

From Special Collections to Twitter: Library and Social Media as Laboratory for Becoming a Citizen of the World

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March 4, 2017



Course Context

Learning objectives for FREN229 (*Le français dans le monde*):

- Understand how **societal change** influences the way we speak and the language we speak;
- **Compare phenomena** in French-speaking world with those observed in the English-speaking world and elsewhere;
- Draw links between **language and identity** in the French-speaking world;
- Compare **attitudes toward standard language**, or “good speech”, in different parts of the world;
- Provide concrete examples of how **French has evolved** across recent centuries;
- Grasp general **processes of language change** and the forces that accelerate or slow down such changes;
- Use proper **terminology** in French to discuss **political, social, and linguistic** changes and forces.

Idea for Twitter Project

- LOGISTICS: one unified platform
- LANGUAGE: express concise yet meaningful thoughts in French
- AGENCY: explore on their own, broaden their horizons, focus on specific aspects/facets, and share their findings/thoughts with the group
- CONNECTIONS: explore the French presence in the World but also locally in Philadelphia, and on campus.
- LIFELONG LEARNING: make meaningful connections & develop useful habits, that could live and perdure outside of class and beyond their time at Penn.

Inspirations for This Project

- Reyes Llopis-García “Twitter as a Window to Cultural Awareness”, NEALLT 2013!
- Numerous Twitter events during “La semaine de la francophonie” in March every year, **#SLFF17**
 - https://twitter.com/languesFR?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
 - « L’expression qui vous fait voyager »
- The Madeleine Project



Library Intervention #1 - Technology

Learning objectives and tool choice

The screenshot shows the Penn Libraries Guides website. The main navigation bar includes links for Library Info, Facilities, Research, Collections, Courseware, and Tools. A search bar is present with the text "Search Library guides" and a "GO" button. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Penn Libraries / Guides / Weigle Information Commons / Social Media / Home". The page title is "Social Media: Home". A secondary navigation bar contains buttons for Home, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Tumblr, Storify, and Flickr. The main content area features a "Social Media Comparison Chart" with a table comparing seven platforms: Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, HootSuite, and Storify. The table has three rows: "What it is", "How people use it", and "Best features". To the right of the chart is a "Contact WIC" section with the Weigle Information Commons logo, email address (wic1@pobox.upenn.edu), and phone number (215-746-2660). Below that is a "WIC Social Media Blog Posts" section with a list of recent posts and their dates.

	Flickr	Pinterest	Instagram	Twitter	HootSuite	Storify
What it is	Photo sharing site to upload and view images	Tool for collecting and organizing various interests	Tool to quickly share and post photos and videos to other social media outlets	Micro-blogging and networking platform	Dashboard to track and manage various social media accounts	Platform to create a narrative of what's posted on social media
How people use it	Share your photos and view others' images	Browse, create and pin to "boards"	Take a picture or video, customize its "feel," share with others	Network and create conversations with others	Manage social networks, schedule posts, tweets, and updates	Pull various social media sources together to create a story
Best features	Uploading and sharing clear, sharp images	Organizing ideas by theme	Creating quick, candid photos and videos and	Connecting with other organizations and	Organizing social media platforms	Narrating an event with social media

Contact WIC
Please contact us with questions!

Weigle Information Commons
wic1@pobox.upenn.edu
215-746-2660

WIC Social Media Blog Posts

- [Social Media, Privacy, and Your Brand](#)  Dec 6, 2014
- [Jaime -- new WIC Intern!](#)  Oct 6, 2014
- [Socializing with Social Media](#)  Jul 25, 2014
- [Toddler Alert](#)  Apr 30, 2013

Twitter Tutorial

Tutorial for FREN 229 & 313: Twitter Basics and Networking

This tutorial is online at <http://bit.ly/fren229>

Contents

[What is Twitter?](#)

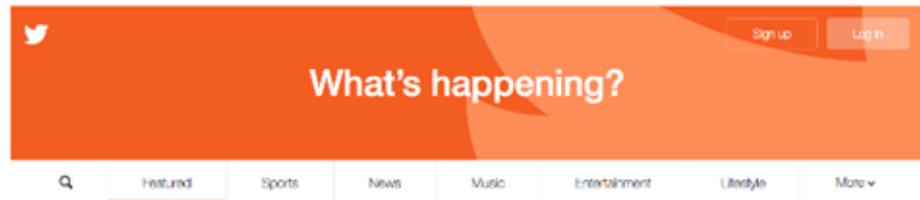
[Twitter Basics: Setting up an account](#) | [Tweeting](#) | [Following](#)

[Twitter Best Practices](#)

[The Challenges of Tweeting in French](#)

[Further Resources](#)

What is Twitter?



