Social Media For Researchers

**A: Google Services**

A1: Using Google+

**What is it?** Google+ is Google’s social networking environment and identify provider.

**Why bother?** Having a Google+ account is needed to make use of a range of Google services.

Exercise 1: Familiarisation

A1.1 Visit a Google+ profile such as the one at [**http://gplus.to/ukwebfocus**](http://gplus.to/ukwebfocus) You should see a profile similar to the one shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: A Google+ Profile**

Exercise 2: Registering

A1.2 If you do not have a Google+ account and are willing to sign up for one go to <http://plus.google.com/> and complete the registration details.

Exercise 3: Viewing Google Circles

A1.3 Near the top of a Google + profile click on the link to *In his (her) circles* and view the Google+ profile information for other users. View users’ posts and photos .

Exercise 4: Browsing

A1.4 Click on the Profile (or G+ icon if you are not logged in) link near the top of the screen and then select the Communities link. If you have used Google + previously there may be recommended communities for you to join.

**Figure 2: Posting content in Google+**

Exercise 5: Posting Information

A1.5 Go to your Google + profile page and select the option to “*Share what’s new*”. Notice how you can share textual information, images, video clips and links. You can also create a ‘Hangout’ – a video-conference.

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Using Google+

Did you find information or services in Google+ which may be of interest to you?

Limitations

What limitations do you feel Google+ has?

Questions and Comments

Make a note of any questions and comments you have about Google+.

Further Information and Useful Links

For further information on Google+ see:

* *Google+*, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google%2B>
* *Is It Now Time to Embed Use of Google+?*, B. Kelly, UK Web Focus blog, 21 Sept 2011, <http://ukwebfocus.wordpress.com/2011/09/21/is-it-now-time-to-embed-use-of-google/>
* *Google+ isn't a social network; it's The Matrix*, Guardian technology blog, 4 June 2013, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/blog/2013/jun/04/google-plus-the-matrix>

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* *Google+ isn't a social network; it's The Matrix*, Guardian technology blog, 4 June 2013, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/blog/2013/jun/04/google-plus-the-matrix>