

# The role of social media in prioritizing Iraqi youth regarding political events

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## ABSTRACT

Social networking sites stand among the most important means used by young people during the past years, especially Facebook, which is at the forefront in terms of use among those sites, which means that information can be accessed on various topics, including political issues that have become a preoccupation for most classes of society as a result. Its reflection on all sectors of life, and it is known that informing users of this information contributes in one way or another to directing young people towards topics which they find more important than others, and thus it can contribute to arranging their priorities regarding important issues in their daily life. The researcher is of the importance of studying the contribution of social networking sites in arranging the priorities of university youth towards political issues.

This research objective to:

1. Determine the function of social networking sites in arranging priorities towards political events among Iraqi youth.
2. Knowing the favourite social networking sites of Iraqi youth to obtain news and information related to political events.
3. To stand up to the most prominent political issues that arouse the interest of young people as a result of social networking sites displaying them.

**KEYWORDS:** Social, media and prioritizing.

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## INTRODUCTION

Social networking sites imposed their presence among the media, taking from the many characteristics that distinguished it, and made it a destination for a wide audience of different ages, trends and interests, which enabled it to occupy a place among the ladder of users' interests, if not at the forefront of those interests, after it was found in it. Users are satisfied with their needs, especially the youth among them, as many studies indicate that they use it the most among other age groups, from here - and for many reasons - social networking sites have emerged as influential tools in societies and in the category of young people looking for excellence and communication with everything new. In particular, this distinction and characteristics that distinguish these sites or this

new type of media- have resulted in many phenomena that emerged with the existence of those means that required specialists to subject them to study by applying media models or theories to the work of new media or social media sites.

And its impact and role, and among these theories, the theory of priority order, which researchers subjected to many phenomena in traditional media, but did not receive the same attention in the sites of communication. For social media, perhaps because of the recent era of social networking sites. This research sheds light on the role of these sites in arranging priorities regarding political events among Iraqi youth (Nasr, 2013).

The importance of this research stems from the community's need to find facts and know the

function that social media performs in providing the community with information, and the extent of its impact in pushing young people to pay attention to certain issues without others, especially since many studies have indicated the high rates of youth use of the Internet and social networking sites. This means that these sites have become among the topics that call for attention and subject them to further study to find out the merits of the job they undertake, (Muhammad, 2009) and the importance of research comes from their contribution to enriching the literature on the phenomenon of social media sites whose numbers of users are increasing. In addition to the function that these sites perform at various levels, especially the political ones, and what gives such studies and research an important nature that sheds light on an important segment of society represented by the youth group, and the effects that may result on them as a result of those uses.

### Research problem

The problem of this research stems from the ambiguity in the function performed by social networking sites in arranging the priorities of Iraqi youth regarding political events. Therefore, this research attempts to explore the nature of the role played by social networking sites in contributing or influencing the prioritization of political events among youth, by answering the following questions that represent the essence of the problem:

- A. . Is there a role for social media in prioritizing political events for Iraqi youth?
- B. What are the most prominent political issues that made social media at the forefront of youth priorities?
- C. To what extent do Iraqi youth interact with the political events presented by social networking sites?
- D. What is the nature of the information that Iraqi youth seek to obtain regarding political events through social networking sites?

### Research objectives

1. Determine the role played by social networking sites in setting priorities regarding political events among Iraqi youth.

2. Knowing the favourite social networking sites of Iraqi youth in obtaining news and information related to political events.
3. Uncovering the most prominent political issues that interest young people through social media.
4. Standing on the nature of the information that Iraqi youth seek to obtain, related to political events, through social networking sites.

### Type of research and methodology

This research belongs to descriptive research in terms of type, relying on the survey method as one of the most appropriate scientific methods for this study (Nasr, New media are the foundations of coverage, writing, design and directing in the electronic press, 2013). The research also used the survey method to survey the university youth population.

### Research methods and tools

The research used a group of scientific methods and tools in the field context of the research, as follows: (Heba Rabie, 2014)

1. Observation: The researcher adopted the observation to follow up on social media sites and present them to various topics, especially political ones.
2. The Questionnaire: The questionnaire is one of the appropriate scientific research tools that the researcher relied on upon in collecting information and data related to the study. The researcher built the questionnaire including several questions that are commensurate with the research objectives and problem.

