

THE CONCLAVE

COMPLETE SOCIAL MEDIA MEASUREMENT STANDARDS JUNE 2013

Introduction:

The Conclave is a broad coalition of B2B and B2C companies, PR and Social Media Agencies, and Industry associations that work with paid, owned and earned social media. It initially convened in Durham, NH in October 2011 to establish standard definitions and best practices for Social Media. At that meeting it established a set of priority issues that required standards. Those areas are:

1. Content and Sourcing
2. Reach and Impressions
3. Engagement and Conversation
4. Influence
5. Opinion & Advocacy
6. Impact & Value

The Process:

Each area was addressed by a subcommittee of members. To ensure the highest level of consistency across the industry, the subcommittee frequently worked in concert with other organizations who were also in the process of developing standards. As each set of standards was written, it was posted to our website www.smmstandards.org for review and comments. After two months, the comments were aggregated, the standards were updated, reposted to www.smmstandards.org, and declared interim standards.

The standards for Influence, Opinion & Advocacy and Impact & Value have just been posted and are open for comments until July 31, 2013.

Now What?

If you would like to participate in this process, please comment on our site, or get in touch (katie@newsgroupholding.com) to be put on the mailing list. More importantly, in order to reap the benefits of established standards it is necessary to put them to use. So we ask that you share them with your team, your bosses, your agencies, your providers and whatever professional associations you belong to.

The Organizations that support these standards include:

- Institute for Public Relations (IPR),
 - International Association for Measurement and Evaluation of Communications (AMEC)
 - Council of PR Firms (CPRF)
 - Digital Analytics Association (DAA)
 - Public Relations Society of America (PRSA)
 - Word of Mouth Marketing Association (WOMMA)
 - International Association of Business Communicators (IABC)
 - Chartered Institute of PR (CIPR)
 - Federation Internationale des Bureaux d'Extraits de Presse (FIBEP)
 - Global Alliance for Public Relations and Communications Management
 - Society for New Communications Research (SNCR)
- Client participants include research and communication leaders from Dell, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, McDonald's, Procter & Gamble, SAS, Southwest Airlines and Thomson Reuters, as well as many major communications agencies.

Metric name	Content Sourcing and Transparency
Metric description and application	<p>The Conclave published its first proposed interim standard in June at the European Measurement Summit hosted by AMEC in Dublin. The "Sources & Methods Transparency Table" (see below) is designed specifically to address the challenges clients face in knowing "what's inside" social media measurement reports from various agencies, research providers and software vendors. The standardized table mirrors the "nutrition tables" used by many countries for easy comparison of calories, nutrition and ingredients in food products.</p> <p>Specifically, the table captures critical information about social media content sources and methods to provide full transparency and easy comparison across analyses: What content and channels are included? How is the data collected? How deep is the analysis? Are multiple languages captured? Via native-language queries? How are key metrics calculated for reach, engagement, influence and opinion/advocacy? How is sentiment coded? How is irrelevant content (bots, spam blogs, etc.) filtered? What proprietary methods were used in the analysis? What search strings were used?</p>
Status	Published
Version, date, and author	<p>Version 1.0 Provided for public comment June 2012 Authors: Tim Marklein, AMEC and members of the Conclave</p>
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	Outtake
Standards	Use Table Below

Introducing... Interim Standard #1. Sources & Methods Transparency Table

#SMMStandards – Sources & Methods Transparency Table		www.smmstandards.org
Timeframe Analyzed		
Research Lead(s)		
Channels Analyzed		
Data/Content Sources		
Analysis Depth	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> All Content Reviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Rep. Sample	
Source Languages		
Search Languages		
Sentiment Coding	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Sampling: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 3-pt scale <input type="checkbox"/> 5-pt scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other scale <input type="checkbox"/> At entity level <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph/doc level	
Spam/Bot Filtering	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Includes news releases <input type="checkbox"/> Excludes releases	
Metrics Calculation and Sources		
-- Reach		
-- Engagement		
-- Influence		
--		
Opinion/Advocacy		
Proprietary Methods		
Search Parameters	See full search string list on page ____ of this report	

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Completed Sample: Sources & Methods Transparency Table

