

Trying to Use Twitter

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Akshay Java, Xiaodan Song, Tim Finin, and Belle Tseng presented four major uses for Twitter, and three major types of users. The four major uses are; (1) daily chatter, (2) conversations, (3) sharing information/URLs, and (4) reporting news. The three major user types are; (1) information source, (2) friends, and (3) information seeker. (Java, Finin, Song, & Tseng, 2007) This week I am trying to use twitter for each of the four uses listed, and trying to take on each of the three roles.

Daily chatter encompasses the majority of the tweets. A tweet in response to a personal correspondent can signify their importance to you.

Conversations are confusing. Finding the thread of a conversation amid the various tweets is difficult at best. I know that the @username is supposed to signify a response, but to which tweet? Are there twitter clients that link replies? It doesn't look like it can do that.

I shared a couple of URLs this week. This use of Twitter is great. Instead of an e-mail, the tweets can be easily used to communicate links to websites. We all stumble upon these every day, but how often do we communicate our findings to others?

I have not reported any news via Twitter. I have followed other tweets that contain news items. When does news become chatter? I find that most of the news items are already so well reported that they are not really news.

Of the three roles that are listed, I generally fit the role of an information seeker. This is primarily because of the novelty of Twitter to me. As I find out its capabilities and protocols (and develop a network) I should start assuming the other roles as well. I am trying to be an information source by posting the address to my class Moodle website. For some people, this can be a great way to

share expertise. For example – I could post that I figured out how to post my office hour calendar along with a Google doc form that allows students to sign up for appointments. Other people using Moodle might want to learn how. None of my friends, relatives, or colleagues are on Twitter, so acting as a friend is not possible at the moment.

Works Cited

Java, A., Finin, T., Song, X., & Tseng, B. (2007, August 12). Why We Twitter: Understanding Microblogging Usage and Communities. *Joint 9th WEBKDD and 1st SNA-KDD Workshop '07*. San Jose: ACM.