### Research community and sample

Defining a research community is an essential process. It should be determined in an accurate scientific manner to obtain accurate scientific results, and because of the difficulty of applying the study to the entire youth community, the researcher identified the research community with young men from Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriyah Universities, both males and females, using the random sample method, (Saud, 2014) and the researcher distributed (100) questionnaires equally between the two universities, At the rate of (50)

questionnaires for each university, and it has also distributed them equally between males and females at the rate of (25) questionnaires for each

type (gender) to ensure accuracy and fairness in distributing the questionnaire forms.

**Table 1.**Shows the number of respondents from the universities of Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriya University

Universities			
Baghdad University		Mustansiriya University	
Males	Females	Males	Females
25	25	25	25
50		50	
Total respondents		100	

#### The validity of the questionnaire

To verify the apparent validity of the questionnaire, the researcher prepared a questionnaire form to identify the function of social media sites in arranging priorities regarding political events in the youth group and presented it to a group of arbitrators (2) of professors specializing in the field of media to find out the questions of the questionnaire and to identify the extent of the validity and accuracy of the form (Ismail, 2003). And its validity for application to the current research and knowledge of the apparent validity of the questionnaire (Al-Bayati, 2014), and the percentage of experts' agreement on the paragraphs of the scale was (93.75%), which is a good and acceptable percentage.

#### Limitations and areas of research

- A. The temporal domain: This field extended from (2/1/2020 to 1/3/2020), and during this period the researcher collected the necessary information and data and wrote the final report for the research.
- B. Spatial field: Due to the difficulty of applying the research to all Iraqi youth, the city of Baghdad was chosen as a geographical area, and then the research was applied to students of Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriya Universities.
- C. The human field: The human body represents the young students of Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriya University.

#### The Theory of Priority Order (Agenda)

Some sources indicate that this term was used for the first time in mathematics, from the scientist (Bash) in 1882 AD in his book (Lessons on New

Engineering) in which he summarized the basic conditions for prioritization, and as follows (Al-Khazraji, (June - September 2010)):

1. Define the basic boundaries of the issues, and what is necessary to know the boundaries of other issues.
2. Determine the primary issues through which the various other issues are proved.
3. The necessity that the relationships existing between the boundaries of the primary issues be merely logical independent of the personalized meaning that we can give to the boundaries.
4. The necessity of using the content of those logical relationships in persuasive processes towards others.

The owners of this theory believe that the mass media can direct public opinion and influence in the long term the formation of its interests on one of the social, political, economic and other issues, by focusing on it in these media to capture its interests and attention, that is, the actual role of these means (Sweden, 2015). It lies in moving the public's interests with specific issues and topics to agree in their arrangement with the order that these means the place for the importance of these issues and topics, that is, they impose on the public the agenda that determines for them the most important, important, least important, and unimportant of those topics (Hassan Emad Makkawi, 2009). It is necessary to point out that the new media participates in setting an agenda for users by highlighting issues that are ignored or lack of interest in them from the traditional media, which makes them an important issue in society, as they are discussed and discussed by users (Al-Shumairi, 2010).

## Field framework for research

### 1. Type of respondents and place of study

**Table 2.** Show the respondents according to the gender variable and the place of study

Type	Repetition				Percentage
	Baghdad University	Percentage	Mustansiriyah University	Percentage	
Male	25	25%	25	25%	50%
Female	25	25%	25	25%	50%
Total	50	50%	50	50%	100%

To identify the characteristics of the study sample in terms of the type of respondents (male and female), the number of male and female respondents participating in the research was equal to the selected sample of students from Baghdad and Al-Mustansiriyah University, as shown in Table (2) above. 50) respondents from Baghdad University and the same from Al-Mustansiriyah

University, and the percentage of males was (50%) distributed equally between the two universities, and (50) female respondents reached (50%) equally between the two universities, as the researcher was keen to achieve balance and equality between the male sample And females to achieve healthy results.

