

**USE AND ABUSE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES (FACEBOOK) AMONG
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN TAI SOLARIN UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION**

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ABSTRACT

The study is aimed at investigating the use and abuse of Social Networking Websites (Facebook) among undergraduates in Tai Solarin University of Education. The population sampled was 301 undergraduate students, which were randomly selected from the 4 colleges in the university. A 33 items questionnaire was used to collect data from the students during their general course (GNS) classes and was collected immediately for analysis. The validity of the instrument was assessed and found to be adequate based on the assessment of four experts. The data were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the four research questions. The study reveals that undergraduates in TASUED use smart phones in accessing Facebook to relate with friends, families, for Information and Educational purposes and to search for old and new friends. The findings also discovered that there is low percentage of undergraduates in TASUED who abuse the use of Facebook through viewing, downloading and sharing pornographic videos and pictures on Facebook, and also involved in bullying, playing pranks and insulting people on Facebook. They also create fake ID's and chat with them sometimes on Facebook of cyber fraud. Students also are addicted to Facebook by always checking for updates and remain logged in to chat with friends and by so doing they might have to do anything possible to stay online at all cost "Facebooking" at any possible pace and time available. Which has led to addiction in Facebook use. The undergraduates in TASUED also indicates that users of Facebook should beware of comments they post on Facebook and also users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook, and report cases of abuse to Facebook. The study further recommends that Student should use Facebook for research purposes by joining educational groups, forums and pages for knowledge sharing and educational updates. The school should organize a kind of orientation or symposiums whereby the issues in the abuse of Facebook will be addressed like cyber fraud, identity theft, and false information. **KEYWORDS:** *Social Networking Websites (SNS), Facebook, Abuse, Use, and University Undergraduates.*

I. Introduction

Social Network Websites usage has inevitably become a growing global phenomenon, Information has now been made available in varieties of technological applications i.e. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter etc. which is now bridging the digital divide between the undergraduate students and the desired information at a relatively low cost with easy and equitable access, for instance, good number of lost contacts have been re-gained; re-connecting old classmates, co-workers, college mates, families etc.in concomitant with ^[1] states that “Social network is a powerful tool that provide veritable platform for quick information communication, knowledge sharing and collaboration among friends, colleagues, affiliations and even between superior officers and their subordinates”.

^[2] Defined University undergraduate as “a student of university who has not yet received a first degree or the body member of a university or a college who has not taken his first degree; a student in any school who has not completed his course”. Facebook is the most used Social Network Websites (SNS) among Nigerian Undergraduates in Universities and it can also be described as a popular “Sidekick” among undergraduates with usage rates upwards of 90% at most campuses.

Undergraduates in higher institution of learning now use Facebook (The most widely used Social Networking Site) to perpetrate various abuses, ranging from cloned impersonated profile account; In August 2012, Facebook revealed that more than 83 million Facebook accounts (8.7% of total users) are fake accounts. These fake profiles consist of duplicate profiles, accounts for [spamming](#) and fraudulent purposes ^[3] uploading of offensive pornographic videos, hacking of user profiles, and cyberbullying

II. Statement of the Problem

The widespread use of social networking sites (Facebook) is obviously a growing phenomenon among Nigerian’s undergraduates which Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ogun State is inclusive but the use of social networking sites has resulted to many abuses which is invariably overshadowing its benefits. Abuses such as cyber stalking, cyber fraud, identify theft, pornography, cyber trolling etc. against this background the study examines the use of and abuses of social networking sites (Facebook) and its abuses among undergraduates students in Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ogun State.

Research Objectives

1. To find out the devices used by TASUED undergraduates to access SNS (Facebook)
2. To find out the purpose of using SNS (Facebook) by TASUED undergraduates
3. To ascertain the various abuses of social networking sites (Facebook) by the TASUED Undergraduates.
4. To profound possible solutions to prevent abuse in using Facebook?

Research Questions

1. What are the devices used by TASUED undergraduates to access SNS (Facebook)?
2. What are the purpose of using SNS (Facebook) by the undergraduate students in TASUED?
3. What are the various abuses of social networking sites (Facebook) by the TASUED Undergraduates?
What are the possible solutions to prevent abuse in using Facebook?