Twitter is a microblogging site where users can create profiles, issue short posts, and read the posts of other users. The professional possibilities with Twitter can be maximized by careful selection of other Twitter users to follow. In this sense, Twitter is *not* like Facebook. Quality of contacts is more important than quantity.

Twitter Basics

[Setting up an account](#)

Join Twitter today.

Twitter Project Components

1. A francophone song (outside of France)* [#chansonfrancophone](#)
2. A picture of the oldest book you have found in French [#livrerare](#) [#rarebooks](#) ([#Kislak](#))
3. Two articles pertaining to francophonie or the French language [#francophonie](#) [#languefrançaise](#)
4. “Citizen sociolinguistics”: a conversation (partly or fully in French) overheard (indicate in hashtag where you heard it) [#entendu](#) [#conversation](#) ([#codeswitching](#) [#translanguaging](#))
5. An event attended in connection with linguistics, the French language or francophonie [#langages](#)
6. Two quotes from the readings [#citation](#) [#nom de l'auteur](#) ([#linguistique](#) [#sociolinguistique](#) [#histoirefrançais](#))
7. A podcast about francophonie or the French language [#podcast](#) [#francophonie](#) [#languefrançaise](#)
8. One RT (retweet)
9. Several tweets during the Semaine de la Francophonie from March 18 to 26, 2017

CITIZEN SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Betsy Rymes

About

2

I call speaking up about one's own language **Citizen Sociolinguistics**. And that is what this blog is about. I explore what people say when they speak about language from an expert's perspective: their own! I welcome your comments and stories as fellow Citizen Sociolinguists.

We don't even need to be professionally or academically affiliated in any way. Many people out there listening to the freely available language samples are expert language analysts. Their expertise may differ from that of a PhD Linguist, Applied Linguist, Sociologist, or Linguistic Anthropologist—but those everyday language analysts (I call them *Citizen Sociolinguists*) are not necessarily any more or less responsible in their interpretation of other peoples' speech than a trained academic researcher.

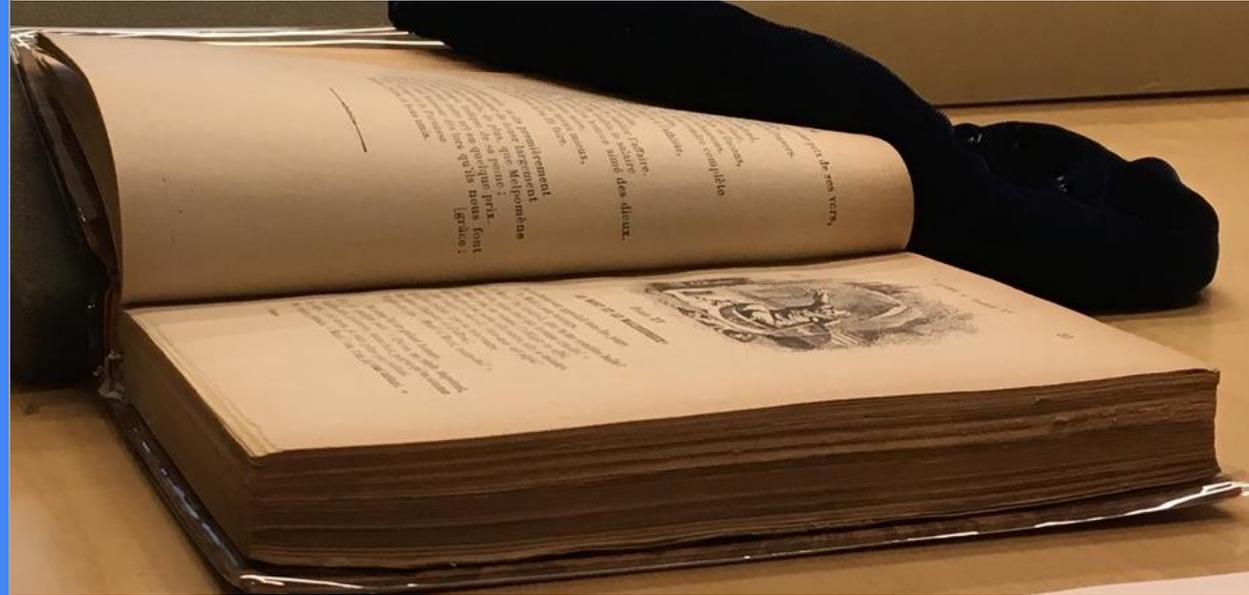
<https://citizensociolinguistics.com>

Library Intervention #2: Rare Books Session



Back to the Rare Books....

