

AFBI Library Communications Policy

Effective communication is essential in order to provide good customer service and to fulfil the standards of service set by the Library. This communication policy aims to outline our commitment to effective communication by documenting the ways in which we communicate with our customers, our communication objectives and our on-going endeavour to listen to and respond to our customers through active consultation and feedback.

1. Communication Purpose

We provide our customers with a range of information. Broadly speaking our communication approaches fall under the following categories:

- To inform: we provide transparent information to our customers about our services (e.g. opening hours, loan entitlements), our policies (e.g. fines policy) and our procedures (e.g. ILL procedures).
- To notify: we provide our customers with notification reminders when their books are reaching the due date, when their reserved books are available for collection and when their books are overdue.
- To respond: we respond to queries we receive from customers face-to-face, by email and via social media outlets.
- To consult and cross refer strategy for involving and communicating with customers.

2. Methods of Communication

We communicate with our customers through a variety of appropriate channels and mechanisms, in ways which meet individual needs and preferences. These currently include:

AFBI Intranet	Notices
Email	Plasma screens
General library webpages	Service points
Guides, leaflets, flyers	Surveys
Induction sessions	Telephone calls
Letters	Tours
Library Committee meetings	Training sessions
Library news items	Twitter

These methods will be reviewed regularly and advances in communication technology will be adapted where appropriate.

3. Communication Principles

To ensure effective communication with our customers, we aim to embody the following principles:

- Our communication will be clear and concise in order to deliver our message succinctly.
- We aim to use plain English so our communication is easily understandable.
- We will deliver timely communication that is relevant to the user at their point of need and ensure that agreed standards of service are met.
- We will reply promptly to all customer queries, ensuring that agreed standards of service are met.
- We will adopt a flexible communication approach, delivering our messages in a variety of ways that meet customer needs and preferences.
- We endeavour to standardise our communication where possible in order to ensure customer clarity by creating templates for letters and emails.

4. Internal Communication

To deliver effective communication to our customers, we must ensure that our internal communication is effective. We will do this by:

- setting an Out of Office email to alert colleagues to our absence from work.
- recording an appropriate voicemail to allow colleagues to leave a message and also to redirect colleagues to an alternative colleague/department if we are unavailable.
- encouraging staff to offer feedback on our communication methods and information provision.

5. Policy Evaluation

Our Communication Policy will be kept up to date with an annual review.

We will also review strategic documents that may impact on our Communication Policy on an annual basis, for example our Twitter Strategy (Appendix 1).

6. Evaluating our Communication

In order to ensure the effectiveness of our communication, we will regularly evaluate our communication approach by:

- seeking regular customer feedback (both formal and informal) on our communication and information provision.

- listening to and responding to user suggestions regarding our communication and information provision.

- making changes to our communication methods or principles where necessary.

- reviewing and updating our Communication Policy accordingly.

- regularly reviewing and updating all information content to ensure accuracy and currency.

- gather and analyse statistics regarding the usage of our communication channels where possible. We will use these statistics to inform our policy and decision making regarding communication and information provision in the Library (table 1 summarises the channels and media we currently use to communicate with our users and, where possible, how we can gather evidence of use)

Table 1.

Medium	Channel	One to one	One to many	One- or two way	How measured?	Mainly used for
AFBI Intranet	web		✓	one	system	news about resources and events
Email	electronic	✓	✓	two	manually	reliably reaching individuals or groups
General Library webpages	web		✓	two	system	Library services and contact details
Guides, leaflets, flyers	print		✓	one	manually	subject, database and services information
Induction sessions	In person		✓	two	manually	providing orientation and help and advice.
Letters	print	✓		two	manually	personal communication
Library committee meetings	in person		✓	two	n/a	presenting Library updates and eliciting feedback
Library news items	web		✓	two	system	news about resources and events
Notices	print		✓	one	n/a	current information
Plasma screens	electronic		✓	one	n/a	news about resources and events
Service points	in person	✓		two	manually	providing help and advice
Surveys	electronic		✓	two	system	eliciting feedback
Telephone calls	in person	✓		two	manually	providing help and advice
Tours	in person	✓	✓	two	manually	providing orientation
Training sessions	in person	✓	✓	two	manually	giving instruction
Twitter	Social media	✓	✓	two	system	brief updates, urgent messages

Appendix 1.

AFBI LIBRARY TWITTER STRATEGY

Introduction

The purpose of this document to record how AFBI Library utilises Twitter to promote its services and resources to customers.

In February 2017, AFBI Library began to utilise Twitter as a social media platform via the following account: <https://twitter.com/AFBILibrary>. The main reason for adopting social media (via Twitter) as a communication tool was to:

- Inform customers about news and developments
- Promote services and resources
- Assist customers in using the Library
- Gather feedback about library services
- Engage with customers, particularly within the AFBI community.