#SMMStandards – Sources & Methods Transparency Table		www.smmstandards.org
Timeframe Analyzed	January 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012	
Research Lead(s)	Richard Bagnall, Gorkana Group	
Channels Analyzed	Twitter (partial), Facebook (brand pages only), LinkedIn, YouTube, blogs, forums	
Data/Content Sources	Google search, Radian6, Sysomos, BrandWatch, Twitter API, Facebook API, YouTube	
Analysis Depth	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> All Content Reviewed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rep. Sample	
Source Languages	English, German and Mandarin only	
Search Languages	Native-language queries: English, German, Mandarin	
Sentiment Coding	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual Sampling: every 50 posts coded <input type="checkbox"/> 3-pt scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5-pt scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> At entity level <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph/doc level	
Spam/Bot Filtering	<input type="checkbox"/> Automated <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Includes news releases <input type="checkbox"/> Excludes releases	
Metrics Calculation and Sources		
-- Reach	Daily unique visitors for specific URLs via Comscore (no multipliers)	
-- Engagement	Channel-specific metrics direct from channels	
-- Influence	N/A	
--		
Opinion/Advocacy	Human reading and coding	
Proprietary Methods	Proprietary index for calculating quality score	
Search Parameters	See full search string list on page 32 of this report	

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Metric name	Reach and Impressions
Metric description and application	<p>This initiative was part of a collaborative effort between the DAA and the SMMstandards initiative. These foundational measures will serve as the basis for defining data collection in social media and will enable subsequent metrics and potentially other standards to be calculated consistently.</p> <p>It should be noted that in order to arrive at standard definitions for Reach and Impressions, we first had to establish definitions for Item and Mention. Thus, this project consists of defining four specific metrics that can help measurers of social media to utilize consistent measures and definitions.</p>
Caveat	<p>The following social media definitions were developed based on a perfect-world scenario. In practice, measuring social media today depends heavily on the methodologies of individual tools and solutions applied to the task. Results will vary. Our definitions considered the ideal way to measure Reach and Impressions, with cognition that the methods available to do so today are inherently flawed because of their inability to precisely determine unique individuals across social platforms, devices, and media.</p>
Status	Published
Version, date, and author	<p>Version 1.0 Provided for public comment November 2011 Authors: Project Collaborators: DAA President John Lovett, DAA Social Media Standards Sub-Committee Lead Josh Dreler, Linda Schumacher, DAA Standards Co-Chair Darrin Wood, DAA Standards Co-Chair Anna Long, Nick Neculescu, Sarah Farebrother, Eric Swayne, Ned Kumar, and Eric Feinberg.</p>
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	Outtake
Detailed description.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An “ITEM” of content is a post, micro-post, article, or other instance appearing for the first time in a digital media. Comments: This definition of ITEM replaces “clip” “post” and other unclear terminology. ITEMS of content refer to the content vehicle in its entirety, which means that a single ITEM can contain multiple MENTIONS and derivatives. In general, derivatives of ITEMS such as comments, likes, etc should not be counted as additional ITEMS. If they are used, clear explanation and justification of why they are included must be included. ■ A “MENTION” refers to a brand, organization, campaign, or entity that is being measured. Comments: MENTIONS are typically defined in Social Media using Boolean search queries. These queries may include AND as well as OR statements to capture specific brand, campaign, or subject matter topics, as they pertain to the goals of the search objective.

Further, MENTION queries may also include NOT statements to filter off-topic MENTIONS from the data set.

■ **“IMPRESSIONS”** represent the number of times an ITEM has an opportunity to be seen and reach people, based on the simple addition of those audiences that have had the opportunity to see it. Perhaps better called “potential impressions,” the term represents the gross number of opportunities for items to be seen, regardless of frequency of display, method of accessing the item or audience duplication. It will typically count the same individuals multiple times and will include individuals that had the opportunity to see the item but did not in fact see it at all. A virtue of this metric is that is somewhat comparable to metrics used in traditional media. The term “displayed” applies across channels, browsers, devices, and other methods by which an individual might see an item

■ **“REACH”** : REACH is the total number of **unique individuals** who had the opportunity to see an ITEM.

REACH is typically a constructed metric that is based on the number of impressions, refined to eliminate the duplication of individuals who have had the opportunity to see the item through multiple media channels, or access points (e.g. Laptop and hand held device) and to all eliminate repeated serving of the ITEM other than valid reproductions of that ITEM across digital media.

