

Online researcher communities

- who, what and why?

Dr Emma Gillaspay, Vitae North West Hub Manager, University of Manchester

Dr Elizabeth Dodson, Senior Researcher, Loughborough University

About us



Objectives for today

- Explore the digital world and how researchers can use it to:
 - develop their reputation through a digital identity
 - advance research
 - decrease isolation
- Explore what the ideal online community for research staff would look like
- Others?

Research staff - issues

- Isolation
- Gap in support from PGR to academic
- Fixed-term employment with limited opportunities for progression
- Lack of defined career path
- Independence from supervisor:
 - Publications
 - Funding
- Status and recognition
- Others?

Your life as a researcher

- Academic outputs (papers etc)
- Dissemination
- Collaboration
- Professional development (formal and informal learning)
- Reputation
- Others?

Living in a digital world

Podcasting
(sharing audio)

**Social
bookmarking**

Blogging

Chat

Wiki's

Slide sharing

RSS

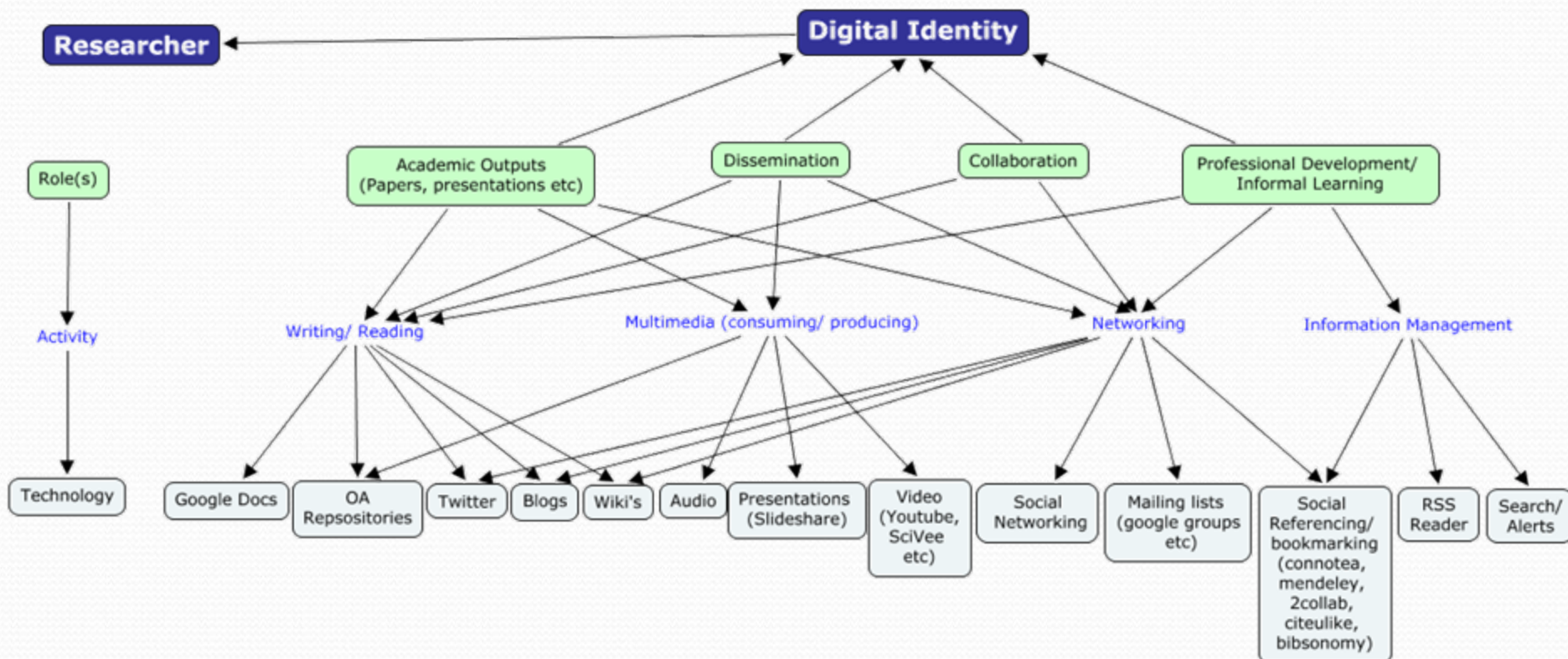
Searching



Current activities and tools

- What research activities do you currently do and what tools do you use?
- How do you think technology can be used to support:
 - Group or project communication and collaboration
 - Research dissemination and wider community engagement
 - Conferences
 - Ways in which you present yourself and your work
 - Data collection and analysis

Developing a digital identity



Digital Identity: Google yourself



emma gillaspy

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[Emma Gillaspay PhD \(Medical and Human Sciences -University of ...](#)

Emma is the North West Hub manager for the Vitae programme (www.vitae.ac.uk). Working within the Faculty Training Team, Emma is responsible for the delivery ...

www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/staff/emmagillaspy - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -

[North West Hub contacts -www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice](#)

Dr Emma Gillaspay (Hub Manager) University of Manchester Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences ... Email: nwhub@vitae.ac.uk / emma.gillaspy@manchester.ac.uk ...

