

## Use WE1S methods and tools to conduct your own Twitter research.

*Audience for this recommendation:*

Academics, Digital Humanists, Twitter Users.

In scraping posts from Twitter for topic modelling, WE1S developed open source tools and procedures for collecting, modeling, and analyzing tweets. These allowed us to make several key findings about public humanities discourse pertaining to students and other academics on Twitter (see [KF-6-2](#), [KF-6-3](#), [KF-6-4](#), and [KF-6-5](#)). But these findings prompt even more questions about the humanities on Twitter. We hope our open-source methods will be useful for future researchers picking up where we left off or who are interested in exploring Twitter for their own goals.

### Try this:

→ **First, assemble a corpus of tweets to conduct your research.** Use [WE1S TweetSuite](#) to build your own tweet corpus by scraping Twitter for words, a date range, usernames, and more. Or instead just start by using WE1S's collections of tweets mentioning *humanities*, *science(s)*, *STEM*, and *liberal arts* ([C-28](#), [C-29](#)).

→ **Next, curate your corpus.** To prepare for making a topic model of tweets (like our [models](#) based on C-28) or for any other analysis, decide which tweet elements to keep or remove--e.g., mentions, punctuation marks, hashtags, acronyms. Also decide how to filter, aggregate, and group tweets. (See our [M-8](#) methods summary.) We recommend retaining hashtags, slang, and even curse words.

→ **Now, analyze Twitter topics and visualizations.** Using WE1S's Workspace for [topic modeling](#), word and document

counting, and [visualization](#), together with WE1S's [Interpretation Protocol](#), you can begin to understand your Twitter corpus. For example, you can start by identifying topics of interest and look for patterns, trends, and sets among similar topics. Or use other text-analysis and visualization tools (e.g., [Voyant Tools](#) or [Lexos](#)).

→ **Finally, help us extend WE1S research on Twitter humanities discourse.** Some questions our research left us thinking about include:

- How do academics advocate for the humanities on Twitter, and how are concrete humanities career opportunities discussed on Twitter? (Compare [KF-6-4](#), [KF-6-5](#).)
- How do students engage with humanities concepts on social media? (Compare [KF-6-3](#).)
- How often are the humanities mentioned in science/STEM-related Twitter discourse? (Compare [KF-6-5](#).)
- How were events of 2020 reflected in, or how did they disrupt, humanities academic discourse? Relevant hashtags to explore include: [#BlackInTheIvory](#) and [#CovidCampus](#).

→ **Or use our tools and methods to explore your own questions as well.** For example, you might begin by asking:

- How do people use Twitter to discuss a certain term? (Compare [KF-6-2](#).)

#### Resources

\* Research backing up this recommendation: [KF-6-2](#) | [M-8](#) | [M-2](#) | [M-3](#)

\* Related materials: WE1S Bibliography: [Social Media Analysis](#), [Topic Modelling](#).