### 2. Exposure to social media

**Table 3.** Shows the respondents' exposure to social media

Exposure to social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
Yes	25	25%	24	24%	49	49%	23	23%	25	25%	48	48%	98%
No	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%	2%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

The results of the field study of the research sample showed, and as shown in Table (3) above: (96%) of all respondents are exposed to social media sites, including (49%) from the University of Baghdad and (45%) from Al-Mustansiriyah University, so he answered (yes) (25) students with a percentage of (25%) of male respondents compared to (0%) answered (no) from the University of Baghdad, while the percentage of females who answered (yes) from the same university reached (24%), so

their number reached (24) (A student for (1) answered (no), as for the male students of Al-Mustansiriyah University who answered (yes), their number reached (23) students with a percentage of (23%) compared to (2) who replied with (No) at a rate of (2%)) As for the females, (25%) of them answered (yes) compared to (0%) their answer was (no), and this shows that the percentage of students' exposure to social media is high.

### 3. The degree of interest in social media

**Table 4.** Shows the degree of interest of the respondents in social networking sites

The degree of interest in social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
I care about her a lot	14	14%	12	12%	26	26%	14	14%	11	11%	25	25%	51%
I care about her	7	7%	7	7%	14	14%	4	4%	6	6%	10	10%	24%

very much													
I care about it a little	3	3%	5	5%	8	8%	6	6%	7	7%	13	13%	21%
I care about it quite a bit	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%	1	1%	1	1%	2	2%	4%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

Table (4) mentioned above shows that the number of male and female respondents participating in the research at Baghdad University is equal in terms of the degree of interest in social media sites in the paragraph (I care about it a lot), with a total rate of (14%). He chose this paragraph (14). From both sexes equally between them, compared to (10%) from the sample of Al-Mustansiriyah University divided at a rate of (4) males by (4%) and (6) females by (6%), so that the total number of students who chose this paragraph is (24) students by (24%) while choosing a paragraph (I care about a lot) out of (51) respondents from both universities by (51%) distributed among (26) respondents from Baghdad University divided by (14) male respondents by (14%) and (12) (12) females, compared to (25%) from Al-Mustansiriyah University, distributed at a rate of (14) males (14%) and (11) females with (11%), and the total number

of respondents who chose the paragraph (I care about Slightly (21) respondents by (21%), of whom (8) were respondents from the University of Baghdad and both sexes (8%) were distributed between (3) males by (3%) compared to (5) females at (5%). While the percentage of students who chose the same paragraph from Al-Mustansiriyah University was (13%), with (13) Respondents were distributed by (6%) males with (6) respondents and (7%) females by (7%), while the number of students who chose (I care about very little) from both universities was equal to (2%) for each university distributed equally Between males and females with a number (1), and the percentage of each of them reached (1%) with a total number of (4) respondents and a percentage of (4%) from the total research sample. The results show great interest from the majority of the research sample.

#### 4. The rate of exposure to social networks

**Table 5.** Shows the respondents' exposure rate to social networks

Social media exposure rate	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
Use it daily	21	21%	18	18%	39	39%	22	22%	13	%13	35	35%	74%
Use it only at leisure	2	2%	4	4%	6	6%	0	0%	3	%3	3	3%	9%
Use it infrequently	2	2%	2	2%	4	4%	0	0%	5	5%	5	5%	9%
I use it weekly	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	3	3%	4	4%	7	7%	8%
I use it monthly	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	%50	%100

As shown in Table (5) mentioned above: (74) of the research sample chose (use it daily) with a percentage of (74%), of which (39%) were from the University of Baghdad with a rate of (74) respondents (21) of whom were males at a percentage of (74%). (21%) and (18) females, (18%), compared to (35%) from Al-Mustansiriyah University, with (35) respondents, distributed between (22) males, (22%), and (13) females, (13%). And in the section (Use it for leisure time

only), the total number of respondents reached (9), at a rate of (9%). In the University of Baghdad, the number was (6) by (6%) of whom (2) were males at a rate of (2%) and (4) (4%) of females and Al-Mustansiriyah University voted for this paragraph (3) by (3%) and only females, and the paragraph (I use it irregularly) is equal to its predecessor in terms of the total number that voted for it, as it reached (9) respondents with a percentage (9%) From the University of Baghdad, (4) respondents

voted at a rate of (4%) at a rate of two votes, and by (2%) for both males and females equally, while the percentage of those who voted for this paragraph was (5%) by (5) votes that came from females only. Then came the (Use it on a week) section by (8%) after winning (8) votes from all respondents at a rate of one vote and (1%) from females at the University of PG. Dad and (7%) by

(7) votes from Al-Mustansiriyah University distributed by (3) votes for males at a rate of (3%) and (4) votes at a rate of (4%) for females, while the paragraph (use it monthly) did not get any vote from All of the respondents ... From the above, we concluded that a large percentage of students use social networking sites daily, meaning that they are persistently exposed to and use them.

