

How can I use and cite social media in my research paper?

Track the emergence of breaking news

Social media is often at the forefront of breaking news. (Remember, first reports are not always accurate.)

Discover reviews of conference proceedings

Check a conference hashtag on Twitter or its Facebook page for comments, related information and the latest research in a specific field.

Evaluate the virality and impact of an event or meme*

*A meme can be a picture, video or action that goes viral and/or crosses cultural boundaries.

How many retweets, replies or shares did a post receive? Did it spark further discussion through social media?

Gather a broad understanding of public opinion

Use Twitter to search for keywords or #hashtags to see what people are saying about an issue.

Citing a Tweet

Author and username (Twitter handle)



Conan O'Brien @ConanOBrien 12 May
Happy Mother's Day, Mom! For your gift I sent you this message in a medium I know you neither receive nor understand.
[Collapse](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)

4,530 RETWEETS

2,093 FAVORITES



5:35 PM - 12 May 13 · [Details](#)

Time and date of tweet

If you need to include the URL in a citation, click on the text of the tweet and select "Details" to view a permalink

Did you know?

The Library of Congress catalogs every public tweet sent out on Twitter. That's more than 144 million tweets per day!

