Many Indigenous communities, especially those in remote areas, lack reliable high speed internet access, which hampers their ability to participate fully in the digital world. This limitation affects various aspects of life, including education, health care, economic opportunities, and cultural preservation.

Addressing these issues in Canada requires a multifaceted approach, combining infrastructure development, antidiscrimination regulations, and community engagement. Ini-

tiatives such as the *Connecting Families Initiative* and investments in broadband infrastructure are steps in the right direction but more work is needed to ensure equitable access to the digital world for all Canadians. This includes recognizing the unique challenges faced by Indigenous communities and implementing policies that specifically address their needs while promoting digital inclusion and addressing digital redlining for all marginalized groups.

### 6.3.14 Activity: Where Do You See Digital Redlining?

#### Learning Activity

As you explore this topic, consider where digital redlining occurs in your community. Search online, or perhaps ask community members about their experiences in accessing the internet. Is digital access fair and accessible for all?

In addition to your personal research, select from the following resources for more information on digital redlining.

- **Listen:** Listen to the podcast: *Digital Redlining and Privacy* (2016) with Chris Gilliard. Gilliard is a Professor of English whose scholarship concentrates on privacy, institutional technology policy, digital redlining, and the reinventions of discriminatory practices through data mining and algorithmic decision making, especially as these apply to college students.
- **Read:**
  - *Bad Algorithms are Making Racist Decisions* (2018b)
  - *What Is Digital Redlining? Experts Explain the Nuances* (2022)
  - *What is Digital Redlining and how Does it Perpetuate Poverty?* (2023)

Also see the following articles that focus on racial and gender bias:

- *Google Search: Hyper-visibility as a Means of Rendering Black Women and Girls Invisible* (2013)
- *Pedagogy and the Logic of Platforms* (2017)
- *Digital Redlining, Access, and Privacy* (2016)

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Diversity: a range of many people or things that are very different from each other; the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, religions, etc. (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries,n.d.-a)

**Diversity** includes differences in racial or ethnic classifications, age, gender, religion, philosophy, physical abilities, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, intelligence, physical health, mental health, genetic attributes, personality, behaviour, or political beliefs.

Inclusion: the fact of including somebody/something; the fact or policy of providing equal opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise not get them, for example people who are disabled or belong to minority groups. (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, n.d.-c)

**Inclusion** is about a sense of belonging irrespective of national origin, age, race, ethnicity, belief, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.

Equity: a situation in which everyone is treated equally. (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, n.d.-b)

**Equity** is a proactive commitment to equal opportunity and practices that ensure inclusion without intentional (or unintentional) discrimination.

Is equity the same as equality?

Equity differs from equality in a subtle but important way. While equality assumes that all people should be treated the same, equity takes into consideration a person's unique circumstances, adjusting treatment accordingly so that the end result is equal. (McKinsey & Company, 2022, para. 6)

As we dive into this topic, consider one of our course learning outcomes:

Create inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality

What does it mean to have an inclusive online community? How do we see and react to differences between groups, behaviours, and beliefs?

Let's take a look at some cases and issues involving diversity, equity, and inclusion online.

### 6.3.15 Activity: Gender Discrimination

#### Learning Activity

In this activity, we investigate examples of gender discrimination in a digital world, recognizing that equity and inclusion are not restricted to gender alone.

As you explore the following resources, consider the following quote:

Culturally. Ideologically. There's a problem with the Internet. Largely de-

signed by men from the developed world, it is built for men of the developed world. Men of science. Men of industry. Military men. Venture capitalists. Despite all the hype and hope about revolution and access and opportunity that these new technologies will provide us, they do not negate hierarchy, history, privilege, power. They reflect those. They channel it. They concentrate it, in new ways and in old. (Watters, 2015)

[Audrey Watters](#) is a scholar and journalist who specializes in educational technology news and analysis. Her work focuses on the interrelationships among politics, pedagogy, business, culture and educational technology. Audrey's blog [Hack Education](#) is well regarded among international peers.