### 5. Favourite social networking sites of the respondents:

**Table 6.** Shows the respondents' preference between social networking sites

Favourite social networking sites	Repetition											Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage
	M	%	F	%	F		M	%	F	%	F	
Facebook	21	14.5%	23	12.2%	44	26.7%	16	10.3%	19	13.2%	35	23.5%
YouTube	11	7.7%	18	9.5%	29	17.2%	14	8.9%	16	11.2%	30	20.1%
Twitter	2	1.4%	4	2.2%	6	3.6%	7	4.5%	0	0%	7	4.5%
Bloggng	2	1.4%	2	1.1%	4	2.5%	2	1.3%	1	0.6%	3	1.9%
Total	36	25%	47	25%	83	50%	39	25%	36	25%	75	50%

To identify the respondents' favourite social media sites, they were asked about that, and their answers were, and as indicated in the aforementioned table (6) indicating that (50.2%) of the respondents prefer (Facebook), and ranked first with the frequency of (79) respondents distributed among (44) from the University of Baghdad with (26.7%) of them (21) were males or (14.5%) compared to (23) females with (12.2%), and the share of Al-Mustansiriyah University was (23.5%) at a rate of (35) of them (16) Of the males (10.3%) and (19) of the females (13.2%), while (YouTube) ranked second, and the number of those who confirmed that they use it reached (59) respondents, with a rate of (37.3%) of them (17.2%) of Baghdad University repeated (29) respondents, distributed between (11) males, (7.7%) and (9.5%) females, with a rate of (29) respondents. From Al-Mustansiriyah University, the number of respondents reached (30) respondents, (20.1%) of them (14) Males (8.9%) and (16) females (11.2%), while the (Twitter) category came in third place, and the number of those who referred to this

reached (13) respondents with a rate of (8.1%). 3.6% with a rate of (6) respondents, of whom (2) were male (1.4%) With a rate of (2.2%) at a rate of (4) respondents, and from Al-Mustansiriyah University chose this paragraph (7) of respondents who formed a rate of (4.5%), all of whom were males, while the paragraph (blogs) ranked fourth, and the number of those who confirmed this reached (7) respondents Of the sample members with a rate of (4.4%) distributed between (2.5%) from the University of Baghdad at a rate of (4) male respondents (2) with a rate of (1.4%) and female respondents at a rate of (1.4%) and from Al-Mustansiriyah University chose this site (3) Of respondents (1.9%), of which (1.3%) are males, at a rate of only two respondents compared to one respondent of females (1.9%) ... The results revealed that more than half of the research sample prefer Facebook over the rest of the sites, and the reason may be due to this The site is the most used in Iraq, and because it provides communication with friends, as well as that it has features that provide users with detailed and varied information.

### 6. Reasons for using social networking sites

**Table 7.**Shows the reasons for the respondents' use of social networking sites

Reasons for using social networking sites	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
To contact others	16	6.5%	17	8.2%	33	14.7%	19	6.5%	14	6.5%	33	13%	27.7%
For general information	13	5.2%	9	4.3%	22	9.5%	15	5.2%	19	8.8%	34	14%	23.5%
For entertainment	14	5.7%	11	5.3%	25	11%	15	5.2%	14	6.5%	29	11.7%	22.7%
To follow political events	9	3.6%	6	2.9%	15	6.5%	14	4.7%	1	0.4%	15	5.1%	11.6%
Business purposes	7	2.8%	5	2.4%	12	5.2%	3	1%	3	1.4%	6	2.4%	7.6%
For scientific purposes	3	1.2%	4	1.9%	7	3.1%	7	2.4%	%	%1.4	10	3.8%	6.9%
Total	62	25%	52	25%	104	50%	73	25%	54	25%	127	50%	100%

