

Southern Cross University

Jessica Seymour

What's the WIFI password?

Abstract:

When future researchers look back on this generation seeking to understand our culture and society, the internet will be a rich source of archival study. We as a culture have begun to digitise not only our records and our history, but also ourselves. Contemporary internet users construct digital 'bodies' through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram – performing their personalities in order to participate in the online culture – while tracking bots and cookies monitor our use of the online space in order to predict which advertisements will be most effective. It is through this combination of deliberate construction and the (somewhat neutral) reflections of man-made, coded interpreters that our online 'selves' form. The purpose of this creative work is to explore identity-constructing practices in the online space, to reflect on the ways that the online archive can be read, and to develop an experimental non-fiction work using the internet as a base medium. The work takes the form of a travel memoir, told through a combination of my social media outputs and internet history between November 18, 2015, and March 1, 2016. I have selectively compiled posts and archived pages in order to produce what I consider to be an authentic representation of my experience, constructing a narrative of myself born from my deliberate social media posts and my internet history of that time, which gives the reader a glimpse into my mental state while I was travelling.

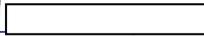
Biographical note:

Jessica Seymour is a casual researcher and lecturer at Southern Cross University. Her research interests include children's and YA literature, transmedia storytelling, and popular culture. She has contributed chapters to several essay collections, which range in topic from fan studies, to *Doctor Who*, to ecocriticism in the works of JRR Tolkien. Her creative work can be found in *Voiceworks*, *Meniscus*, and *NeedleInTheHay*.

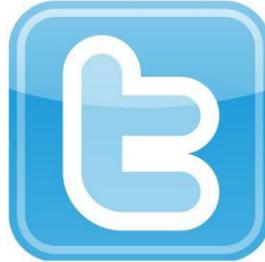
Key words:

Transmedia storytelling – autoethnography – textual bodies – social media – experimental non-fiction

What's the WIFI password?



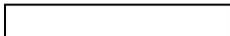
Date of birth: 11 April, 1990
Gender: Female
Religious views: Pastafarian, Church of the Flying Spaghetti and Meatballs.



I have a PhD in children's literature. I also write when I get the time.
Australia

<<The following collection of archived social media posts and internet history has been selectively compiled from many, many social media posts

>>



18 November 2015 ·

This morning I woke up and my phone was buzzing, and I thought: 'Who is Alarm and why are they ringing me?' And then I tried to answer it.

20 November, 2015

11:04am

Google Search - what to do now that you've finished your PHD

What's it like to be 'finished'? | The Thesis Whisperer

<https://thesiswhisperer.com/2015/05/06/whats-it-like-to-be-finished/>

May 6, 2015 - In the weeks and months leading up to the submission of my **PhD**, I found myself ... flummoxed by this – and kept repeating 'no, **you've** passed, this is good news!'). ... Are you looking forward to the end of **your PhD** as a liberation – or **do** you fear it? I am 5.5 years out **now** from completing my dissertation.

PhD Talk: Post-defense reality check: What should you do after ...

phdtalk.blogspot.com/2013/.../post-defense-reality-check-what-should.ht...

Aug 29, 2013 - And, **now** that we're at it - **get** a wipe with some disinfecting product and ... Don't wait too long after **finishing** to send out **your** copies - in the months ... To **getaway** from the research **you've** been working on for 3 or 4 years,

Crazy things to do after finishing your PhD « 27 and a PhD

<https://twentysevenandaphd.wordpress.com/.../crazy-things-to-do-after-fi..>

Oct 11, 2009 - If **you've** always dreamed of getting one, **finishing your PhD** is a great reason to go ... **Now** that you're done, feel free to **do** whatever you want.

2:17pm

Google Search - how to write the perfect cover letter

2:28pm

Google Search - Why isn't my resume working?