- **Read** the transcript of a talk Watters presented in 2014:
  - [Men Explain Technology to Me: On Gender, Ed-Tech, and the Refusal to Be Silent](#) (2014)
- **Watch:**
  - [Audrey Explains men Explaining Technology to her](#) (2017)

Watch: *Audrey Explains Men Explaining Technology to Her*  
[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/DMjP\\_p01foo](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/DMjP_p01foo)

Next, consider the following quote from Steph Guthrie's 2013 Tedx Talk:

There is something else that really bothers me about the use of the word 'troll' to describe garden variety misogyny. It suggests that this is an Internet problem, rather than a society problem. (Guthrie, 2013, 2:13)

[Guthrie](#) is a gender justice consultant. She is a feminist advocate, organizer, and analyst focusing on the intersections of gender, culture, and technology to promote more gender inclusive civic discourse.

- **Watch:**
  - [The Problem with “Don’t Feed the Trolls”](#) (2013)

Watch: *The problem with “Don’t Feed the Trolls” / Steph Guthrie / TEDxToronto*  
[https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/\\_KHEkR5yb9A](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/_KHEkR5yb9A)

#### Questions to Consider:

- Did anything surprise you as you watched the videos and viewed the above resources?
- Are there any points you disagree with?
- What are your views on discrimination in a digital world?

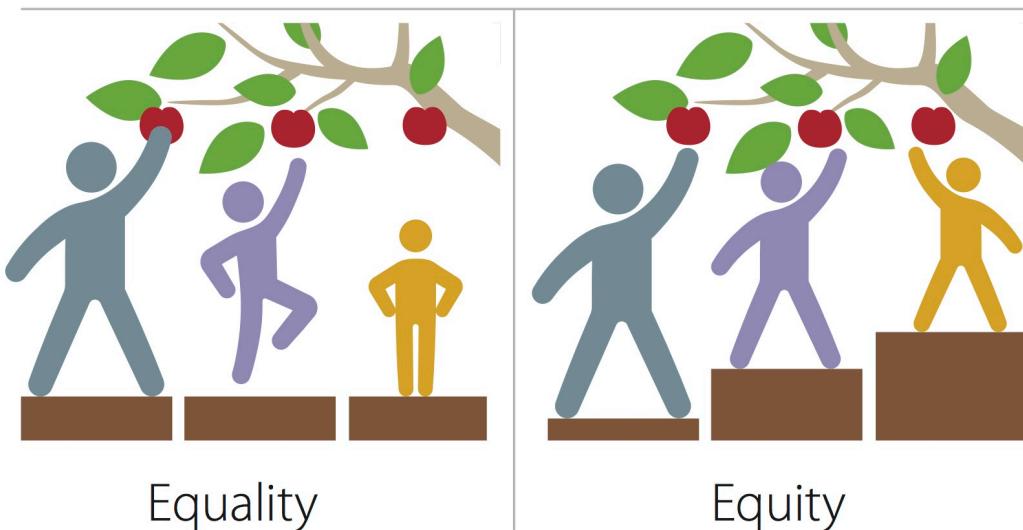
## What Is DEI?

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (usually abbreviated DEI) refers to organizational frameworks which seek to promote “the fair treatment and full participation of all people”, particularly groups “who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination” on the basis of identity or disability. These three notions (diversity, equity, and inclusion) together represent “three closely linked values” which organizations seek to institutionalize through DEI frameworks. (“Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion,” 2024)

Consider the graphic below. How does it portray differences? How are those differences addressed?

### *Equity Versus Equality*

Figure 6.3: Comparison of figures with or without supports reaching for apples on a tree



**i** Note: From “Equity vs Equality,” by MPCA Photos, December 21, 2016, *Flickr* ([Equity vs Equality | MPCA Photos | Flickr](#)). CC BY-NC 2.0.

DEI has been a hot topic for debate in recent years as organizations, including universities, have emphasized DEI in the way they conduct business, including hiring, promoting, and so on.

Let's take higher education as an example. As faculty members design their courses, they consider the needs of their students and how to effectively engage them in the course topics. They recognize the diversity of students' needs and viewpoints and seek to create an inclusive learning environment for students. Instructors might use [Universal Design for Learning](#), which is "a framework ... to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn (CAST: UDL Guidelines, 2024, para. 1)."

Other teaching methods they might employ are [culturally responsive teaching](#) (Singhal & Gu-lati, 2020) or [culturally relevant pedagogy](#) (Inclusion Canada, 2017), as a way to use students' cultural experiences and perspectives as channels for effective teaching and learning.

