

Leaflets in the Robinson Library

What did/do you do?

An online research blog (www.chasingdragons.org) and twitter account ([@chasing_dragons](https://twitter.com/chasing_dragons)).

Who is involved?

Kyle Grayson, ext. 5836

How do you do it?

I established a research blog and associated twitter feed in 2009. The blog is updated between 1-2 times a week and I normally tweet about research related matters on a daily basis. Often these tweets are comprised of links to interesting articles available online with my own short commentary.

Why do you do it?

Initially, my intention was to use these platforms exclusively as a way of building up a wider research network in my subject area (Politics). What I discovered over time was that significant parts of my blog readership and twitter following were current and former Newcastle UG, PGT, and PGR students.

Does it work?

While definitive numbers can be provided for the overall blog readership and number of followers on twitter, most of my evidence with regards to the impact on students is anecdotal. Both have been excellent for compiling an archive of up to date material (e.g., video clips, articles) to use as examples while teaching. From time to time, a student will email me about something I have blogged or tweeted to ask for more information. Students have also sent me articles and links that they have found interesting or forwarded on things that I have written to their own followers. Both platforms have provided a means of staying in touch with former students and keeping them informed about developments/opportunities that are taking place at Newcastle. In addition, I suspect that these platforms have helped to remove some of the misperceptions about what lecturers are up to when we are not in the classroom by providing insight into what the academic research process entails.

Teaching and Learning Case Study

2011/12

Kyle Grayson,
Politics

Coherent Curriculum theme:

- Student Engagement
- Research-informed Teaching