2:40pm

History item: Jobs.ac.uk



8 December 2015

shared [Hello Giggles article](#): Burnout: How to deal with creative and mental exhaustion (<http://hellogiggles.com/burnout-deal-creative-mental-exhaustion/>)



11 December 2015 ·

Once again, I woke up thinking my alarm was my phone ringing. Tried to answer the aircon remote

18 December, 2015

11:46pm

History item: Amazon.com search – Travel memoir

It's Not You, Geography, It's Me (Kindle Edition) – purchased

19 December, 2015

11:58pm

History item: Amazon.com search – Gap Year

Your Gap Year: The Most Comprehensive Guide to an Exciting and Fulfilling Gap Year (paperback) - Purchased



 24 Dec 2015

Who's got 2 thumbs and has to sleep on the lounge tonight because the dog peed in her bed? 👍👍

1 January, 2016

8:54pm

History item: Webjet.com.au – search: Darwin to Tokyo

2 January, 2016

3:17pm

History item: Hotmail – Darwin to Tokyo- Flight Itinerary- Confirmed

Sat 2/01/2016 3:17 PM



19 January ·

I just remembered that I'm going to Japan in two weeks

26 January, 2016

6:34pm

Google Search - anti-anxiety medications available in japan

6:35pm

Google Search - can i take lexapro to japan?

6:37pm

History item: Bringing Medications into Japan - www.uctsc.org

27 January, 2016

2:38am

Google search – depression while travelling alone

[How I Manage My Depression While Traveling Abroad - xoJane](#)

www.xojane.com/.../how-i-manage-my-depression-while-traveling-abroad..

Mar 11, 2014 - I've always been **depressed**, but that shouldn't hold me back from traveling. I already have ... How I Manage My **Depression While** Traveling Abroad. I've always

[The Reality of Traveling Depression and How to Cope - Wanderful](#)

www.sheswanderful.com/.../the-reality-of-traveling-depression-and-how-..

May 5, 2014 - **Depression** and anxiety don't disappear because you get to **travel**. ... "How I Manage My **Depression While** Traveling Abroad," by xoJane author, ... Ryan's article articulates, every trip — **solo** or not — has its ups and downs.

3: 20am

Google search – managing anxiety on the road

3: 24am

Google search – recent terror attacks + Japan

3: 36am

Google search – recent terror attacks + Europe

Terrorism in the European Union - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorism_in_the_European_Union

The acts of terrorism that have either failed, been foiled or been successfully executed within ... According to these data the vast majority of **terrorist attacks** in the EU are Castiglion Fiorentino · Italy, 2, -, Small arms fire, **New Red Brigades**.

4:19am

Google search – register with smart traveller



Jan 31

Am at Singapore airport where, as some may remember, I was once reprimanded by security for taking selfies with the mannequins [#ThugLife](#)

1 February, 2016

5:16pm

Google search – wifi in Tokyo

7:37pm

Google search – creative writing journals that pay contributors

Show Me the \$\$\$! Literary Magazines That Pay | The Review Review

thereviewreview.net/publishing-tips/show-me-literary-magazines-pay

By Becky Tuch. Yeah, yeah, we all know that we're not in this **writing** profession for the money. Still, do you ever wonder which **journals pay** their **contributors**?

Literary Magazines that Pay - Every Writer

www.everywritersresource.com/literary-magazines-the-pay/

Mar 24, 2013 - by **paying writers** they are giving up the very little bit of money that they make. Please consider buying these **magazines**. Support them, they ...

Authorised Theft: Refereed conference papers of the 21st Annual AAWP Conference, 2016



[redacted] Feb 2

I got called a gaijin today by the sweetest little boy who used me to practice his English

3 February, 2016

08:16am

Google search – where to buy tampons in Japan

[A Guide to Tampons in Japan | Surviving in Japan: \(without much ...](#)

www.survivingnjapan.com/2010/09/guide-to-tampons-in-japan.html

They are, in order from top to bottom: Tampax pearl super compact; Charm ... So when **purchasing tampons in Japan**, how do you know what your options are?

[A guide to sanitary napkins in Japan | Surviving in Japan: \(without ...](#)

www.survivingnjapan.com/2010/.../guide-to-sanitary-napkins-in-japan.h..