Key question: *Should instructors treat all students the same regardless of background, gender, beliefs, and so on?*

Many academics in higher education hold this value of equality. Others promote equity, which "takes into consideration a person's unique circumstances, adjusting treatment accordingly so that the end result is equal (McKinsey & Company, 2022, Equity section)." What does it mean that the "end result is equal?" An equal opportunity to access and succeed in academia? Or an equal outcome in which all students receive the same grade?

This one example identifies one of the "sticky points" in the DEI debate. In the next activity, we'll introduce some views on the DEI topic.

### 6.3.16 Activity: Perspectives on DEI

#### Learning Activity

Here are a couple of contrasting points of view. If you choose to write a social commentary on this topic be sure to explore various resources with different opinions.

- **Read:**

- [What is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion? \(2022\)](#)
- [The Hypocrisy of Mandatory Diversity Statements \(2023\)](#)

- **Watch:**

- [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Learning How to Get it Right \(2023\)](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/HR4wz1b54hw>

- [Equity: The Thief of Human Potential \(2023\)](#)

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/8WYi-64MejU>

### 6.3.17 Activity: DEI and Practising Christian Hospitality

#### Learning Activity

As a final reflection on this topic, we invite you to read TWU's core values page on [\*Practising Christian Hospitality\*](#).

TWU explains the core value of practising Christian hospitality:

Christian hospitality welcomes, genuinely includes and consistently cares for *all* individuals. Christ taught and modeled hospitality to all, including those on the margins, as an essential element of Christian faith and practice. Hospitality is vital to our life in the Trinity Western University community and to our life in, and witness to, other communities. ... Practising Christian hospitality undergirds and promotes equity, diversity and inclusion.

**Equity** is founded in our being created in the image of God; every human being has inherent dignity and worth (Gen 1:26-28; 5:1-2; Col 1:15).

**Diversity** is inherent in God's creation; it is good (Gen 1:11-12, 21-25).

**Inclusion** is essential to the body of Christ; we are diverse and interdependent (1 Cor 12:12-31; Isa 56:3-8). (Trinity Western University, n.d.-e)

As you read [\*Practising Christian Hospitality\*](#), consider the following questions, and how they relate to your identity and actions online:

- How do we advocate for the dignity of all human beings and avoid any form of derogation or condescension?
- How do we value the differences and diversity in God's creation?
- How do we live peaceably and productively in society in the midst of enduring differences, even on very significant matters?
- Does being inclusive demand agreement or consensus?
- How can we practice Christian hospitality?

We've explored a number of societal issues associated with the internet. In the activity below, you will choose a topic of interest relating to societal issues or problematic behaviours on the internet for further investigation. You can select one of the topics introduced in this unit or an alternate issue you find more interesting.

Here are few additional topics to consider:

- [\*10 Forms of Online Harassment\*](#) (2015)
- [\*Cyberchondria\*](#) (2017)
- [\*The Woman Whose Phone 'Misdiagnosed HIV'\*](#) (2017) (complexities of mobile ownership in the developing world)
- [\*Face-off Between MPs and Social Media Giants Over Online Hate Speech\*](#) (2017) (hate speech online)

- *Keystroke Logging* (2024)
- *The Price of Connection: Surveillance Capitalism* (2016) (surveillance capitalism)
- *How Bots Took Over Twitter* (2015) (bot problems)
- *Scams and how to Avoid Them* (n.d.)
- *Fake News* (2024) 6.3.19 Activity: Editorial: Societal Issues on the Internet

### Learning Activity

- **Write:** Publish an editorial (400–600 words) on your blog on a societal issue or antisocial behaviour associated with the internet. Your editorial must:
  - Contain a minimum of four hyperlinks to supporting resources or issues. Your digital identity is connected to the internet and it is important to demonstrate how your contribution joins a networked conversation through connections in information.
  - Include a representative image embedded in your blog post (n.b., ensure that you have legal permission to use the image).
  - If you are not sure about copyright, source a public domain image on a site such as *Pexels*. Don't use sponsored or licensed images unless you have purchased the rights to use them.
  - Include at least two references properly cited using APA style.
  - Include a paragraph highlighting practical implications; for example, learning in a digital age or your current role.

Remember to add a category or tag for your post using the course tag: LDRS101.

#### **The Process:**

Choose a topic of interest.

