

## **Library and Information Science professionals' experience of social media: A Grounded Theory study**

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 1500000517**

### **RESEARCH TEAM**

<b>Principal Researcher:</b>	Ms Beki Mulatiningsih	PhD student
<b>Associate Researcher:</b>	Adjunct Professor Helen Partridge Dr Kate Davis	Principal Supervisor Associate Supervisor
<b>Information Systems School, Science and Engineering Faculty Queensland University of Technology (QUT)</b>		

### **DESCRIPTION**

This project is being undertaken as part of PhD for Beki Mulatiningsih. The purpose of this project is to provide a better understanding of holistic lived experience of Library and Information Science professionals of social media.

You are invited to participate in this project because you are a Library and Information Science professional who resides in Australia and uses social media regularly.

### **PARTICIPATION**

Your participation will involve two audio recorded interviews, and online observation of your activities in social media.

#### **First interview:**

The first interview will take approximately 30 to 60 minutes of your time and will be audio recorded. This interview will focus on your experience of social media. This will be a semi-structured interview with one main question: Can you tell me how do you use social media? The interviewer may ask you probing and follow-up questions to allow you to elaborate on your responses. For example, Could you explain that further? Can you tell me more about that? and What do you mean by that?

#### **Social media observation:**

After the first interview you will be asked to take part in an online observation. With your permission, the principal researcher will 'follow' you or observe 'updates' from your preferred social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, and any other channels you use regularly. The observation will take place for a period of two weeks.

#### **Follow-up interview:**

After the two-week observation period, you will be asked to participate in a second semi-structured interview to explore the findings from the observation. This will be an opportunity for you to further discuss your experience of social media. The interview will be audio recorded and will take approximately 30 minutes of your time.

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the project without comment or penalty. Your decision to participate or not participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT.

### **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

It is expected that this project will not benefit you directly. However, it may benefit Library and Information Studies education to inform the curriculum of Library and Information Studies education in Australia to support the education of future Library and Information Science professionals. The findings can also inform Library and Information Studies educators in refining the way they deliver the study to their students. For Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and other Library and Information Science professional associations, the findings of this research can inform them in refining their professional development training scheme. For Library and Information Science employers, the findings can help them in refining the policy of social media use at work. The findings will also provide insight into the different ways of Library and Information Science professionals using social media and may therefore help other Library and Information Science professionals to improve their social media practice.

### **RISKS**

There are no risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation in this project.

## PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law. Any data collected as part of this project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Any information obtained in connection with this project that can identify you will remain confidential. We plan to publically present and publish the results of this research; however information will only be provided in a form that does not identify you.

You may like to add a post to the social media spaces that you use notifying your followers that you are participating in a research study and that over a two-week period a researcher will be observing your behaviour. Please note this is a suggestion only. If you make this post you will be revealing your involvement in the study and as such your anonymity cannot be maintained. If you prefer that your involvement in the study remains anonymous we recommend you do not notify your followers.

Your **interviews** will be audio recorded:

- It is not possible to participate in this research without being audio recorded.
- You will not have the opportunity to verify your comments and responses prior to final inclusion.
- The recordings will be transcribed and the audio recordings will be retained until the project is completed, at which point it will be destroyed.
- The recordings will only be used to assist with analysis, and will not be used for any other purpose.
- The recordings and transcriptions will only be available to the research team.

During the **observation period**, your social media activities will be archived:

- It is not possible to participate in this research without having your social media activity archived.
- You will not have the opportunity to verify your archived social media activity prior to final inclusion.
- The archived activities will only be used to assist with analysis, and will not be used for any other purpose.
- The archive of your social media activities will only be available to the research team.

## CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate.

## QUESTIONS / FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the researchers listed below.

Bekti Mulatiningsih	<a href="mailto:b.mulatiningsih@qut.edu.au">b.mulatiningsih@qut.edu.au</a>
Helen Partridge	<a href="mailto:h.partridge@qut.edu.au">h.partridge@qut.edu.au</a>
Kate Davis	<a href="mailto:kate.davis@qut.edu.au">kate.davis@qut.edu.au</a>

## CONCERNS / COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF THE PROJECT

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. However, if you do have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of the project you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Unit on 3138 5123 or email [ethicscontact@qut.edu.au](mailto:ethicscontact@qut.edu.au). The QUT Research Ethics Unit is not connected with the research project and can facilitate a resolution to your concern in an impartial manner.

***Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.***