Social media is particularly effective for these purposes because AFBI itself has a strong Twitter presence (@AFBI_NI) and many AFBI staff already have Twitter accounts. In addition, by developing a Twitter presence, AFBI Library staff are empowered to develop social media skills, follow emerging trends in library and information management and to enhance creative skills via online graphics packages such as Canva.

Metrics

The main metrics that twitter collates include total followers (the number of people that follow the Library's account), tweet impressions, profile visits and mentions. These metrics are the key way for AFBI Library to measure the effectiveness of tweets and their content.

Communication Style

In accordance with Queens' University best practice and to align its social media approach with other QUB Libraries, the group has adopted a persona to ensure that they communicate in a consistent manner, thus building up trust with customers and establishing a solid personality for the library.

In order to do this, the group have created a persona passport (appendix 1) that guides all activity and provides a consistent approach to social media communication. Following a discussion, the persona reflects the attributes with which the AFBI Library wishes to communicate our objectives and personifies the desired communication style for the group to draw on.

The persona chosen (Alice Roberts) acts as a reference point that all members of staff can readily connect with. When creating content or managing conversations the question that the social media group will always ask themselves will be what would our persona do/ say?

The communication style adopted by staff when they post messages varies according to the service and the subject.

Content Topics

The group has undertaken a collaborative mind-mapping exercise to inspire and support content creation. The resulting mind maps identify topics that match our persona and can help us achieve our objectives. When creating content the group consult the mind maps for suitable topics. Please refer to appendix 2 for the mind maps. Group development of the mind maps is ongoing so that more topics may be added and there is group consensus on suitable content.

Integration

A number of steps have been taken to integrate social media with the Library's other forms of communication:

- Use of mind maps to integrate content with our services
- Tweets from AFBI Library's Twitter account link directly to AFBI Library's LibAnswers pages
- Induction documentation for new library users includes details about the AFBI Library's Twitter account.
- Tweets from the AFBI Library account can direct users quickly and seamlessly to surveys via questback
- Social media buttons in the AFBI Library EDS enable patrons to share information about the Library's books, journals and other content.

Management

All members of the AFBI Library team post on Twitter. The responsibility for managing the twitter account is shared between the Newforge and Stormont Libraries on a weekly, rotating basis.

- In order to post at peak times, automated tweets, using TweetDeck (<https://tweetdeck.twitter.com/>) are deployed on a regular basis.
- Members of the group manage the service during weekdays from 9.00am until 5.00pm.
- Any queries about posting or responding to comments are discussed informally via the group.

Persona Passport

Client:	Queen's University Belfast	Job:	Social Persona
Date:	25-02-15	Writer:	SBC

No one likes talking to someone they don't trust.

If the person speaking to you is continually changing their persona, you are going to avoid joining the conversation due to a lack of rapport and the fear of where the conversation may go.

The same is true with social media.

So, as multiple users could potentially be managing your platforms, it is important to establish a solid personality. The best way to do this is to create a persona document that guides all activity. This will be modelled on our objectives and a well-known celebrity.

The persona will never be spoken of, but simply acts as a reference point that all users can readily connect with. When creating content or managing conversations the question that the Social Media Managers will always ask themselves will be:

“What would (Alice Roberts) do/say.”

In order to locate the right tone of voice, it is important to first consider your brand.

- What does it stand for?
Knowledge, information, support, approachability, advice, education, professionalism.
- What does it offer?
Reliable, trustworthy information. Excellent customer service. Responsiveness. Enthusiastic. Intuitive. Engaged.
- What do you want to achieve?
Excellent customer service. Enable AFBI to achieve their outcomes. Ensuring visibility of the library. Demonstrating value to all areas of AFBI in a digital age. Connecting users to high quality, evidence based information.
- Who do you want to interact with?
Primarily AFBI users. Wider academic and scientific community. AFBI's stakeholders. Other libraries. Academic publishing. Research/impact organisations.

Social Media Passport

Gender: Female
Age: 43
Education: PhD in palaeopathology
MB BCh

Career: After graduating in 1997, Roberts worked in clinical medicine as a junior medical practitioner with the National Health Service in South Wales for 18 months. In 1998 she left clinical medicine and worked as an anatomy demonstrator in the Anatomy Department at the University of Bristol, becoming a lecturer there in 1999.

She spent seven years working part-time on her PhD in paleopathology, the study of disease in ancient human remains, receiving the degree in 2008. She worked as Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Bristol Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy, where her main roles were teaching clinical anatomy, embryology, and physical anthropology, as well as researching osteoarchaeology and paleopathology. She stated in 2009 that she was working towards becoming a professor of anatomy.

In 2009 she co-presented modules for the "Beating Bipolar" programme, the first internet-based education treatment for patients with bipolar depression, trialled by Cardiff University researchers.

From August 2009 until January 2012, she was a Visiting Fellow in both the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Department of Anatomy of the University of Bristol.

In February 2012, Roberts took up a new post as the University of Birmingham's first Professor of Public Engagement in Science.