- Conduct a search to identify reliable and credible online resources on your selected topic. Try to find resources from your own country or region, or your own area of work, and select the two best resources.
- Read *How to Write a Notable Editorial* (2024).
- Using the topic you selected, decide on the type of editorial to write, for example:
  - explaining or interpreting
  - criticizing
  - persuading
  - praising
  - Get your facts straight:
  - revisit the online sources you identified previously
  - search for additional resources if needed
- Prepare a thesis-like paragraph designed to catch the reader's attention and introduce what your editorial is about.

- Prepare the body of your editorial providing an objective explanation of the issue supported by the relevant sources you have identified; for example:
  - state the opposing argument first
  - present reasons refuting the opposition
  - share your solutions
- Prepare a paragraph on practical implications, for instance, learning in a digital age or your current role.
- Draft the conclusion.

## 6.4 Digital Wisdom

To conclude our course we will examine another perspective on ethics and technology. This may tap into the foundational lens with which you approach many ethical issues, so take a moment to reflect on the following:

- What role does technology play in my social, academic, and spiritual life?
- What guidance does the Bible have on our use of technology today?
- How will my use of technology support my social, academic, and spiritual goals?

### 6.4.1 Activity: Digital Wisdom

#### Learning Activity

- **Read:** Skim the following article in which the authors present a framework for digital wisdom, as well as practical practices that can help navigate the digital in our daily lives.
  - *A Framework for Digital Wisdom in Higher Education* (2019).

Here are some quotes that resonate (Paulus et al., 2019). Feel free to highlight your quotes using Hypothes.is, or in your personal Obsidian notes.

Institutions of higher education have a crucial role and responsibility at this moment of technological change to form people who will flourish in our so-called digital age. (2019, para. 1)

Within the context of Christian higher education, the need to integrate new ICTs into our individual and institutional lives well and wisely—as we consider what technologies are doing to us and what we will do with them—is of utmost significance if we are committed to the cultivation of competence, character, and wisdom. (2019, para. 6)

Scripture enables us look behind and beyond our and others' online identities to see ourselves and others as embodied and relational beings made in the image of God. (2019, para. 21)

Our use of technologies must be shaped by our intentions and values, and we must be aware of how platform interfaces, permissions, algorithms, and other design elements could interfere with our goals and obligations. (2019, para. 31)

### **Questions to Consider**

Answer the following questions in your journal:

- How can you, as a TWU student, flourish in this digital age?
- How do the tools you use shape you? How do you use them wisely?
- How should we view and relate to others online—in particular those whom we disagree with?
- How can you cultivate inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality?
- And finally, how can we use technology in a way that aligns with our intentions and values?

## **6.5 Summary**

As you complete this course and continue on your learning journey we trust that you have acquired skills that will not only prepare you for your academic studies but also for your professional goals.

We began this final unit by emphasizing the value of community in online learning. Throughout the course we have encouraged you to connect with others—fellow TWU students, instructors, colleagues, family, friends, and other online communities. Reflect on how these connections have influenced your learning experience. Additionally, we discussed the impact of technology in the workplace and how you might use tools effectively in your business practices or field of study. You have had opportunities to engage as global digital citizens by using technology to discover and share knowledge. Furthermore, we examined emerging societal issues and online behaviours, discussing strategies to address these challenges effectively.

Finally, we introduced the concept of digital wisdom. As you continue to integrate technology into your learning journey, we encourage you to consider how your online contributions can positively impact others. Reflect on TWU's mission and vision statements and how they resonate with you and guide your commitment to serving others and glorifying God.

The mission of Trinity Western University, as an arm of the Church, is to develop godly Christian leaders: positive, goal-oriented university graduates with

thoroughly Christian minds; growing disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify God through fulfilling the Great Commission, serving God and people in the various marketplaces of life.

Every graduate is equipped to think truthfully, act justly, and live faithfully for the good of the world and the glory of God. (Trinity Western University, n.d.-d)

### Checking Your Learning

Before you move on to the next unit check that you are able to:

- Discuss how technology has changed business practices in your field of interest or career
- Utilize technology to discover and share knowledge, collaborate with others, and become engaged digital global citizens
- Describe societal issues and problematic online behaviours which have emerged in the digital world and how to deal with these challenges in an ethical manner
- Create inclusive digital communities which embody a sense of belonging, connection, and Christian hospitality
- Create a personalized narrative to document and express your learning process
- Practice evaluative judgment to document your process of learning in complex domains of knowledge