Sharing an interest: encouraging social interactions using Flickr

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Background

- Social media is used by people with disability
- Few reports to date
- Used for training
- Facebook
- Second Life
Aims

• How do adults with ID use Flickr
• This study formed part of a larger study on the use of social media conducted in Norway
Method

- Participants:
  - 12 adults aged 20-56 years old
  - All had ID
  - Worked in 1 of 2 supported employment contexts
  - Could use a computer
Process

• Over 8 weeks learned to:
• Load and exchange photos
• Search for photos
• Comment
• Participate in a Flickr group
Interviews

• Semi structured
• Conducted in work place
• Recorded, transcribed, and translated
• Content analysis
Results

• Different levels of engagement
• Some only uploaded and browsed
• Others joined groups
• All enjoyed the program
• All liked Facebook better and used it daily
  – Friends
  – Interactions
3 themes

- Difficulties
  - Language
  - Literacy
  - Technical ability
    - Logging in
    - Downloading images
    - Creating albums
Social Opportunities

- Safe environment
- For sharing images and talking about photography but Facebook offers more
- Connected with a few friends but mainly colleagues
- No good for making new friends
- Group discussions on protocols
Activities

• Sharing photographs
• Browsing
• Commenting on photographs
• Joining interest groups
• Nice to do at work in lunch break
Conclusions

• Flickr can be used by people with ID who have some computer skills
• Provides a forum for discussion with in the group
• Provided an activity to do at work with a focus interest and some social component
• Provided opportunities to discuss interests and values