Significance of Study

The use of social networking site most especially Facebook has many benefits, ranging from the improvement of the interpersonal relationship, connectivity, real time communication, resource sharing, user-centeredness, social richness etc. Aside these numerous benefits, its abuses is also been perpetrated by this students. This study will be of significance in the view of the following ways:

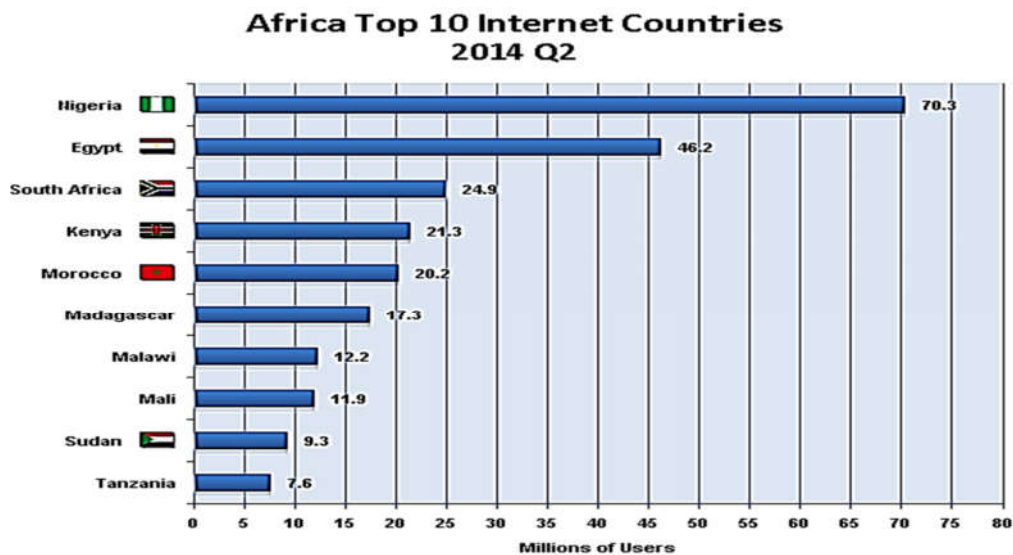
- to reveal and review the prevalent abuses associated with the use of SNS among undergraduates
- it will explain the manner through which SNS are abused
- suggest positive measures for mitigating the various abuses associated with SNS
- it will add to existing and future literature on the use and abuse of social networking sites (Facebook)
- it will also explain the relationship between the use and abuse of SNS

Review of Literature

[4] States that the advent of Social Network Sites (SNS) such as Myspace and Facebook and others have contributed to a wide dimension to the World Wide Web. He also further explained that “Social network site is an online service for users to create a public or semi-public profile, build a network with other users with whom they share a common links, and navigate other users’ profiles and networks”. With the use of social network sites,

communities and groups of people with shared interests can stay ‘connected’. Facebook has a great ability to instantaneously communicate to the masses, unrestricted by time and space with less expense.

[5] states that the with the convergence of technology used for communicating with others and the popularity of the Internet, “Social Networking” has become an activity that is done primarily on the Internet, with sites like Myspace, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Bebo, Friendster, and Xanga. Research has indicated that Nigeria has the highest usage of Internet in Africa, which can be represented in the following chart;



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm
297,885,898 Internet Users in Africa estimated for June 30, 2014
Copyright © 2014, Miniwatts Marketing Group

Source from:

