

Introduction to Twitter (twitter.com)

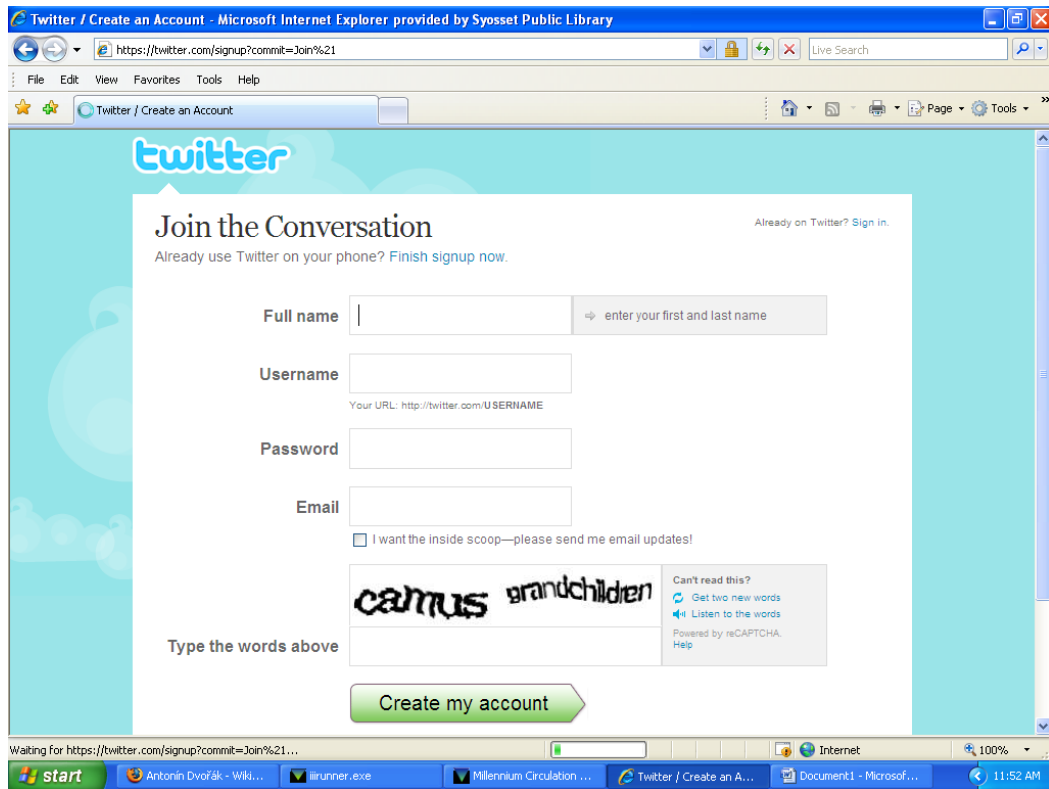
What is Twitter?

It is a social networking site, where the messages (referred to as “tweets”) are limited to 140 characters, aka as microblogging. Twitter users “follow” each other. You can follow other Twitter users and they can follow you. You can allow anyone to follow you or you can screen those people who request to follow you and authorize/decline them.