- ❖ Session led by David McKnight, Director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library
- ❖ Sources included:
 - *Roman de la Rose*
 - *Fables de La Fontaine*
 - *Discours de la méthode pour bien conduire sa raison, & chercher la verité dans les sciences*
 - *Dictionnaire francoilatin, Robert Estienne*
 - *Les oeuvres de M. François Rabelais*



Fables de la Fontaine, 1898





Vickie Karasic

@vmkarasic

Nous nous amusons a la bibliotheque en
#Fren229!@upennlib @SoDeWil



LIKE

1



3:44 PM - 25 Jan 2017



Paper Tweets!

LE LENDemain
VIVE LOUIS
VOUS M'AVEZ DONNE
JE SERAI
OISON → OISEAUX

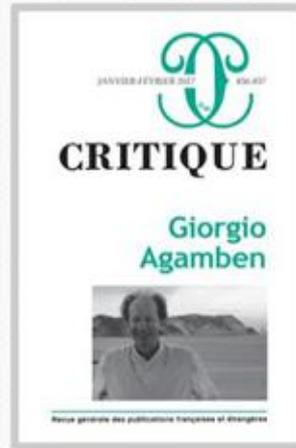
annotations
«peut»
les nombres de pages
sont doubles (parlement
au droit)
- le premier usage d'un
topographe «régulier»

$\int = s$ $y = i$
 $V = u$
 $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow \text{on}$
pas d'accents graves
 $i \rightarrow j$
 $z \rightarrow s$

Library Intervention #3: Research Session



DIX-SEPTIÈME SIÈCLE
L'esthétique de
Malebranche
2017/1 n° 274



CRITIQUE
Giorgio Agamben
2017/1 n° 836-837



TRAVAUX DE LINGUISTIQUE
Déterminants et
inférences
2016/1 n° 72



LANGAGE ET SOCIÉTÉ
Dire les conflits de
normes
2017/1 N° 159

Canvas Quiz



Question 4

1 points

Your professor asks you to find an article in the journal *Travaux de linguistique*. Using Franklin, find out which years the library subscribes to and from which database you can access this journal.

[Éditeur HTML](#)

B *I* U A **A** *I*_x x^2 x_2
 π **Font Sizes** **Paragraph**

p



Students' Tweets



Logan Castrucci @loganfren229 · Feb 12

Entendu à Houston Hall: trois francophones qui font des projets pour les vacances de printemps #fren229 #conversation #entendue #houston

Translate from French



Vivian Dai @notgonnadai · Feb 18

<<Gweta>> -une chanson de Toofan, un duo togolais! #Fren229 #chansonfrancophone

Translate from French



Toofan - "GWETA" (OFFICIAL HD)

Abonnez-vous à la chaîne officielle de Toofan : <http://bit.ly/toofan-official> Venez retrouver les meilleures clips vidéos de Toofan : <http://bit.ly/toofan-cl...>
youtube.com



Capucine Le Meur @capucine_229 · Feb 21

On S'Prend Pas La Tête de BigO, un chanteur Haitien #Fren229 #chansonfrancophone

Translate from French



Big O Ft. Top Adlerman - On S'Prend Pas La Tête (...)

Homme public que l'on ne voit qu'au travers de ses clips à succès dont le dernier en date avec Sean Paul... Olivier Martelly artiste haïtien bien né avec une...

youtube.com



Francophone Encounters

 **Sophie Degât-Willis** @SoDeWii

J-2 avant notre rencontre avec Kevi Donat !
Nous avons hate ! 🙌🙌🙌🥳🎉 #Fren229
#rencontresfrancophones @LeParisNoir

Translate from French

LIKE
1

1:26 PM - 13 Feb 2017

1 1 1

Reply to @LeParisNoir

 **Le Paris Noir** @LeParisNoir - Feb 13
@SoDeWii oui moi aussi !

 **Sophie Degât-Willis** @SoDeWii · Feb 15

Souvenir de ce très bon moment passé ac @LeParisNoir. Merci encore Kévi!
C'est Alicia qui l'a le plus joliment dit "Quelle chance!" #Fren229

Translate from French



1 1

Visibility in the Francophone Twittersphere

And stay in touch with important institutions and figures of the Francophone World

 **Sophie Degât-Willis** @SoDeWil · Feb 28
Plus que quelques jours avant la Sem. de la Francophonie #SLFF17 ! Quoi de mieux que de commencer avec un peu d'ancien français?! #Fren229

 **Le Robert** @LeRobert_com
#LeSaviezVous Le mot hashtag (mot-dièse) a une origine surprenante : le préfixe hash vient de l'ancien français "haché" ! #SLFF17

Translate from French

Retweet 7 Like 2

 **vegafred** and **Ministère CultureCom** liked your Tweet 7h
Feb 28: Plus que quelques jours avant la Sem. de la Francophonie #SLFF17 ! Quoi de mieux que de commencer avec un peu d'ancien français?! #Fren229 twitter.com/LeRobert_com/s...