<http://www.internetworldstats.com/africa.htm#ng>

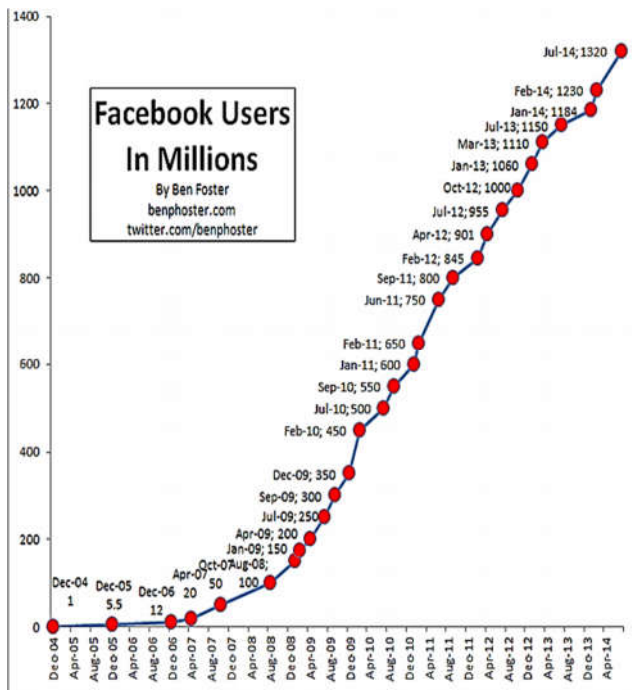
Use of Social Networking Sites among Undergraduates

With the advent of social networking sites, the university undergraduates can have a wide access to information which has become almost completely free. Account holders on Facebook for instance, can subscribe to news feeds of interest to them. Whenever they sign into their accounts, the information they need is available for their use. For instance, undergraduate students who need information about scholarships can simply subscribe to the Facebook pages of the sites providing this information. This way, they are sure of not missing the chance whenever it is available. Social networking sites have also reduced the cost of communication among students. The Facebook application for mobile phones have become a veritable tool among students for disseminating “real time” information about fixed lectures, assignments and other academic activities which is quite convenient and cheap (for example

MTN with a credit card recharge of 100 in Nigeria, users are been given a free 10Mb free data).

Social Networking applications such as Facebook; a network that can be accessed with mobile phones at cheaper rate, which allows users create profile, add friends, tag pictures, upload and share videos, create groups, classroom discussion to posting assignments, tests and quizzes, to assisting with homework outside of the classroom setting. Create events, chat with friends in real time, with the recent advance in the integration of voice and video calls etc. Twitter; a social network and micro-blogging site that allows users to send and read text-based posts, upload pictures, #, mention, @, and tag friends, etc. YouTube (a video sharing website that allows users upload, share and view videos for educational, entertainment, information, documentary purpose. etc.), LinkedIn; a business and job related social network site that allows users post a job vacancies, companies and institutions use LinkedIn as an avenue for job recruitment, uploading of CV and research papers, creating forums for professionals for new trends and updates, and sending messages, etc. Research has showed that every minute, 24 hours of video content are uploaded to YouTube servers and the number of Facebook users surpasses some of the world's population, [5].

There have been a great increase on the use of Facebook from 2004 -2015



Source from <http://www.benphoster.com/facebook-user-growth-chart-2004-2010/>

With this flow chart we can come to an agreement that there is a steady growth in the use of Facebook in Nigeria. Teachers are now using this medium to tap into the passion point of their students, hence it is the fastest means of communicating with their students in real time.

Abuse of Social Networking Sites (SNS) By University Undergraduates

The use of Social Networking Websites (SNS) has surged globally in recent years. Based on individual companies, statistics in July 2011, Facebook passes 100 million user (2011); LinkedIn had over 100 million users (2011); twitter hit over 100 million 177 million tweets per day social media are increasingly being used not only college students, but also by instructors for different reasons [6]

Due to the convergence of this Social Networking Websites (SNS), there are numerous abuses related to the use of social networking sites, [7] expressed that phishing is also a common abuse on social network sites. Phishing is defined as a form of deception in which an attacker attempts to fraudulently acquire sensitive information from a victim by impersonating a trustworthy entity [3] also enumerate a catalogue of common abuse of social networking sites to include the following: Trolling, cyber bullying, an online bullying, child abuse; pornography etc.

Trolling as reported as a common misuse on social networking sites such as Facebook to emotionally abuse individuals. Trolling occurs in many different forms, such as (but not limited to) defacement of deceased person(s) tribute pages, name calling, playing online pranks on volatile individuals and controversial comments with the intention to cause anger and cause arguments. [3] Online/Cyber bullying is a relatively common occurrence and it can often result in emotional trauma for the victim. Depending on the networking outlet, up to 39% of users admit to being: “cyber bullied” [8], a researcher of social networks quotes a teenager in her article, why youth (heart) social networks sites. The teenager expresses frustration towards social networking sites like Myspace because they cause trauma and too much emotional stress [3]

Methodology

This study investigates the “Use and Abuse of Social Networking Websites among Undergraduate Students in Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ijagan, Ijebu-ode, Ogun State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study.