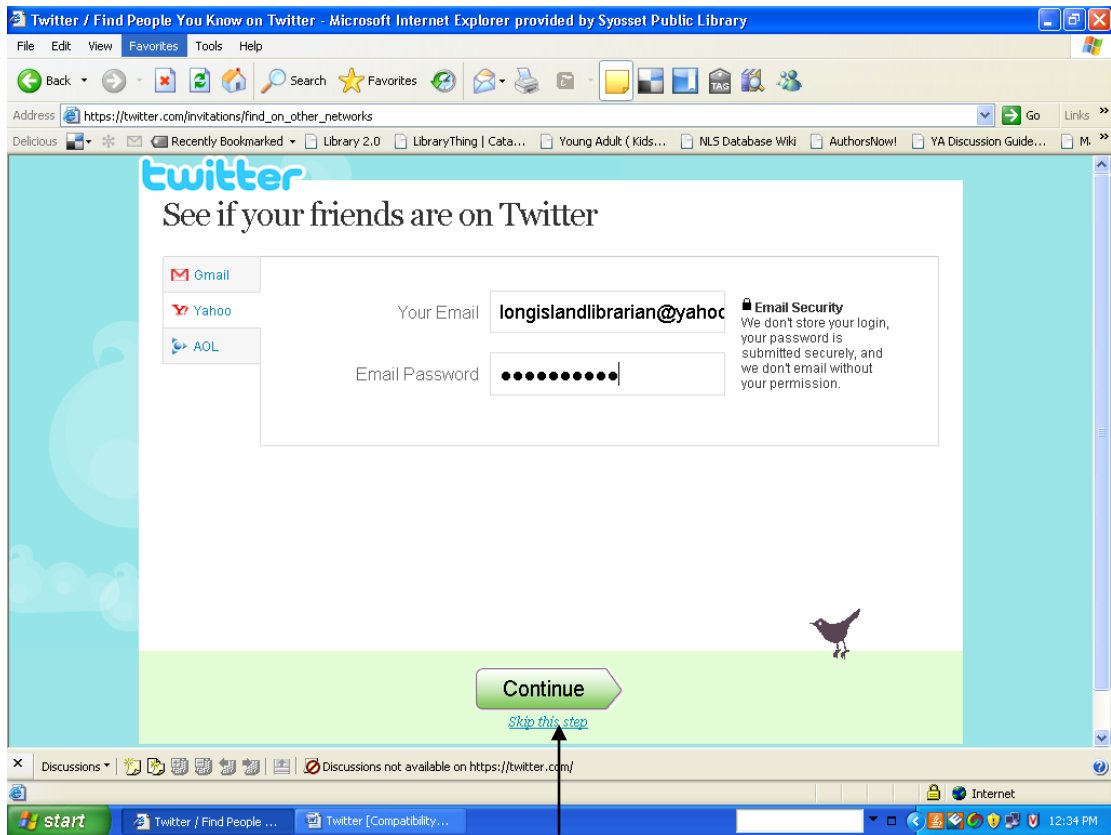


To open an account –

Go to <http://twitter.com>. Click on the green button “Get Started—Join” and fill in information requested [Full name, User name, Password. E-mail address]—see screen below.