I've heard various comments that pads in **Japan** are smaller than their day away from **buying** a 20 month supply of pads and **tampons** for moving to **Japan**.

[A post for the ladies! \(Tampons in Japan\) « Jamieism.com: Where ...](#)

www.jamieism.com/474/japan/a-post-for-the-ladies

22 Oct 2011 - **Japan** has you covered! The thing I do dislike, though, is that on a tight budget like mine, **buying tampons** can get fairly pricey (I can eat for a ...



[redacted] added 37 new photos to the album [Japan 2016](#).

4 February ·

6 February, 2016

12:13pm

Google search – fever medication available in japan

7 words to know when you have a cold (in Japan) | Surviving in Japan ...

www.survivingjapan.com/.../7-words-to-know-when-you-have-cold-in...

... of you may already know about this, eastern **medicine**, or kanpou, is **used in Japan**. ... Note: Cold **medicine** is 風邪薬 (かぜぐすり, kazegusuri) in **Japanese**. ... While **afever** is generally not typical with a cold, at least for adults, rest assured you ...

Japan's Top Cold & Flu Medicine | All About Japan

allabout-japan.com › [Home](#) › [Travel](#) › [Tips](#)

18 Jan 2016 - These are mostly only **available in Japan**, and be sure to check the ... cold symptom **treatments** in **Japan**, which helps combat **fever**, cough, ...

9: 51pm

Google search – Nara sacred deer

8 February, 2016

11:31am

Google search – mental health support japan

12:18pm

History item: Can a foreigner seek mental health support in Japan? -

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/forums/asia-north-east-asia/japan/can-a-foreigner-see-mental-health-support-in-japan>

9 February, 2016

09:13am

Google search – how to validate a japan rail pass

7:49pm

Google search – Tokyo to Kyoto + train

7: 52pm

Google search – Kyoto + things to do

12 February, 2016

11:17am

History item: Kyoto City Zoo - <http://www5.city.kyoto.jp/zoo/lang/en>



[redacted] shared [Needle In The Hay's post](#).

12 February at 17:11 ·



Needle In The Hay

12 February at 14:30 ·

I have a certain fondness for this effort by [redacted], it's set just 5 minutes from my home!

<http://needleinthehay.net/short-story-flash-fiction-jessic.../>



[redacted]

13 February at 22:21 ·

This bastard was CONVINCED that I had Bambi treats in my bag and literally chased me from one side of the Nara museum gardens to the other



17 February, 2016

12:16pm

History item: Top 65 Happy Songs That Will Make You Smile -

<https://www.upvenue.com/article/1864-top-65-songs-that-will-make-you-happy-instantly.html>

07:35pm

History item: Unicorn Island: Where Awesome Lives -

<http://www.unicornisland.ca/#!about-me/cicd>



shared a [link](#).

17 February at 11:51 ·

Kindness



[vlogbrothers](#)

Published on Feb 16, 2016, In which John discusses kindness, Hank's beloved dog Lemon, and Octavia Butler's brilliant novel The Parable of the Sower.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_tWFY4dK4E&app=desktop



19 February at 18:14 ·

Went to Osaka Castle today (photos to come) and met some students outside who wanted to ask me questions to fulfill their English conversation class homework assignment. Lovely people - their English was damn near perfect. Got very excited when I told them that I'm Australian

21 February, 2016

09:45am

Google search – fox village shiroishi

10:12am

History item: Miyagi Zao Fox Village - https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g1023408-d7388189-Reviews-Miyagi_Zao_Fox_Village-Shiroishi_Miyagi_Prefecture_Tohoku.html



28 February

Feeding time at Fox Village



Feb 28

In Shiroishizao = rural Japan. At the train station a fella shouted "Gaijin desu!" and his wife quickly craned her neck to check me out



Feb 28

Back in Tokyo now for my last night Japan :(Might just have to come back someday

29 February, 2016

02:17am

Google search – how to get to Narita Airport

1. The Japan Rail (JR) Narita Express called NEX, goes mostly to Tokyo Station. Travel time to Tokyo Station is 60- 90 minutes.
2. You will need to change trains at Tokyo Station for the Yamanote Line through to your hotel. ...
3. The Keisei Skyliner Airport Express will take you to Ueno station or Nippori only.

