Southern Cross University

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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 get away 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/)
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

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
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 ...
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 ...
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 ...
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 ...

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...

... 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 a fever is generally not typical with a cold, at least for adults, rest assured you...

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

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


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
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12 February at 17:11 ·

Needle In The Hay
12 February at 14:30 ·
I have a certain fondness for this effort by [ needles, it's set just 5 minutes from my home! ]

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

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 -

07:35pm

*History item:* Unicorn Island: Where Awesome Lives -

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

Jessie Seymour 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
Feeding time at Fox Village

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

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.
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Tokyo: From Narita Airport To Your Tokyo Hotel - TripAdvisor

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