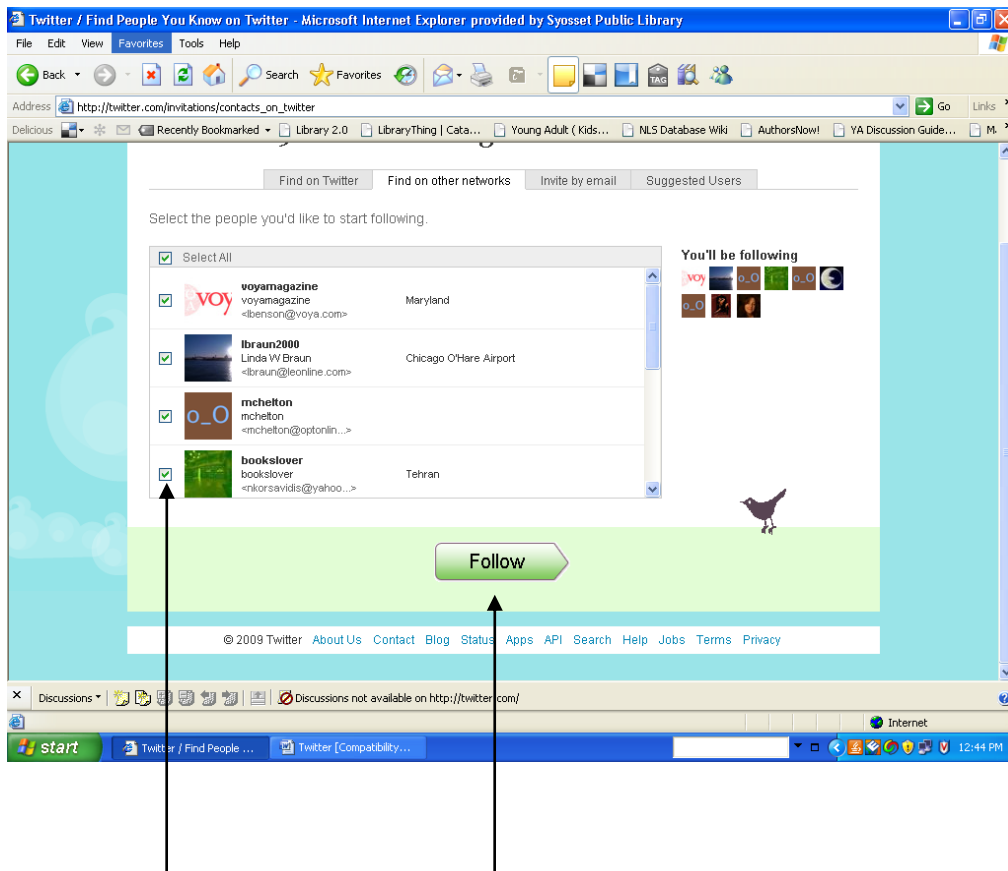
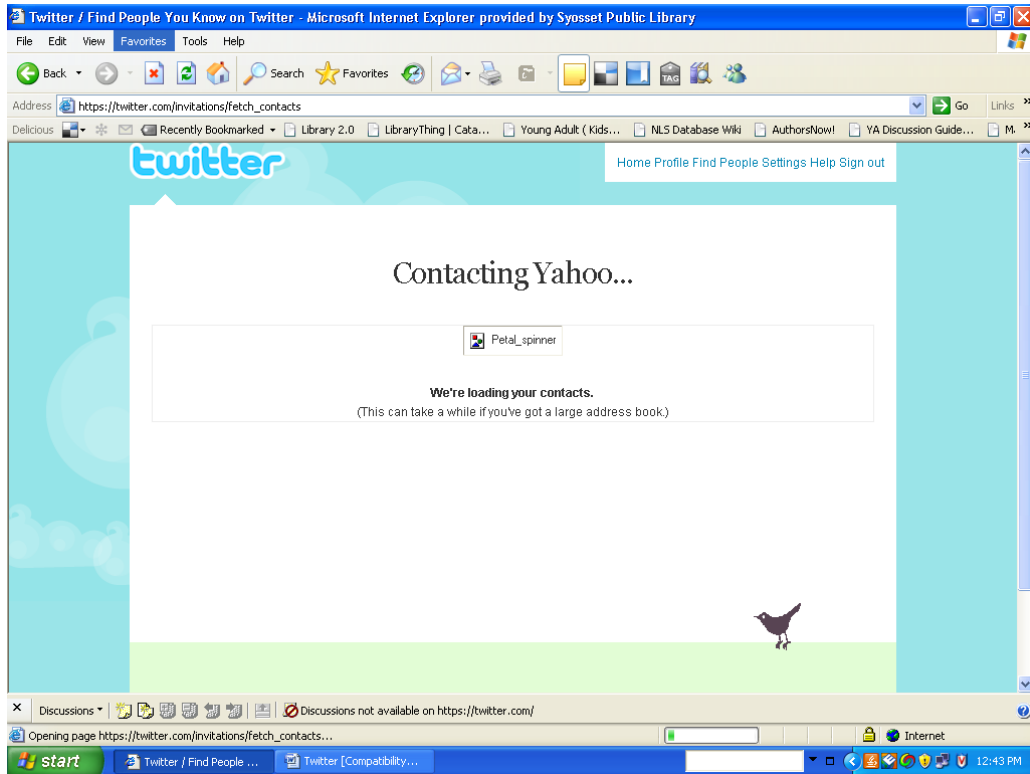


The next screen, *See If Your Friends Are On Twitter* (see below), will import all of the e-mail addresses in your address book into *Twitter* to see if they have an account. You can skip this step, if you want to.