[Tokyo: From Narita Airport To Your Tokyo Hotel - TripAdvisor](#)

<https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Travel.../Tokyo:Japan:From.Narita.Airport.T...>

02:39am

Google search – things to do in Paris

02:39am

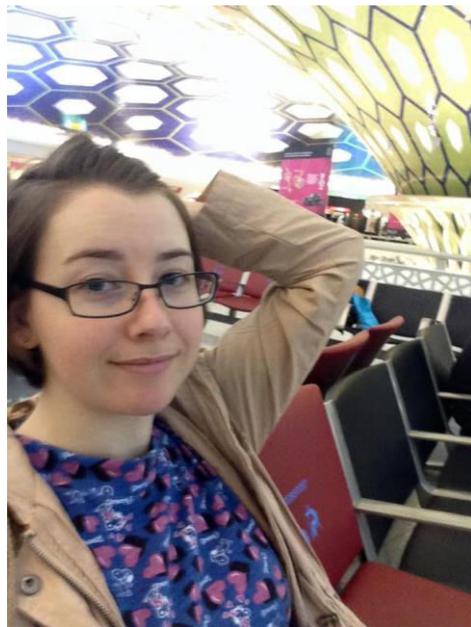
History item: Moulin Rouge (Site Officiel) - <http://www.moulinrouge.fr/?lang=en>

The Féerie Show, 7:30pm, 3rd March - Purchased



1 March at 11:45 ·

Chilling in Abu Dhabi - would have felt bad about the 5 hour wait, but the guy who was sitting on the plane with me has 20 hours so...



Research statement

Research background

In the online space, users are detached from physical reality. They exist within the space as 'textual bodies' which they create themselves (Ashford 2009), compiled through social media accounts, blog posts, and interactions with other users. Other, non-intentional archiving practices such as tracking cookies and bots are designed to gather still more data about contemporary online practices, helping to build the online 'body' as an extension of the physical body.

Research contribution

This creative piece is a work of autoethnography which connects the personal to the cultural through my own interactions with social media and the online space. Autoethnography allows me the opportunity to investigate my experience through reflexive enquiry (Brown 2014; Custer 2014). While previous generations relied on oral story-telling, radio and television, the rise in literacy in the western world has led to a surge in text-based communication (Curwood, et al 2013; Wilkinson, 2011). Curwood et al (2013) draw on research from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, which indicates that over a third of textual communication occurs online, outside of the educational setting.

Research Significance

By developing a creative piece out of my personal online practices, I am experimenting in storytelling through the diverse, spatial contexts of the online space. The purpose of this creative work is to explore both deliberate and non-deliberate identity-constructing practices, and to reflect on the ways that the online archive can be read as a text. This demonstrates the usefulness of the online space both as an archival repository for future researchers and as a creative space for memoir writers.

List of works cited

Ashford, Chris 2009 'Queer Theory, Cyber-Ethnographies and Researching Online Sex Environments', *Information & Communications Technology Law* 18:3, 297-314

Brown, Judith Elizabeth 2014 'Using Autoethnography to Create Narratives to Understand Musical Taste and the Experience of Collaborative Music Performance', *TEXT: Journal of Writers and Writing Courses*, Special Issue 26, online, at <http://www.textjournal.com.au/speciss/issue26/Brown.pdf> (accessed 13 September 2015)

Curwood, Jen Scott, Alecia Marie Magnifico & Jayne Lammers 2013 'Writing in the Wild: Writers' Motivation in Fan-Based Affinity Spaces', *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* 56:8, 677-685

Custer, Dwayne 2014 'Autoethnography as a Transformative Research Method', *The Qualitative Report*, 19:21, 1-13, at <http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR19/custer21> (accessed 27 June 2016)

Wilkinson, Lili 2011 'A Generation of True Writers', *Meanjin [Online]*, at <http://meanjin.com.au/articles/post/a-generation-of-true-writers/> (accessed 3 March 2012)