The REACH metric seeks to establish an ideal environment where one can quantify individual people across platforms using social media monitoring tools, social platforms and/or panel based measurement solutions. However, in reality, each tool, platform, and solution may have a unique method of calculating REACH and each might introduce duplication and error.

REACH is typically quantified using social media monitoring tools, social platforms and/or panel-based measurement solutions. Each tool, platform, and solution may have a unique method of calculating REACH. For this reason it is critical to use the Transparency and Methods table to identify data collection sources. Caution: use of multipliers or “rules of thumb” are NOT standard processes and should be avoided.

REACH can be refined further according to social media objectives, by narrowing audiences, or by other means.

Reach represents POTENTIAL opportunities to see.

Metric name	Engagement and Conversation
Metric description and application	<p>The key concepts of “Engagement” and “Conversation” are frequently discussed by social media advocates but rarely defined with enough precision to guide sound measurement. Members of the #SMMStandards Conclave, debated many of the different issues involved across channels and disciplines, and ultimately arrived at a core definition for both terms with key metrics for evaluating both areas.</p>
Status	<p>In November of 2012, these standards were posted for industry comments on http://bit.ly/SNBaB4 They have been adopted as an interim standard.</p>
Version, date, and author	<p>Version 1.0 Provided for public comment November 2011 Authors: Katie Paine, Eve Stevens and Angela Jeffrey plus members of the #SMMStandards Conclave</p>
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	<p>Outtake or Outcome depending on the program's objectives</p>
<p>Detailed description. <i>This is the actual standard, and must include full description of how to use this metrics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Engagement” is defined as some action beyond exposure, and implies an interaction between two or more parties. Social media engagement is an action that typically occurs in response to content on an owned channel – i.e. when someone engages with you. ■ “Conversation” is defined as some form of online or offline discussion by customers, citizens, stakeholders, influencers or other third parties. Social media conversation includes online discussion about your organization, brand or relevant issues, whether via your channel or third party channels – i.e. when someone talks about you.
Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Any measure of Engagement and Conversation must be tied to the goals and objectives for your organization, brand or program. ■ Engagement and Conversation both occur offline and online, and both must be considered if you intend to integrate your metrics with other marketing or communications efforts. ■ Engagement counts such actions as: likes, comments, shares, votes, +1s, links, retweets, video views, content embeds, etc. Engagement types and levels are unique to specific channels but can be aggregated for cross-channel comparison. ■ Engagement should be measured by the total number of interactions within and/or across channels; the percentage of your audience engaged by day/week/month; and the percentage of engagement for each item of content your organization publishes. ■ Conversation counts such items as blog posts, comments, tweets, Facebook posts/comments, video posts, replies, etc.

	<p>Conversation types and levels are unique to specific channels but can be aggregated for cross-channel comparison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conversation should be measured by the total number of “items” that mention the brand, organization or issue (within and/or across channels); the number of “mentions” within each item; and the “opportunities to see” for each item, calculated by the readership at the time of posting (unique daily/monthly visitors, first-order fans/followers, view counts, etc.). ■ Engagement manifests differently by channel but is typically measurable at various points based on effort required, inclusion of opinion and how shared with others. ■ Engagement and Conversation could be, but are not necessarily, outcomes. Organizations may weight Engagement and Conversation types differently based on their goals, but Engagement and Conversation metrics should be consistent across an organization.
Source documents	<p>“Engagement” and “Conversation” are part of a series of standards being developed by the #SMMStandards Conclave and are available at http://bit.ly/SNBaB4</p>
Validity and reliability of the standard.	<p>Testing is not required.</p>
Team leads and contact information	<p>Katie Paine, CEO, Paine Publishing, LLC; measurementqueent@gmail.com.</p> <p>Katie is a member of the IPR Measurement Commission and AMEC.</p>

