**Research Topic**

Research on self-monitoring suggests that this individual difference may influence how people use and view social networks. People high in self-monitoring are concerned with fitting into social situations and people low in self- monitoring are concerned with being true to their values and personality regardless of situation. Self-monitoring affects how people construct their face-to-face social networks, and so I want to explore how it might also affect how people construct their online social networks.

Amichai-Hamburger, Y., & Vinitzky, G. (2010). Social network use and personality. *Computers in Human Behavior*, *26*, 1289-1295.

Bryant, J., Sanders-Jackson, A., & Smallwood, A. K. (2006). IMing, Text Messaging, and Adolescent Social Networks. *Journal Of Computer-Mediated Communication*, *11*, 577-592.

Buffardi, L., & Campbell, W. (2008). Narcissism and social networking web sites. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *34*, 1303-1314.

Donath, J., & Boyd, D. (2004). Public displays of connection. *BT Technology Journal*, *22*, 71-82.

**Snyder, M., Gangestad, S., & Simpson, J. A. (1983). Choosing friends as activity partners: The role of self-monitoring. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 45*, 1061-1072.**

This study shows that high and low self-monitors create different social worlds. High self-monitors segment their social worlds: they tend to have many groups of friends - usually organized around activity interests – and that they keep the apart. In contrast, low self-monitors tend to have a small group of friend with whom they do many things with. In my paper I intend to take these findings and apply them to online social networks.

**[*your assignment will contain more references*]**

## Literature Search tips

## 1. General Background Knowledge

**Start with a general psychology textbook, search the APA website for articles (**[**www.apa.org**](http://www.apa.org)**) or even Wikipedia.** First you want to get a general background on your topic. Textbooks and are the best place to start. They provide brief overviews of psychological theories, topics, and phenomenon. One nice bonus is that they will refer to other researchers who are also involved in phenomenon *X*. Look in the back of the book for the complete reference information, than look up the abstracts in PsychInfo to see if you want to get these articles. The more specific the textbook, the more initial information you will be given (e.g., a social psychology textbook v. a general introduction textbook). Textbooks and encyclopedias can be found in the library, the latter are usually in the reference section of the library. Also, try the psychology area of the library website: [SJSU Research Topics](http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases/index.htm?getType=5) 🡪 Psychology

***Be forewarned:*** *textbooks are a good place to start, but they are not as up-to-date as other sources, and they only highlight the basic elements of any given theory or topic.*

## 2. Deepen Your Knowledge of the Topic

**Find a good review or theoretical article on your topic.** In addition to the textbook references, you should expand your search to articles or chapters that describe or review the theory of interest. These articles will also be key in identifying the most important empirical articles relevant to your topic. The following are a few good sources for this type of article:

Annual Review of Psychology

Psychological Bulletin

Psychological Review

When using psychinfo, you can limit your search to “literature reviews.” This is one way to locate these types of articles. These types of articles are typically more up-to-date than textbooks (depending on how recent the article is), and will give you a much richer, more nuanced report on your topic. Find the most recent article/chapter that you can. Finally, like textbooks, you will discover numerous references cited in this type of article that can follow-up on.

***Be forewarned:*** *You can draw on literature review articles for your paper, but most of your paper should be reviewing and synthesizing empirical articles (research reports).*

## 3. Dive into the Empirical Literature

**Find empirical articles.** The psychinfo tutorial was all about this. You can limit your search to empirical articles in psychinfo to speed your search.

***Be forewarned****: Look for key articles in the development of the theory. One clue is that an article is “key” is it is often cited by other researchers after its publication.*

## Additional Sources/Notes