Conner Quick

Response 3

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Jill Walker Rettberg’s article “Freshly Generated for You, and Barack Obama” discusses different ways that social media helps us create narratives of our lives. There are many forms of social network sites that allow Internet users to enter specific data about themselves to help record their own annual personal reports. Jill uses example sites like Dopplr.com which is a site that helps you log details of your trips, talk with friends and receive alerts when your are in the same town as someone else who you are friends with on the site. She also talks about another site called Trixietracker.com, this site is the one I found to be most interesting. This site is to help new parents compare their baby’s different patterns to other babies. Parents can log their child’s sleep, when they eat; this also helps parents see how much their child’s nap times have changed. Then there are of course the social network sites that everyone knows like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. These sites are different from the two listed above because these sites help organize narratives that may include images and other content. These sites are not data that you have logged; they are sites where most people put their lives on. Constantly downloading pictures and making status updates about what is going on at that moment, these sites are a little more personal than Dopplr.com.

When we created our own word cloud from things we’ve said on our Facebook all the words that were extremely large were my family’s names, the next size words were mostly things about Capital Lacrosse and Roosters, the smallest words were random like beautiful and ocean. Just from pulling information from my Facebook, which I have had, since I was fourteen Wordle summed up my life pretty quickly. Everything in the word cloud had something to do with me; they were either places I have gone or words that I say all the time to things that I do every single day and the people that I am with all the time. Its crazy to me how social media is such a big part in our lives but most people don’t realize it till they are told to log into a site like Wordle.com. As I look around my work I see about 90% of the customers on their phones, as I walk around only 5% are actually texting most are on a variety of different media sites mostly Facebook, but Instagram and Twitter are not far behind.