Instructions for Grantees

This form is designed to help us understand the challenges, triumphs and insights you experienced and gained while running your funded project/program. Please be frank – while we absolutely want to know about and celebrate your successes, it's just important to us that we understand what did not work so well. This will help us to learn what we and others could do differently next time.

You must complete and submit this form no later than the date stipulated in your funding agreement. However, should you not be able to meet the deadline please contact Gertrud to arrange an alternative date. If you fail to do so you may not be eligible to apply for further grants from **InternetNZ**.

The completion of this form should be overseen by someone with an intimate knowledge of the funded project/program.

Mid-project Report

Research Title
Freedom of speech on the internet – where do we draw the line?
This question is read only.

Amount of funding granted from InternetNZ?
$6,686.00
Must be a dollar amount.

Please provide a short summary of the work that has been completed as part of this project/research
Work completed so far as part of this research includes the gathering of scholarly literature about freedom of speech as well as articles that offer a range of perspectives about what qualifies as negative online behaviour. I have been analysing two different sets of data. The first set relating to counterspeech initiatives used by commenters in response to racist comments on a YouTube site is currently being written up as a paper with the intention to submit it as part of a themed issue on the dark side of social media to an academic journal along with other authors from Europe, Japan, Taiwan, Slovenia and Cypress. I have prepared and given three of the five invited presentations to academics and students in the UK while I am here as a visiting scholar at the Oxford Internet Institute. (Please see milestone for specific details.)
Describe the 'who, what, where, when and why' of your initiative

When do you anticipate that your project will be completed?
01/05/2019
Must be a date.

Milestones

What have been the major achievements/steps (i.e. milestones) involved in delivering your project to date?

Milestone	Description
The preliminary analysis of two data sets of negative online behaviour	This involved the close reading of data and detailed linguistic analysis not only of offending online material but also of the counterspeech initiatives that people made in response. The current data I am analysing comes from the following sources: (i) comments beneath an anti-racism YouTube video; (ii) abusive comments sent to women journalists in New Zealand via text, email and social media (note that this data has been collected in conjunction with Dr Helen Sissons, senior lecturer in journalism at AUT, who has conducted ethnographic observations and interviews with journalists in newsrooms).
Three academic presentations have been completed since the beginning of September here in the United Kingdom.	These presentations are as follows: (i) British Association of Applied Linguistics Annual Conference, held at St John's University, York, UK, 6-8 September, 2018. Dr Sissons and I presented a paper titled: "Stupid bitches" and "old girls chewing the fat" – Female journalists and discourses of abuse online. (ii) I was invited to speak at the University of Swansea, Wales, UK where I gave these two talks: • A presentation seminar on 31 October, 2018 to staff and students of the Department of Applied Linguistics and from the Department of Criminology, University of Swansea, Wales titled: "Interrogating free speech versus hate speech on the internet - a discourse perspective". • A lecture to students in a Language in the Media paper on 30 October, 2018, on my current research into abusive online comments to female journalists in NZ.

Networking, connections and knowledge building	Along with my research activity while attending the Oxford Internet Institute as a Visiting Scholar, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with many different researchers coming from different disciplines (staff and students) who have an interest in various internet phenomena. There are several talks each week in Oxford that have relevance – eg data protection, AI , or cognitive biases through mobile gaming and these will be influential in my AUT teaching on the Masters in English and New Media degree. The highlight for me so far has been to meet Vint Cerf who came to the OII on 6 Nov (in advance of NZ). I had the opportunity to ask him questions as well as to attend his main public Romanes Lecture in the Sheldonian theatre.
e.g. planning; major activities; evaluation	

What findings have you made so far?
Findings so far include:

(i) Numerous labels have been assigned to the many different types of negative behaviour that pervade the internet. This fragmentation makes it more difficult to assign what should be regarded as free speech and what should be taken down if that were an option.

(ii) Counterspeech can be an effective way to counteract negative online behaviour as an alternative to deletion which may impinge on free speech. However there are some strategies that are more effective than others and some counterspeech initiatives can be counterproductive.

(iii) Satire, humour and anger are dominant in a number of online comments and initial comments tend to set the tone for others.

(iv) People appear to be more aware about the potential to fight back against online abuse.

What (if anything) did you change in your approach and practices as your project/ program/initiative proceeded, and why?
My overall approach in investigating the tension between hate speech and freedom of speech still stands in this project as planned. The analysis of the data so far has been more time consuming than I anticipated particularly in negotiating the discourse between commenters and identifying their discursive strategies and response types using linguistic analysis. Nevertheless some interesting findings have already arisen which provide some interesting insights for further investigation. I am finding that counterspeech is an under-researched and under-theorised area so am pleased with what I am able to contribute both in my research and in my presentations.
We may use this information to help inform others undertaking similar work

Financial Report

* indicates a required field

Project Income & Expenditure

Please provide details of any project income (funds received) and project expenditure (funds spent) to date.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income Description	Income Type	Confirmed Funding?	Income Amount ($)	Notes
Sabbatical funds	Earned Income *	Confirmed *	$6,649.00 *	AUT sabbatical funds *
Personal funds	Other Income	Confirmed	$7,365.30	adjustment made from original budget - see comments below
InternetNZ	Other Income	Confirmed	$6,686.00	

Expenditure Description	Expenditure Type	Expenditure Amount ($)	Notes
Return airfares Akl-London *	Other Expenditure *	$3,348.15 *	
Travel agent/insurance fees	Administrative and Infrastructure	$494.00	
Oxford Internet Institute	Overheads	$3,003.15	slightly more than indicated in contract due to bank fees and changes in the exchange rate
Rail London-Oxford	Administrative and Infrastructure	$60.00	
Oxford Accommodation	Other Expenditure	$13,795.00	slightly less than indicated in budget in the contract

Income and Expenditure Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
$20,700.30	$20,700.30	$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.

Have you experienced any issues with your intended project budget to date? If so, please explain reasons for any major variances or for providing incomplete information:
The funding agreement indicated a total expenditure of $20,752 so there is a difference of $52. There has been some variance in the amounts relating to OII overheads - $153 more (impacted by the exchange rate and bank fees) and accommodation ($205 less than anticipated). But the personal funds contributed by the researcher have been adjusted to accommodate these minor fluctuations. Travel and accommodation for my visits to talk at the Universities of Swansea and Lancaster have been covered by these institutions.

Certification and Feedback

Feedback

You are almost at the end of our application process. Before **Submitting** your application, please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:
○ Very easy   ◉ Easy   ○ Neutral   ○ Difficult   ○ Very Difficult

How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?
120
Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60 minutes)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that you think we need to consider:
A couple of hours was spent in reviewing the original research proposal and agreement to cross check details when writing up this progress report. I prepared this in a word document in the first instance because this makes it easier to cut and paste into the smartygrants portal. Although it takes time to prepare, reviewing the detail of the research, milestones, achievements and budget to provide a brief yet accurate summary is in fact a useful exercise for the researcher part way through the project.