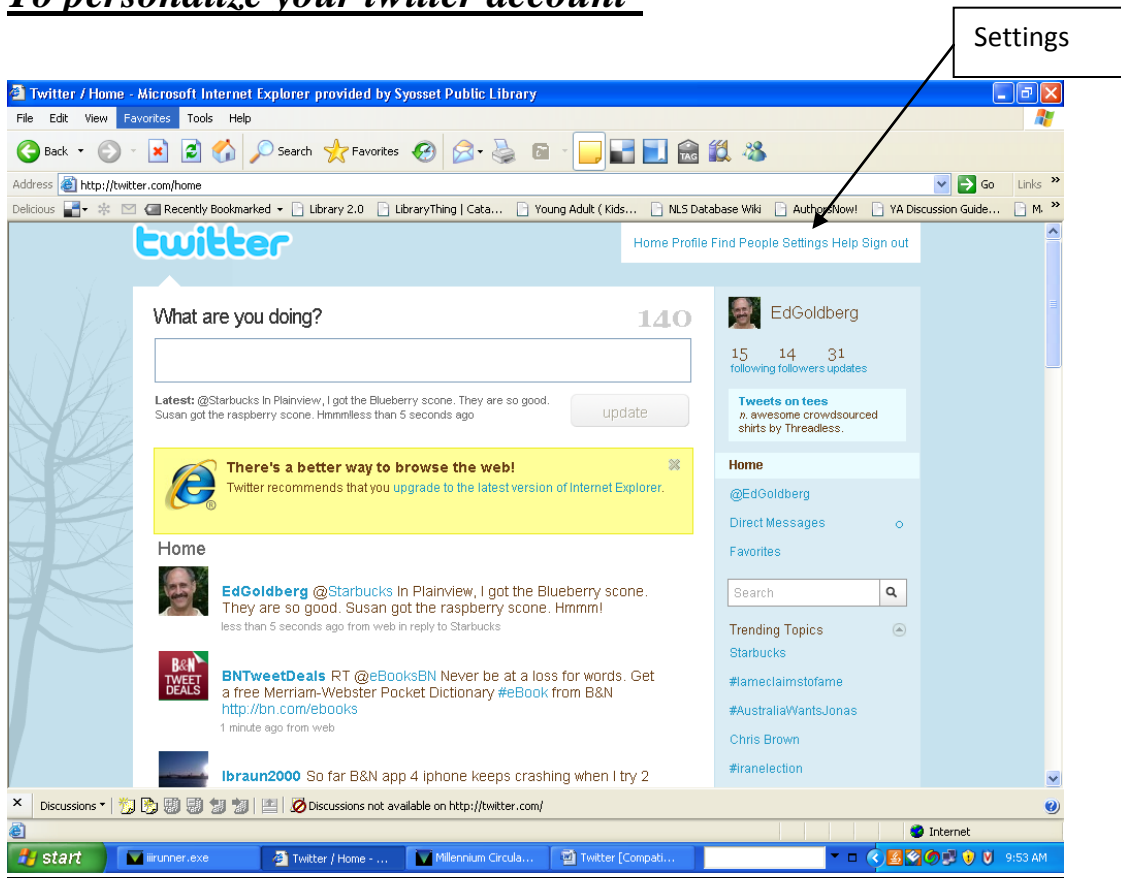
You can skip this step!

If you don't skip the step:



A list of e-mail addresses will appear and give you the option of following these people. The e-mail addresses are already checked off, so if you click *Follow*, you will be following everyone on the list. It will then invite you to ask other contacts whether they would like to register with *Twitter*.

To personalize your twitter account-



Note the tabs on the top of the page and select *Settings*. This will allow your personalize your account.

Most items in this section are self explanatory. Items to note are:

1. *Account:*

You can choose to make your account public (anyone may follow you i.e. read your tweets) or choose “protect my updates” (people must request authorization to follow your tweets). For detailed information on getting started see- <http://help.twitter.com/forums/10711/entries>.

The image shows a screenshot of the Twitter account settings page in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://twitter.com/account/settings>. The page has several tabs: Account, Password, Devices, Notices, Picture, and Design. The 'Account' tab is selected. The settings form includes fields for Name (Edward L. Goldberg), Username (LLibrarian), Email (longislandlibrarian@yahoo.com), Time Zone (GMT-05:00 Quito), More Info URL, One Line Bio, Location, and Language (English). There is a checkbox for 'Protect my updates' which is currently unchecked. A 'Delete your account' link is visible at the bottom of the form. On the right side, there is a 'Tips' section with several bullet points. Callout boxes with arrows point to various elements: 'More Info URL' points to the More Info URL field; 'Delete your account-item not shown.' points to the 'Delete your account' link; 'Picture' points to the 'Picture' tab; 'Design' points to the 'Design' tab; and 'Protect My Update' points to the 'Protect my updates' checkbox.

