



# Using Social Networking within Adult Literacy Programmes

Claire Collins and Tara Furlong  
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## Introduction

This guide was developed following a joint NIACE/ RaPAL training course in March 2013 as a follow on to aid participants in using and developing social networking in adult literacy contexts. The guide is not intended as a stand-alone training manual although people who did not attend the session may find it useful for reference and/ or ideas.

A 'Prezi' slide show was developed to accompany the training session and this can be accessed online [here](#)<sup>1</sup>. As with all of the tools and sites referred to here, Prezi is free to use (although some tools offer 'premium services' for a fee).

## What do we mean by 'social networking'?

Social networking or 'Web 2.0' is a way to differentiate the passive nature of 'www.browsing' from the 2-way interchange of, e.g. blogs, wikis, social networks, video sharing, podcasting etc.

It is about creating, sharing, remixing, recycling information, forming and joining groups.

## Why social networking for literacy development?

Learners are often already part of online social networks (like Facebook/ Twitter) and, by building on familiar concepts, it can be possible to make links with learners' own lives and communication approaches.

In 2010, an intern at Facebook created a map of the world (see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11989723>).



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<sup>1</sup> If you are reading this on paper, the link is [http://prezi.com/lju-levihomd/using-social-networking-to-improve-literacy/?auth\\_key=d2d9b16b0ce476e016f8e594daaa011e05798068&kw=view-lju-levihomd&rc=ref-33186265](http://prezi.com/lju-levihomd/using-social-networking-to-improve-literacy/?auth_key=d2d9b16b0ce476e016f8e594daaa011e05798068&kw=view-lju-levihomd&rc=ref-33186265)