To identify the reasons for using the communication sites, the question was asked about that, and the respondents' answers, as shown in Table (7) mentioned above, indicate that (for contacting others) came first in terms of preference. (66) respondents confirmed that, and a percentage of (27.7) (%) Of which (14.7%) came from the University of Baghdad, at a rate of (33) respondents, among which (16) were males, at a rate of (6.5%), and (17) were female, with a rate of (8.2%). %) Of which (6.5%) are for males, and the same for females, at a rate of (14) recurrences, and the category (for general information) ranked second in terms of preference. This was indicated by (56) respondents, with a percentage of (23.5%). (9.5%) at a rate of (22) respondents, of which (5.2) for males at a rate of (13) respondents compared to (9) female respondents at a rate of (4.3%) compared to (23.5%) for Al-Mustansiriyah University, of which (5.2) for males at a rate of (15) male respondents against (19) repeat rate (8.8%), while the section (entertainment) ranked third in terms of preference. (54) respondents confirmed this with a rate of (22.7%), distributed between (11%) and average (25). In Baghdad University, 14 of them Males with a rate of (5.7%) and (11) females at a rate of (4.3%). In Al-Mustansiriyah University, the total percentage was (11.7%), with a repeat rate of (29) respondents, distributed between (15) males with a rate of (5.2%) and (14) of Females with a rate of (11.7%), and (following up on political events) ranked fourth in terms of preference. (30) respondents expressed

this with a percentage of (11.6%), of which (6.5%) were from the University of Baghdad, distributed among (9) male respondents with a percentage of (3.6%) and (6) females, at a rate of (2.9%), while the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (5.1%), with a rate of (15) respondents, of whom (14) were males with a rate of (4.7%), and one frequency of females was (04%). And the category (work-specific purposes) ranked fifth. (18) respondents confirmed this, with a rate of (7.6%), of which the University of Baghdad's share was (5.2%) with a frequency of (12) respondents, of which (7) were males, or (2.8%). The percentage of females reached (2.4%) with a rate of (5) respondents. As for Al-Mustansiriyah University, the percentage of this paragraph in it was (2.4%) at a rate of (6) respondents, distributed equally between males and females, and the percentage of males was (1%) compared to (1.4%) It came in the sixth and last place in the category (for scientific purposes), which received a rate of (6.9%) with a rate of t RAR (17), of which (7) were for Baghdad University, at a rate of (3.1%), distributed between (3) male respondents at a rate of (1.2%) and (7) female respondents at a rate of (1.9%) compared to (6.9) from Al-Mustansiriyah University at a rate of (10). Respondents were distributed at a rate of (7) males with a rate of (2.4%) compared to (3.8%) of females, the frequency rate was (3), the rates of contact with others and obtaining general information and entertainment were close among the reasons for using social media sites chosen by

the students, which means The diversity of interests

and reasons for using these sites by them.

## 7. Dealing with political news through social media

**Table 8.**Shows the nature of the respondents' interaction with political news via social media

Dealing with political news via social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
I share with friends	20	20%	10	10%	30	30%	15	15	16	16	31	31%	61%
I just check it out	3	3%	10	10%	13	13%	6	6	4	4	10	10%	23%
I just like it	2	2%	5	5%	7	7%	4	4	5	5	9	9%	16%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

In order to know how the respondents dealt with political news through social media, a question was asked about that, and the answers in the aforementioned table (7) indicated that (61%) of the research sample chose (I share it with friends), and ranked first with an average (61) repetitions, of which (30) were from the University of Baghdad at a rate of (30%) distributed between (20%) for males at a rate of (20) and (10%) for females with a rate of (10) respondents, and the percentage of those who chose this paragraph from Al-Mustansiriyah University was (31) (%) At a rate of (30) recurrences, of which (15) are for males at a rate of (15%) and (16%) at a repetition rate of (16) respondents, while the number of those who voted for a paragraph (only to review it) reached (23) respondents, at a rate of (23%) And it came in second place after the percentage of Baghdad University in this paragraph reached (13%) by repeating (13) respondents, of whom (3) were

males at a rate of (3%) and (10) were females with (10%). The paragraph in Al-Mustansiriyah University (10) repeats (6), of which for males (6%) and (4) for females, at a rate of (4%), while the paragraph (I am satisfied with admiration) came in third place, and the number of those who confirmed this reached (16) Of the subjects, at a rate of (16%), of which (7%) a rate of (7) recurrences At the University of Baghdad there are (2), of which (2%) for males and (5%) for females are (5) iterations, and the percentage in Al-Mustansiriyah University is (9%) with (9) recurrences of which (4) are for males at (4%) and (5) For females, at a rate of (5%), the largest percentage of respondents indicated that they are satisfied with seeing political news in their answers about how to deal with it, and from this, we conclude that this large percentage of respondents see this type of news while being satisfied with that without doing any Another interaction.