2. *Picture:*

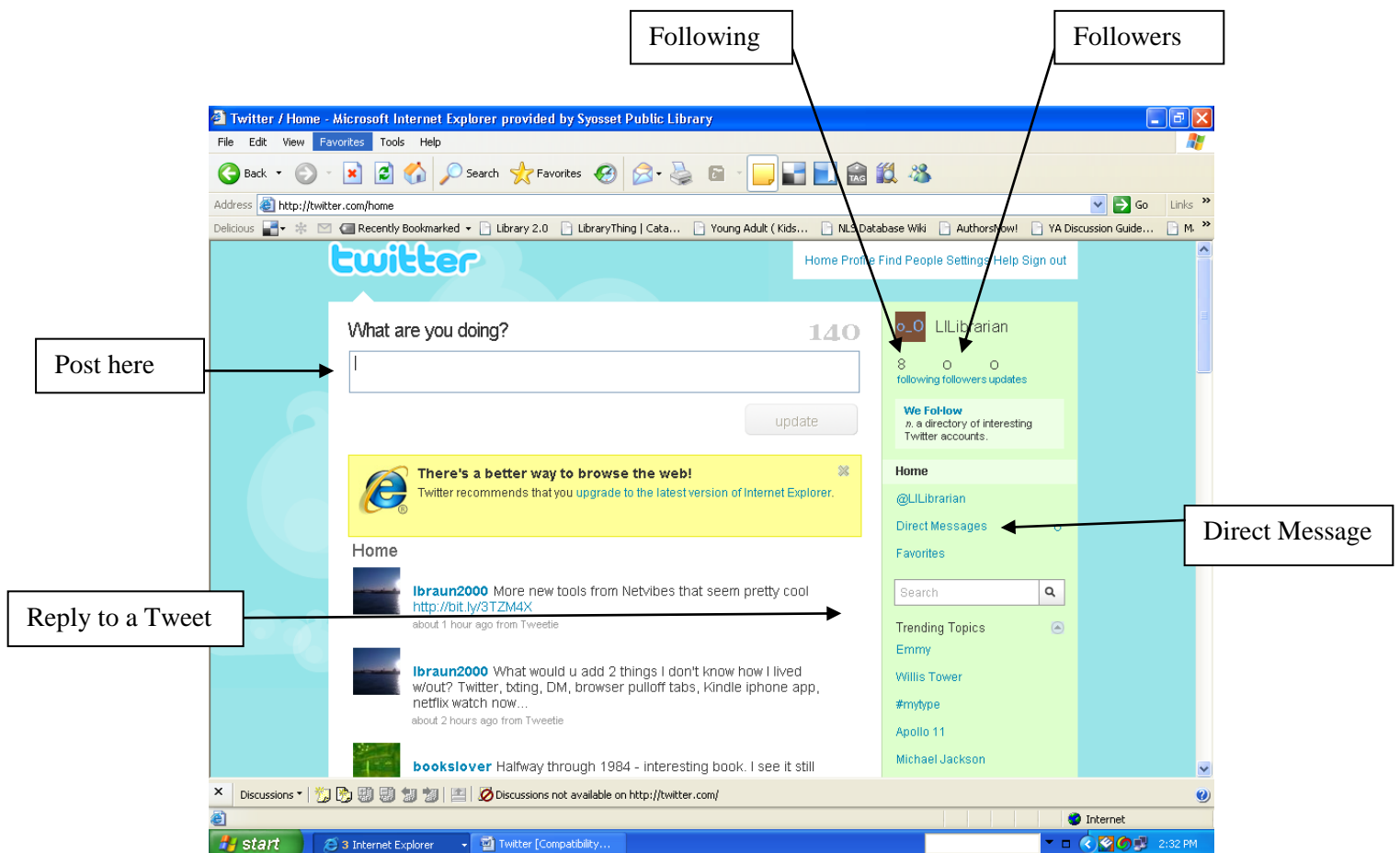
Allows you to upload a picture that will appear on your profile and when you tweet.


3. *Design:*

Allows you to change the background design.

To Use Twitter-

You post your messages (or tweets) for followers to read and you follow (read) other people's tweets. You can *copy* and *paste* into a Tweet from another source, subject to the 140 character limitation.



When you put the mouse on a Tweet, you will see  which allows you to **reply** to the Tweet.

You can send someone a **Direct Message**, which is similar to an e-mail in that only the recipient will see the message.