<https://ibadan.academia.edu/GaniyuOluwaseyi/Papers> and the population consists of 10,713 Undergraduates from the College of COSIT, COHUM, COSMAS and COAEVOT of the university.

Simple random sampling will be used to select a sample of 300 students with the following breakdown;

Name of College	Number of students sampled
College of Science and Information Technology (COSIT)	80
College of Humanities(COHUM)	75
College of Social and Management Sciences (COSMAS)	75
College of Applied Education and Vocational Technology (COAEVOT)	80
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	310

This comprises of students from 100-400 level. A structured questionnaire was used as the means instrument for obtaining primary data. The questionnaires were distributed to the students to fill, during their GNS (General Courses Class), and was collected immediately. The data was collated and analyzed using descriptive statistics consisting of table of frequency and percentage.

Out of the 310 questionnaires distributed, 307 was returned successfully and analyzed

V. Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Demographic information of (TASUED) students

S/N	Demographic Information	Response	Percentage (%)
	GENDER		
1.	Male	215	70%
2.	Female	92	30%
	LEVEL		
3.	100L	46	15.0%
4.	200L	63	20.5%
5.	300L	66	21.5%
5.	400L	132	43.0%

Table 1 It was revealed that Male respondents 215 (70%) was more than the Female respondents 92 (30%), the table also indicates that 400L students responded 132 (43%) have the highest respondents than the other Levels.

Table 2: The devices used to Access Facebook in TASUED

Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents 276 (89.9%) used smart phones in accessing Facebook, It also revealed that 117 (38.1%) of the respondents used their personal computers in accessing Facebook, and 101 (32.9%), used the cyber café and their Tablets and iPads respectively in accessing Facebook, and others also used the cyber café in accessing Facebook.

It also revealed that majority of the respondents 298 (97.1%) does not use the E- Learning

S/N	Devices used in accessing and use of Facebook	No (%)	Yes (%)
6.	Smart Phones	31 (10.1 %)	276 (89.9 %)
7.	Personal computers	190 (61.9 %)	117 (38.1 %)
8.	Cyber Cafe	206 (67.1 %)	101 (32.9 %)
9.	E-Learning Centre's	298 (97.1 %)	9 (2.9 %)
10.	Tablets and iPad	206 (67.1 %)	101 (32.9 %)
11.	Other Devices	304 (99.0 %)	3 (1.0 %)

computers in accessing their Facebook account.

3. The Purpose of

Facebook Use in (TASUED)

S/N	The Purpose of Facebook Use in (TASUED)	No (%)	Yes (%)
12.	Relate with friends	31 (10.1 %)	276 (89.9 %)
13.	Communication	92 (30.0 %)	215 (70.0 %)
14.	Research	206 (67.1 %)	101 (32.9 %)
15.	Networking with colleagues	138 (45.0 %)	169 (55.0 %)
16.	Status recognition	9 (2.9%)	298 (97.1 %)
17.	To link email contacts	230 (74.9 %)	77 (25.1 %)
18.	Meet new friends	123 (40.1 %)	184 (59.9 %)
19.	Search for old friends	15 (4.9 %)	292 (95.1 %)
20.	Information for Educational purposes	61 (19.9 %)	246 (80.1 %)

Table 3 Indicates that majority of the respondents 276 (89.9%) uses Facebook, to relate with friends and families, and 215 (70.0%) of the respondents have been using Facebook as a means of communication. It also revealed that majority of the respondents 246 (80.1%) uses

Facebook, for information and educational purposes, 298 (97.1%) respondents use Facebook for status recognition, It also revealed that majority of the respondents 292 (95.1 %) use Facebook to search for old friends, while 184 (59.9%) have used Facebook to meet new friends. The Report also indicates that students show less interest in using Facebook for Research 101 (32.9 %) and linking Facebook with their other email contacts 77 (25.1 %).