She is currently the Director of Anatomy for Bristol's Severn Deanery Postgraduate School of Surgery, and is also an Honorary Fellow of Hull York Medical School

Presenter on various science documentary programmes,

Home Life: Roberts lives near Bristol with her husband, daughter, and son.

Personality: Friendly, engaging, enthusiastic, self-confident, knowledgeable, professional.

Likes: Roberts enjoys watercolour painting, surfing, cycling, gardening and pub quizzes. Roberts is an organiser of the Cheltenham Science Festival and school outreach programmes within the University of Bristol's Medical Sciences Division. Roberts took her baby daughter with her when touring for the six months filming of Digging for Britain.

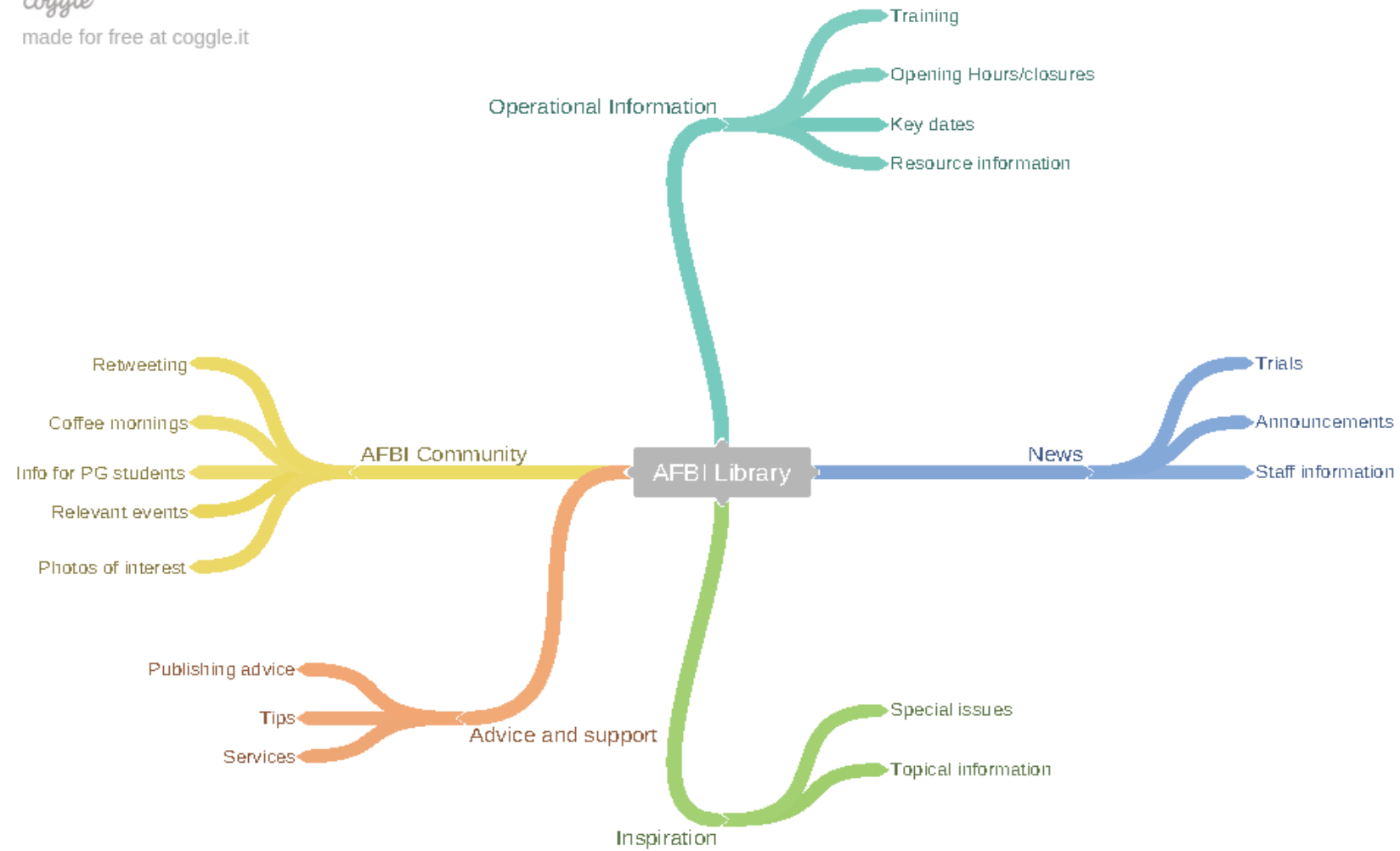
Tone Of Voice: Makes complicated things easy to understand and boring things interesting. Avoids jargon. Reassuring. Dependable. Trustworthy.

Awareness: Audience interests, relevant information, actively seeking interesting content. Wide ranging awareness of activities and research. Immediacy.

Twitter Mind Map

coggle

made for free at coggle.it



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