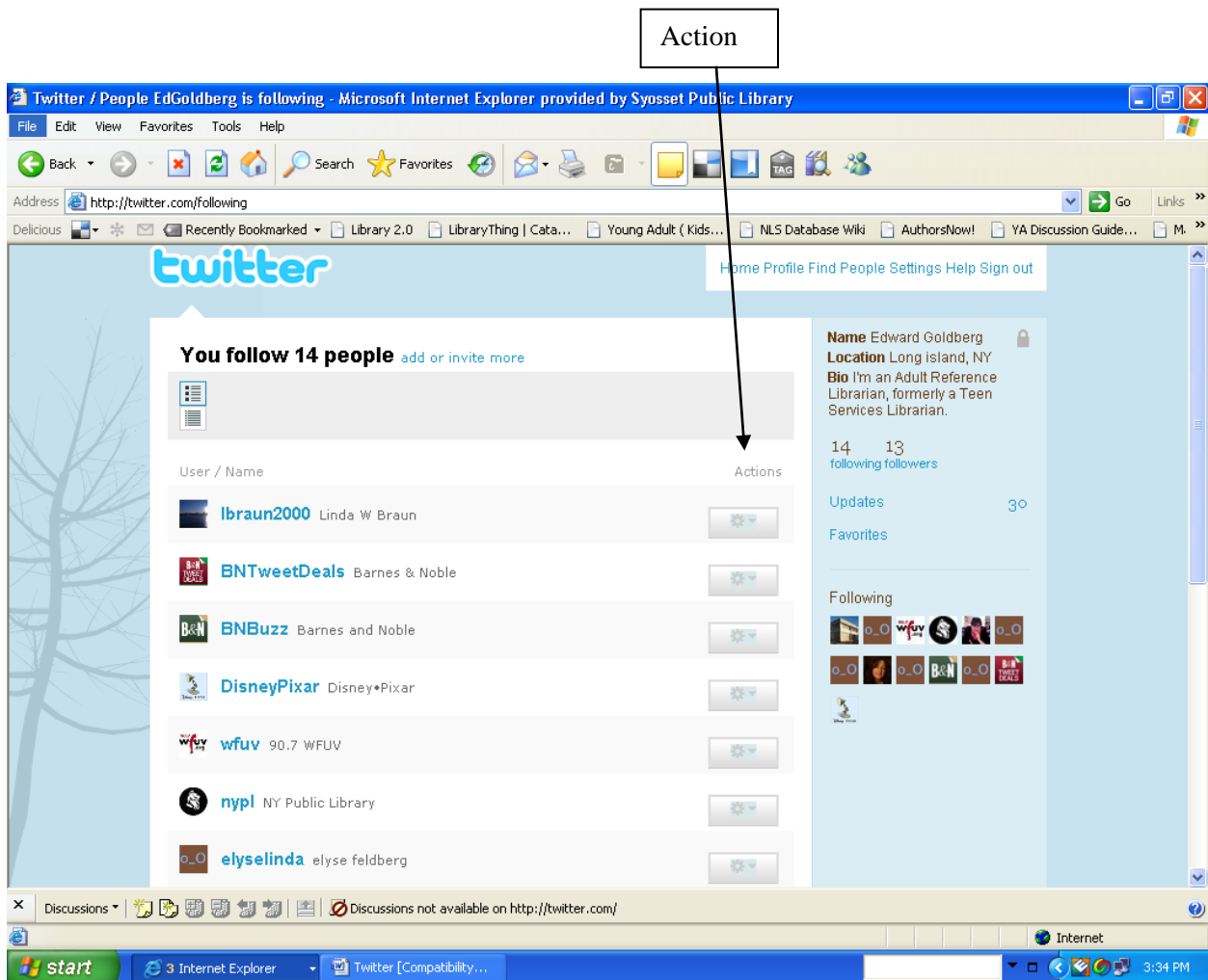
When you click on *Following*, you will get a list of people **YOU ARE FOLLOWING**. *Actions* you can take are:

Unfollow that person

Reply to a Tweet

Direct Message that person

Block that Person from following you.



Similarly, for those people **FOLLOWING YOU** (Followers), the actions you can take are:

Reply to a Tweet

Send a Direct Message

Follow that person if you aren't already doing so

Block them from following you

Remove them from your list.

On public accounts you can get followers by responding to various individuals or making postings on subjects using # to denote subject.

You can follow anyone with a public account. You can search by name or subject for tweets which interest you.

You can also link Twitter to your **Facebook** account, so that your Tweet will appear in Facebook as well. Go to *Settings*:

Go to *More Info URL*

Click on the blue letters right below it - ([You can also add Twitter to your site here](#)) and follow the prompts.

Twitter Literate

@username + message is used to reply to a tweet

D username + message is used to send a private tweet

denotes posts listed by subject

RT denotes repeating someone else's tweets

TIPS for Retweeting (RT)

1. Begin with letters RT
2. Give credit to source by using @**Author** (i.e. username)
3. To link a website whose url is more than 140 characters you can use one of the following websites-**tinyURL.com**, **bit.ly**, **ow.ly** or **is.gd**. Copy full url and then go to the one of the websites and then paste it in the search box to get the shorten version of the url.

For more tweet text command see

<http://help.twitter.com/forums/10711/entries/14020>

This site has information on using twitter with cell phones or other mobile devices.