Metric name	Opinion and Advocacy
Metric description and application	<p>Sound measurement of sentiment, opinion and advocacy is challenging, particularly when considering the rigor required to derive metrics that can be applied as indicators of business outcomes. Traditional marketing research has existing such time-tested and rigorous standards in place, executed by the disciplined research expertise that is required to implement the proper techniques produce defensible results.</p> <p>But times are changing: The proliferation of automated social media measurement solutions has democratized access to social media data. At the same time, techniques and methodologies applied through these tools are not as tested and qualified and those involved in analyzing the data are not necessarily trained analysts – in contrast to traditional marketing research.</p> <p>This document is meant to provide guidance to communication experts who are not trained in marketing research but who are considering leveraging social media data in their measurement approach.</p>
Status	<p>These standards have been posted for industry comments on www.smmstandards.org. They will be open for comment until July 31, 2013. After that they will be considered adopted as an interim standard.</p>
Version, date, and author	<p>Version 1.0 Provided for public comment June 1, 2013. Authors: Neil Beam, Eve Stevens, and other members of the #SMMStandards Conclave</p>
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	Outcome depending on the program's objectives
<p>Detailed description. <i>This is the actual standard, and must include full description of how to use this metrics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sentiment: is a component of opinion and advocacy. Sentiment is the feelings the author is trying to convey , often measured through context surrounding characterization of object. ■ Opinion is a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge. Standard indicators of opinion standards have not yet been achieved but typically opinion is definitively articulated and associated to the speaker. ■ Advocacy (n) vs (v) is publicly statement support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. Advocacy requires a level of expressed persuasion. ■ The key distinction between “advocacy” and “opinion,” is that advocacy must have a component of recommendation or a call to action embedded in it.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ These definitions are a good starting point when considering the measurement of “sentiment”, “opinion” and “advocacy,” respectively.
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social media conversations can provide insight into social media user sentiment, opinions and levels of advocacy for a brand/product/issue. ■ There are several factors to consider when applying social media sentiment, opinions and advocacy metrics to generate insights and assess communications outcomes. ■ Results are non-conclusive: Many practitioners think the results of social media measurement are conclusive and allocate budgets and execute projects solely on social data. In fact, comprehensive measurement of the online population is impeded by data availability and other challenges. It is possible that sentiment, opinion and advocacy can be positively impacted by public relations efforts without any evidence of this change occurring online. ■ Makeup of those involved in the conversation: Are your target audiences online and participating in social conversations? Is the conversations that you are assessing for sentiment, opinion and advocacy made up of your target audience? If not, social media measurement is not the correct methodology to achieve insights into your target audience perceptions, opinions and persuasion. ■ Inherent bias and limited projection: Social media measurement can only examine comments from those who are proactively offering an opinion or statement and doing so online. The opinions/attitudes of those who are not actively participating in the conversation are not measured. ■ Lack of quality, veracity in automated sentiment measurement: Automated sentiment methods are limited and typically deliver lower quality data compared to manual evaluation methods. ■ Inconsistent definitions and methods for deriving sentiment, opinion and advocacy: Unlike marketing research techniques, where agreement on perception statements can be understood and accepted across industry, what constitutes sentiment, opinion and advocacy within social media is subjective and often industry specific.
Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Because social listening, by itself, is not projectable to the opinion and advocacy of all stakeholders, unless quantitative analysis is done to align the counting method against the key performance indicator, it is not an independently reliable method for quantitative measurement. ■ Do not use social media sentiment, opinion or advocacy measurement as audience indicators if your target audience is not represented in data analyzed. ■ Social media sentiment, opinion and advocacy metrics limitations need to be clearly understood amongst stakeholders. ■ Do not use social media measurement as sole data source when making strategic business decisions.

- Social media sentiment, opinion and advocacy data should be assessed in conjunction with data arrived at through other research means.
- Sentiment, opinion and advocacy metrics derived through automated means need to be evaluated understanding limitations and ideally considered only in conjunction with data from higher quality measurement methods
- Definition, scope and methodology transparency should be standard parts of any social media metric reporting (see content and data transparency standards)
- When assessing social media sentiment, opinion and levels of advocacy, measure favorability as well as negativity to understand the holistic nature of the conversation.
- Distinction should be made between the purpose and function of social media sentiment research and market research. The following table provides the advantages of each.