4. The Perceived Abuses Engaged In Using Facebook in (TASUED)

Table 4 reveals that 92 (30.0%) have thought of creating a fake user ID on Facebook and 31 (10.1%) of the respondents have created fake ID on Facebook just for the purpose of not disclosing their real identity, it was also revealed that 9 (2.9%) of this respondents have actually used this created Fake ID's to chat with people on Facebook, which can indirectly be linked cyber scam, identity theft, libel and defamations, cyber fraud, and most especially deceit.

117 (38.1%) of the respondent agreed to the term that they have insulted or abused someone who posted annoying comments or status on Facebook, it also reveals that 15 (4.9%), of the respondents have responded that they have insulted those who insult them on

S/N	Perceived Abuses Engaged In Using Facebook	No (%)	Yes (%)
21.	I create fake ID on Facebook because I don't want to disclose my identity	276 (89.9 %)	31 (10.1 %)
22.	Have you ever thought of creating a fake user ID on Facebook	215 (70.0 %)	92 (30.0 %)
23.	I chat with people with my fake account for my own safety	298 (97.1 %)	9 (2.9 %)
24.	I insult or abuse someone who post annoying comment or status on Facebook	190 (61.9 %)	117 (38.1 %)
25.	If I get abused on Facebook, I will simply reply such comments in an abusive manner	292 (95.1 %)	15 (4.9 %)
26.	I enjoy watching and downloading videos and pictures from Facebook	304 (99.0 %)	3 (1.0 %)
27.	I don't see anything wrong in viewing pornographic pictures or video on Facebook	168 (53.1 %)	144 (46.9 %)
28.	I play pranks on Facebook most times, by name calling, and posting some comments that can be misleading, just for the fun of it.	230 (74.9 %)	77 (25.1 %)
29	I always check for updates and remain logged in to chat with friends	61 (19.9 %)	246 (80.1 %)

Facebook. during the process of this abuse on Facebook. Cyber bullying, trolling which can lead to emotional depression, can be the aftermath of this abuse via Facebook.

144 (46.9 %) responded not to see anything wrong in viewing pornographic pictures or video on Facebook, and 3 (1.0%) have download viewed pornographic videos and images on their mobile phone. This result indicates that almost half of the students view pornographic videos and pictures on Facebook, even though they don't really download them.

The table also indicates that students 77 (25.1 %) play pranks on Facebook most times, by name calling, and posting some comments that can be misleading, just for the fun of it. While in the area of addiction, 264 (80.1%) always check for updates and remain logged in to chat with friends.

5. The possible solutions to prevent abuse in using Facebook?

Table 5: indicates that all the respondents 301 (100.0 %) agreed that issues of pornography or cyber theft and stalking should be reported, using the Facebook hyperlink for security precautions.

101 (32.9 %) of the respondents agreed with the statement that Facebook users should not put much of their personal information on their Facebook profile, and 298 (97.1 %) of the responded, also agreed that Facebook users should be careful of comments they post on

S/N	Possible solutions to prevent abuse in using Facebook	No (%)	Yes (%)
30.	Issues of pornography or cyber theft and stalking should be reported, using the Facebook hyperlink.	0 (0.0 %)	301 (100.0 %)
31.	Facebook users should not put much of their personal information on their Facebook profile	206 (67.1 %)	101 (32.9 %)
32.	Facebook users should beware of comments they post on Facebook	9 (2.9 %)	298 (97.1 %)
33.	Users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook	3 (1.0 %)	304 (99.0 %)

Facebook to avoid cyber bullying, identity theft, trolling, pranks, etc. and finally majority of the students 304 (99.0 %) agreed that Facebook users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook.

Limitations of the Study

It should be noted that the study presented here has several limitations. The sample size of one hundred (301) students of the four (4) Colleges at Tai Solarin University of Education will make generalization difficult. Furthermore, the use of perception to select students with competency in the use of Facebook is a limitation as students might not be truthful in reporting their use and abuse of Social Networking Websites (Facebook).