 **vegafred** and 5 others Retweeted your Tweet 7h
Feb 28: Plus que quelques jours avant la Sem. de la Francophonie #SLFF17 ! Quoi de mieux que de commencer avec un peu d'ancien français?! #Fren229 twitter.com/LeRobert_com/s...

 **DiploMix** @DiploMix · 12h
#francophonie @#francophonie @languesFR: RT @SoDeWil: Plus que quelques jours avant la Sem. de la Francophonie... goo.gl/zzFxC5

Translate from French

Reply Retweet Like

Take an Active Part in the French Language and Francophonie Week

- “Speakons français”: Create the most clever equivalents to 20 English words and anglicisms (KO, babyfoot, tie break, fan zone)
- “A vos plumes”: Contest of “twitterature”: tweet a poetic/creative response to Prevert’s quote



Unexpected Outcome of the Twitter Project

- Easier way to share information

 **Sophie Degât-Willis** @SoDeWil · 1 mars

Un article qui pourrait vous intéresser les #Fren229, surtout @carolyncurry229 !



Les Cajuns de la Louisiane renouent de plus en plu...
ARNAUVILLE, La. - Au coeur du pays cajun, les plus vieux se souviennent des punitions corporelles que leurs professeurs leur infligeaient afin qu'ils cessent de parler...
leau-vive.ca

- 229 (French in the World) and 313 (Advanced Business French) coming together

 **Sophie Degât-Willis** @SoDeWil · Jan 23

Pertinent pour 229 et 313 cette sem. ! Art de la conversation à la française
#Fren229 #Fren313 france-amerique.com/fr/the-art-of-... via
@FranceAmerique

Translate from French



L'art de la conversation à la française pour les nuls
Une partie de tennis, un vin que l'on laisse décanter ou un jardin anglais.
Julie Barlow et Jean-Benoît Nadeau ne manquent pas de métaphores pou...
france-amerique.com

← ↻ ❤ 1

Student Survey: Twitter Project

"I think this Twitter project is a great way of engaging more with French (whether it's the language, history, etc.) in our everyday surroundings."

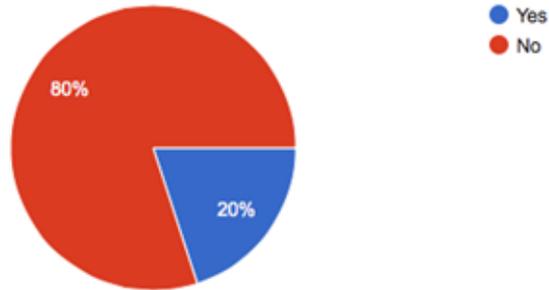
"The Twitter project connects us not only with each other, but with the speakers we have had in class, and the world's resources. Twitter is a great way to access all types of posts such as links, pictures, videos, quotes/words, etc. It's also a great way to get you to think about the world around you and encourages you to explore more. Twitter's also a great way to research because you can use hashtags to see what people talk about most."

"It's an interesting way to get real life applications of what we're learning in class and being more engaged with the phenomenon."

Limitations

Future Directions

Twitter use



Most relevant:

- news articles
- songs
- conversations

Less relevant/interesting:

- Old book
- Quote from readings

Student Survey: Library Sessions

Describe one thing you learned or that excited you during the rare books session:

“It was amazing to feel and look through such old and rare books that pertained to French history. I loved the way you could literally see how books, printmaking, and writing evolved.”

“It was interesting to note how the French written language has progressed over such a long period of history.”

“I did not realize how much French spelling varied throughout the years and how much the printing styles changed over time.”

Conclusions

- Endless possibilities of Twitter used as either a receptive or productive tool
- Strong ties & constant dialogue with librarians and library resources: enrich the course content and improve students' productions
- Citizen of the world: Pushing students to actively engage with other French speakers and be part of the larger community



References

- Kelly, M., McNutt, D., Roser, M., & Smith, S. (2015. March). *Combining librarian superpowers for the greater good: Building a collaborative model of instruction with archives & special collections*. Paper session presented at the meeting of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Portland, OR.
- Rymes, B. (2016. September 24) *Citizen Self-Transcription and Eye Dialect Sociolinguistics*. Retrieved from <https://citizensociolinguistics.com>

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Slide 16: Screenshot from CAIRN Bouquet General, <http://www.cairn.info/disc-lettres-linguistique.htm>

Slide 21: Screenshot from RFI, <http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20170213-speakons-francais-sport>

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Slide 27: Picture from <https://twitter.com/julienlepers/status/658261982060093441>