Social Media Measurement	Quantitative Market Research:
■ Idea exploration and uncover white space opportunities	■ Clarify or validate existing knowns
■ Identification of the elements of opinion and advocacy	■ Test specific hypothesis with statistical confidence
■ Understand the characteristics of who is discussing opinion and advocacy	
■ Understand the drivers of the conversation	■ Identify evidence of cause and effect relationships
■ Dimension and range of the conversation categories	■ Examine specific relationships
■ Explain findings of a quantitative study.	■ Project results to a larger population



Metric name	Influence
Metric description and application	<p>Marketers and business communicators have been targeting so-called “influencers” or “influentials” for decades. It is a strategy born of experience and intuition—a sense that people are influenced by other people, and that some wield greater influence than others. But there is wide variation in what people mean by “influencers” or “influencer marketing.” The situation begs for a common language and conceptual framework to aid practitioners.</p> <p>WOMMA has developed the following definitions with an eye for academic rigor but also practitioner utility. With this in mind consider that there are 7 billion+ people on the earth. While anyone can exert influence in some manner on others it is rarely practical for brands to focus on reaching everyone, and hence there is an interest in aiming communications toward those people who have disproportionate influence in the marketplace.</p>
Status	<p>These standards have been posted for industry comments on www.smmstandards.org. They will be open for comment until July 31, 2013. After that they will be considered adopted as an interim standard.</p>
Version, date, and author	<p>Version 1.0</p> <p>Provided for public comment June 1, 2013.</p> <p>Authors: Phillip Sheldrake, Brad Fay, Neil Beam, and the Standards Committee for WOMM</p>
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	Outcome depending on the program's objectives
<p>Detailed description.</p> <p>This is the actual standard, and must include full description of how to use this metrics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ “Influence” is the ability to cause or contribute to a change in opinion or behavior. ■ Where the initial actor is a “Key Influencer” who is: A person or group of people who possess greater than average potential to influence due to attributes such as frequency of communication, personal persuasiveness or size of and centrality to a social network, among others. ■ Key Influencers interact with others and those they influence are “Influencees:” A person or group of people who change their opinion or behavior as the result of exposure to new information. ■ Therefore Influencer Marketing is: The act of a marketer or communicator engaging with key influencers to act upon influencees in pursuit of a business objective. ■ Research shows a marketer is most effective when focusing resources on Key Influencers with the highest



<p>propensity to influence a population of Influencees who have the highest propensity to be influenced. The accompanying Guidebook www.standard.org explores further some descriptive Attributes of an Influencer so a program manager can identify influencers and influencees for effective program design. The attributes themselves are useful for characterizing five (5) categories of influencers who possess a unique attribute profile described later in the Guidebook.</p>
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Metric name	Impact and Value
Metric description and application	Impact and value represent the ultimate outcome of a social media effort. The impact and value of a campaign is defined by and dependent on the goals of the program and the organization. It is often confused with the term ROI or Return on Investment. While ROI might be one outcome, it is far from the only impact or value that can be attributed to social media.
Status	These standards have been posted for industry comments on www.smmstandards.org . They will be open for comment until July 31, 2013. After that they will be considered adopted as an interim standard.
Version, date, and author	Version 1.0 Provided for public comment June 1, 2013. Authors: Phillip Sheldrake, David Geddes, Katie Paine, and other members of the #SMMStandards Conclave
Standard or guideline	Standards
Metric type	Outcome depending on the program's objectives
Detailed description. <i>This is the actual standard, and must include full description of how to use this metrics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Impact: The effect of a social media campaign, program or effort on the target audience. ■ Value: The importance, worth, or usefulness of something. Value may be described in financial terms (see ROI below). Value may be described in non-financial terms, for example in business performance management (BPM) terms. Value can be short term or long term. It may be expressed in any number of ways including a comparative cost savings, shortened sales cycle, increased customer retention or renewals, to name a few. ■ ROI: Return on Investment. A financial performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency of an investment or to compare the efficiency of a number of different investments. To calculate ROI, the benefit (return) of an investment is divided by the cost of the investment; the result is expressed as a percentage or a ratio. ■ Any measure of Impact & Value must be tied to the goals and objectives for your organization, brand or program. ■ Assessing the value and impact of a campaign is a complex process, with numerous variables that must be accounted for and included in any calculation. Variables need to be weighted appropriately and should be based on customer research data. It cannot be reduced to a simple formula that applies equally to all organizations. Value is contingent on strategy.

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