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[Vitae research staff conference -www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers](#)

Dr Emma Gillaspay. Presenter Organisation: University of Manchester and Vitae North West Hub; Presenter Job: Vitae North West Hub Manchester ...

www.vitae.ac.uk.../Vitae-research-staff-conference.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -

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[Emma Gillaspay - United Kingdom - Email, Address, Phone number ...](#)

Everything you need to know about Emma Gillaspay Email addresses, Phone numbers, Biography, Conway, Disease, Genetic testing, The University of Manchester.

www.123people.co.uk/s/emma+gillaspy - [Similar](#) -

[Emma Gillaspay \(vitaenwhub\) on Twitter](#)

I am the Vitae North West Hub Manager. Vitae is a national organisation funded by RCUK to support the career and professional development of researchers.

twitter.com/vitaenwhub - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -

[Twitter / Emma Gillaspay: RT@victoriawilby Prof Heyw...](#)

RT@victoriawilby Prof Heywood asking us to tweet 3 things we'd like to gain from this session, esp where OU might be able to help. #Vitae09.

twitter.com/vitaenwhub/status/3837953438 - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -

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[Emma Gillaspay | Facebook](#)

Emma Gillaspay is on Facebook. Join Facebook to connect with Emma Gillaspay and others you may know. Facebook gives people the power to share and makes the ...

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[Dr Emma Gillaspay \(PhD\), research profile -publications details ...](#)

Dr Emma Gillaspay (PhD) - publications. Personal details ... Greig, C; Spreckley, KB; Aspinwall, R; Gillaspay, E; Gillaspay, EE; Grant, M; Ollier, WER; John, ...

www.manchester.ac.uk/research/emmagillaspy/publications - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#) -

[PDF A response from Nowgen – A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare ...](#)

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From: Gillaspay Emma (RW3) CM&MC Manchester Dr Emma Gillaspay, Orphanet UK & Ireland, Nowgen ... Emma Gillaspay, PhD, Orphanet UK and Ireland ...

ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/docs/R106_en.pdf - [Similar](#) -

General Principles of Online Interaction

- Understand how public and permanent your online footprint is (see <http://www.123people.com/>)
- Be aware that your current or future employers could choose to explore that online footprint!
- Do not say anything online that you would not say face to face
- Avoid spamming and flaming
- Be aware that it is easy to misinterpret irony, sarcasm etc... without tone of voice or expressions to guide
- Consider who you are talking to...

Developing your digital identity

- 3 examples of useful tools

- Slideshare
 - Sharing PowerPoint presentations, disseminating your research to a wider audience, comments on your slides
- Twitter
 - The latest news, ideas, conference back channel, social and work, community
 - Twitter in plain English <http://www.commoncraft.com/Twitter>
 - Top reasons to use Twitter <http://online-social-networking.com/top-reasons-for-using-twitter>
- Blogging
 - Reflection, archive of research, peer critique, disseminating
 - Personal / research area?
 - Individual / collective?
 - Blogs in plain English <http://www.commoncraft.com/blogs>
 - Top reasons to blog <http://elearningtech.blogspot.com/2006/10/top-ten-reasons-to-blog-and-top-ten.html>

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Welcome

This is a space I have been meaning to launch for sometime now, as part of my digital identity. Somehow I still hadn't had the time to gather all my online self (selves) and organize it in own single space.

Here you will be able to link to most of the communities, networks, projects, etc, I belong to. However, you may find me in other cyberspace zones, which might not still haven't been referred to in this site. This is what happens when you are a fierce adept of the chaotic navigational e-world and are a multi-tasker by nature.


This site emerges also as a reflection of a new phase in my life which I am about to initiate. I am a PhD candidate and learning technologies will obviously be the motto of the research venture.

This site, if nothing else is a testimony of my journey through the www. Thus, a bit of me.