## 8. The extent of confidence in political news circulating on social media

**Table 9.**Shows the extent of the respondents' confidence in the political news circulating on social media

Confidence in political news circulating on social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
I somehow trust her	19	19%	22	22%	41	41%	23	23%	23	23%	46	46%	87%
I never trust her	4	4%	2	2%	6	6%	2	2%	2	2%	4	4%	10%
I trust her very much	2	2%	1	1%	3	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

In order to reveal the extent of confidence in political news on social media, a question was asked about that, and the answer was indicating, and as the aforementioned table (9) indicates that (87%) of the respondents chose the paragraph (I

trust it to some extent), it was ranked first The number of respondents who expressed this amounted to (78) respondents from both sexes, and from both universities, and the percentage of Baghdad University reached (41%) with a rate of

(41) respondents of whom (19) were males with a rate of (19%) and (22) of Female by (22%), and the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (46%) at a rate of (46) iterations equally between males and females, while the number of respondents who chose (I never trust her) reached (10) respondents with a rate of (10%), and it came in The second place, and the percentage of respondents from the University of Baghdad was (6%), at a rate of (6), of which (4) was for males, at a rate of (4%), while the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University was (4%) at a rate of (4) iterations distributed evenly by (2%) at a rate Two

#### 9. The extent of reliance on social media to view the course of political events

**Table 10.** Shows the extent of the respondents' dependence on social media to see the course of political events

The extent of reliance on social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
I rely on it sometimes	10	10%	8	8%	18	18%	16	16%	14	14%	30	30%	48%
I rely on it to some extent	6	6%	12	12%	18	18%	4	4%	7	7%	11	11%	29%
I always rely on it	7	7%	4	4%	11	11%	5	5%	1	1%	6	6%	17%
I don't rely on it at all	2	2%	1	1%	3	3%	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%	6%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

To identify the extent of reliance on social media to see the course of political events, the question was asked about that, and the answers, as shown in Table (10) mentioned above, indicate that (I rely on them at times) came first in terms of preference. Accordingly, (48) respondents, at a rate of (48%), were selected by (18%) from the University of Baghdad (10%), of whom (10) male respondents were repeatedly male, and (8) females were (8%) compared to (30%). From Al-Mustansiriyah University, they were distributed among (16%) males with a rate of (16) respondents and (14) females with (14%), and (I depend on them to some extent) ranked second in terms of preference, it was indicated by (29) respondents With a rate of (19%), the percentage of those favouring this paragraph from the University of Baghdad reached (18%) at a rate of (18) respondents (6) at a rate of (6%), and this percentage of females was doubled by (12%) compared to (11%) repeatedly (11%). (4) male respondents (4%) and (7) females (7%), when (I always rely on them) ranked third in terms of preference. (17) respondents confirmed that at a

iterations for both males and females, while the paragraph (I trust it very much) ranked third, and the number of those who confirmed this was (3) respondents, with a percentage of (3%) limited to respondents from the University of Baghdad, distributed between two repetitions for males at a rate of (2%) and a recurrence and One for females (1%) . A large percentage of the respondents trust the political news circulating through social media to some extent, which means that these sites have the confidence of a large proportion of the respondents.

rate of (17) Of which (11%) were from the University of Baghdad with (11) recurrences, (7%) of them were (7) males and (4) Of females, at a rate of (4%), while the percentage of preference for students of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (6%), with (6) respondents, of whom (5) were males, at (5%), and one recurrence for females, at (1%). In the fourth place in terms of preference, (6) respondents expressed that at a rate of (6%) divided equally between students of the two universities, and the number of males from the University of Baghdad reached (2) at a rate of (2%) compared to one female at a rate of (1%) compared to (3%) of the female respondents at Al-Mustansiriyah University with a rate of (3) iterations, and this paragraph did not receive the preference of any male respondent at the same university... From the above, it is clear that about half of the research sample depend on social media sites to see the course of political events, which is a large percentage Which means that these sites have become a great influence on the respondents.

