Stay socially connected online!

It's rare these days to come across people who don't use some form of social media to stay connected to friends and family, to do research online, read reviews, or simply follow the exploits of their neighbour's cat.

By far the most popular network is Facebook – also the one that causes the most fear that someone out there will have access to your personal info. Follow some best practices to keep your experience positive. Only "friend" people you know, don't share personal info such as passwords or birthdates, and remember to check your privacy settings on a regular basis to make sure nothing has changed.

Password tip: if you post about your cat Fluffy a lot, makes sure "Fluffy" is not also your password. That's the first thing a spammer will try to use to break into your account.

What about Twitter? With only 140 characters for each "tweet" that's not a lot of space. Think of it as the headline of social media. Short updates that include a link or photo with more information about the news or an event are best. And don't forget hashtags. This clickable terms are simply words or phrases with the pound (#) sign in front of them. Favourites from us at ORL: #orlreads and #librariesmatter.

Once you get used to hashtags, and if you love photos, it's time to explore Instagram. This visual network is meant to show the world, in photos, what you are doing "this instant". Unless you post a #latergram!

Connect with the Okanagan Regional Library on all three networks. We have lots of news on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OKRegLib/), where you can also subscribe to ORL events and get an alert when we post a new event.

On Twitter and Instagram the ORL username is @orlreads. Feel free to tweet us questions and comments, and tag us in your photos, - we'd love to see you online!

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Connecting Curious Minds