<http://knowmansland.com/>

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Valley School visit

Posted on **October 9, 2009** by Andrew Gray

I just wanted to mention a word or two about a wonderful teaching session that's taken place at the museum, it was brilliant. We had children visit us again from Valley School in Stockport, which is a special school for children with severe and complex learning and physical difficulties. Having different activities tailored to meet their individual needs, the children really seemed to get alot from the live animal session. I did too, for conducting it thoroughly made my day. I would also like to thank our Steve Devine for responding so quickly and making time to catch some magic moments with his camera (picture right). Cheers Steve, and thanks alot for all your help with the filming and the blog in general.



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Moston Steps Programme

Posted on **October 8, 2009** by Andrew Gray

During the past month we have become involved with Moston Steps, a complimentary education



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'Great rapping, factually fulfilling' says [@robinince](#) on [@BabaBrinkman](#). Anyone



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A **blog** made up of one-off entries from different members of our **GetSETWomen network**.
Send your comments below.



Rosie Plummer - Trained scientist supporting research staff

Hi all,

I work at **Swansea University** supporting the professional and career development of research staff. My role - enhancing the attractiveness and effectiveness of research careers - arises from government concern for the UK to be more research-competitive. It links closely with **Vitae**, the national organisation which champions researchers, and is funded by the **Research Councils**.

My background is in applied science: my first degree was in agricultural and forest science, followed by a doctorate in plant pathology. I did two post-docs. One explored ways of reducing reliance on pesticides by combining them with **mycoherbicides**. The other focussed on commercial cloning of superior British oak. Both were in collaboration with industry, both cutting-edge at the time.

I then took a quantum leap into administration, motivated partly by frustration at successive fixed-term contracts and seeming lack of career path. In addition, I married early so felt I didn't have the geographical flexibility that fitted with building a research career. On the plus side I am a natural organiser so it seemed something I would thrive at and enjoy.

I spent nine years in **Engineering Science in Oxford University**, co-ordinating academic and research matters. I then moved back to the biomedical sciences into a more senior role. Simultaneously I was secretariat to the committee of all the heads of science departments in Oxford. That was a really brilliant opportunity to observe policy-making, politics, and personalities at the leading edge.

My next move was to the physical sciences as Administrator in Materials. It included managing finance, personnel, grants, lab infrastructure, and a range of refurbishment and capital new build projects. It also involved responsibility for agreements with spin-out and commercial companies using our facilities and collaborating with our researchers. It was an extraordinarily varied job, and a vibrant place to work.





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Research staff blog

Welcome to the new Vitae research staff blog. Articles are invited by all members of research staff, or those interested in their development. Therefore the views expressed are personal and not necessarily Vitae's. Please feel free to post articles on career, professional and personal development, policy developments e.g. the Concordat, feature articles such as interviews, career histories, academics talking about their time as a member of research staff etc. and any useful resources.

To make this a supportive, welcoming online community please abide by the [terms of reference](#).

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A view from the 'islands'

We hear a great deal about research in the larger, research-intensive universities: who ranks highest in which field? How much money do the...

By Mike Chopra-Gant

19 October 2009

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Bittersweet goodbye...

So after.....let me see now.....11 years of science I'm finally kissing the lab

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What do you need from an online community for researchers?

- How will the community operate?
 - Existing or new
 - Just for RS
 - Who/what drivers
- What resources will it need?
 - Monetary
 - Time
 - Commitment
- What knowledge will it share and develop?
 - Content
 - Subject specific
 - Institutional / regional / national
- What will success look like?
 - How will it survive and prosper
 - How will it benefit you

Useful tools

- Communities of Science (www.cos.com): Free online professional profile, funding search, collaborator search
- LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/>): Professional Facebook!
- Connotea (www.connotea.org): Free online reference manager, access your references from any computer, share references
- Dropbox (www.getdropbox.com): Free online storage accessible in a Windows Explorer format, share and edit files/folders with others without having to download them locally, great for collaboration!
- Google (www.google.com): Google Scholar, Google Docs, iGoogle homepage, Picasa
- YouTube (www.youtube.com): Great 'how to' videos as well as a bit of fun!
- Ted.com (www.ted.com): World's leading researchers and thinkers, great for inspiration and motivation, pick up tips for public speaking
- PubMed bookshelf (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books): Free online versions of many biomedical books

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- www.twitter.com/vitaenwhub
- <http://vitaenwhub.posterous.com>

Vitae RS blog:

- www.vitae.ac.uk/rsblog

Liz Dodson:

- <http://myprofile.cos.com/huead1>
- <http://www.linkedin.com/in/drelizabethdodson>