Summary and Conclusion

- The result of the analysis revealed that Male respondents 215 (70%) was more than the Female respondents 92 (30%), the table also indicates that 400L students responded 132 (43%) have the highest respondents than the other Levels of study in TASUED.
- The result of the analysis on the devices used in accessing Facebook among TASUED undergraduates, revealed that smart phones (89.9%) is the most preferred device undergraduates used smart phones in accessing Facebook, It also revealed that less than average (38.1%) of the respondents used their personal computers, cyber café and their Tablets and iPads in accessing Facebook, since it is of easy access and can be used at their convenient time. The university E- Learning centre within the university campus, have not been greatly used by the students (2.9 %), which might be as a result of inadequate computers and poor network provision.
- The result of the analysis on the purpose of Facebook use, reveals that (30.0%) of the students have thought of creating a fake user ID on Facebook and (10.1%) of the respondents have actually created fake ID on Facebook just for the purpose of not disclosing their real identity, and some of the created accounts on Facebook are now been used to chat with their friends on Facebook, which can indirectly cause cyber scam, identity theft, libel and defamations, cyber fraud, and most especially deceit.
- The result on the Perceived Abuses Engaged In Using Facebook in (TASUED) indicates that (38.1%) have insulted or abused someone who posted annoying comments or status on Facebook, it also reveals that (4.9%), of the students have insulted those who insult them on Facebook. during the process of this abuse on Facebook. Cyber bullying, trolling which can lead to emotional depression, can be the aftermath of this abuse via Facebook. (46.9 %) of the students is of the opinion that there is nothing wrong in viewing pornographic pictures or video on Facebook, and (1.0%) of the students have downloaded and viewed pornographic videos and images on their mobile phone. This result indicates that almost half of the students view pornographic videos and pictures on Facebook, even though they don't really download them. The analysis also reveals that (25.1 %) of the students play pranks on Facebook most times, by name calling, and posting some comments that can be misleading, just for the fun of it. While in the area of addiction, 264 (80.1%) always check for updates and remain logged in to chat with friends and by so doing they might have to do

anything possible to stay online at all cost “Facebooking” at any possible pace and time available.

- The report of this analysis has revealed that all students who responded (100.0 %) have agreed that issues of pornography or cyber theft and stalking should be reported, using the Facebook hyperlink for security precautions and (99.0%) agreed that Facebook users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook 101 (32.9 %) and users should not put much of their personal information on their Facebook profile. And most especially 298 (97.1 %) of the students, agreed that Facebook users should be careful of comments they post on Facebook to avoid cyber bullying, identity theft, trolling, pranks, etc.

Conclusion

It is discovered from the research that the undergraduates in TASUED use smart phones in accessing Facebook to relate with friends, families, for Information and Educational purposes and to search for old and new friends. The findings also discovered that there is below average percentage of undergraduates in TASUED who abuse the use of Facebook through viewing, downloading and sharing pornographic videos and pictures on Facebook, and also involved in bullying, playing pranks and insulting people on Facebook. They also create fake ID's and chat with them sometimes on Facebook of cyber fraud. Students also are addicted to Facebook by always checking for updates and remain logged in to chat with friends and by so doing they might have to do anything possible to stay online at all cost “Facebooking” at any possible pace and time available. Which has led to addiction in Facebook use. The undergraduates in TASUED also indicates that users of Facebook should beware of comments they post on Facebook and also users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook, and report cases of abuse to Facebook.

Recommendation

Based on the findings deduced from this research work, the following recommendation should be considered in the best interest of the students in Federal university of agriculture Abeokuta. The library management should:

1. Student should use Facebook for research purposes by liking educational groups, forums and pages on Facebook where they would be getting and sharing educational updates
2. The school should organize a kind of orientation or symposiums whereby the issues in the abuse of Facebook will be addressed like cyber fraud, identity theft, tyrannical rants and false information
3. Students should report issues of cyber fraud and death threat via Facebook to the school administration
4. Student should use strong words for their passwords so that other people will not gain unauthorized access to their Facebook account
5. Student should use password that will not easily forgotten when creating a Facebook users' account
6. Users should not in any way engage in unlawful transaction via Facebook.

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Other Readings

Allie Rhine and Lindsey Storm, (2015). Social Media; Social Media Revolution. <https://technology-use-and-abuse.wikispaces.com/2.+Social+Media>