#### 10. Reasons for adopting social networking sites

**Table 11.**Shows the reasons for the respondents' reliance on social media to follow political events

Reasons for relying on social media	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
More information needed	9	9%	12	12%	21	21%	14	14%	14	14%	28	28%	49%
See friends' reviews of events	9	9%	5	5%	14	14%	7	7%	5	5%	12	12%	26%
Get specific information	5	5%	4	4%	9	%9	4	4%	5	5%	9	9%	18%
Distrust of traditional media	2	2%	4	4%	6	6%	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	7%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

Through the results of the field study shown in Table (11) mentioned above, it became clear that (49%) of the respondents chose the paragraph (The need for more information) relied on social media, and the number of those who confirmed this reached (49) respondents, the percentage of which was inclusive Baghdad (21%) with (21) respondents, including (9) males, (9%) and (12) females, (12%), while the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (28%) with a rate of (28) equally divided between Male and female respondents with a rate of (14) respondents and a ratio of (14%) each, while the number of respondents who chose (see friends' opinions of events) was (26) respondents, with a rate of (26%) of them (14%) from the University of Baghdad at a rate of (14) (9) respondents, including males (9%) and (5) for females, at (5%), while the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (12) respondents at a rate of (12%), of which (7%) for males at a rate of (7) iterations and (5) For females,

at a rate of (5%), while the number of respondents who referred to the paragraph (obtaining specific information) was (18) respondents were distributed equally between the two universities at a rate of (9) recurrences and a rate of (9%), while the number of males from the University of Baghdad reached (5) By (5%), females (4) at (4%), and at the university The percentage of males (4%) at a rate of (4) repetitions and females (5) with (5) recurrences, while the number of those who chose the paragraph (distrust of traditional media) was (7) respondents, with a rate of (7%), the percentage of Baghdad University. (6%) at a rate of (6) iterations (2) of which for males at a rate of (2%) and (6) for females at a rate of (6%), while the percentage of Al-Mustansiriyah University reached (1%) with one recurrence for females only ... We conclude from the above that Nearly half of the respondents depend on social networking sites when they want to obtain more information than is published in other media.

#### 11. The extent to which social networking sites contribute to arranging your interests in political issues

**Table 12.**Shows the contribution of social media to arranging the interests of the respondents in political issues

The contribution of social networking sites to arranging the interests of the respondents	Repetition												Percentage
	Baghdad University					Percentage	Mustansiriyah University					Percentage	
	M.	%	F	%	F		M.	%	F	%	F		
You contributed so much	22	22%	17	17%	39	39%	19	19%	20	20%	39	39%	78%
You contributed a lot	0	0%	4	4%	4	4%	2	2%	5	5%	7	7%	11%
You did not contribute at all	1	1%	3	3%	4	4%	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%	6%

It contributed a little	2	2%	1	1%	3	3%	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%	5%
It contributed quite a bit	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0%
Total	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	25	25%	25	25%	50	50%	100%

To find out the extent of the contribution of social networking sites in arranging the public's interest in the current political issues, a question was raised to the respondents, so it is evident from the aforementioned table (12) that (78) respondents from among the sample members chose a paragraph (they contributed very much) on the social networks that occupied The first place, with a rate of (78%), equally between the respondents from both universities, at a rate of (39) from the University of Baghdad, with (39%), of which (22%) for males, at a rate of (22) respondents, and (17) for females, at a rate of (17%) compared to (19) Repetition for males from Al-Mustansiriyah University at a rate of (19%) and females (20) recurrences at a rate of (20%), while the number of respondents who chose the paragraph (contributed a lot) was (11) respondents, and at a rate of (11%), the percentage of Baghdad University was (4%). At a rate of (4) respondents, all of whom are female, compared to (7%) for Al-Mustansiriyah University, at a rate of (7) respondents, distributed between two recurrences for males, at a rate of (2%) and (5%) for females, at a rate of (5) iterations, and it came in the second place, while a category of (It

did not contribute at all) ranked third, and the number of respondents who expressed this amounted to (6) respondents, at a rate of (6%), the share of Baghdad governorate (4%), at a rate of (4) recurrences, distributed between one vote for males. A percentage of (1%) and (3) occurrences for females at a rate of (3%) compared to (2%) for Al-Mustansiriyah University at a rate of two iterations of the share of males only, followed by a category (contributed slightly), which reached (5%) at a rate of (5) (Repetitions), including (3%) for the Baghdad group, with (3) repeat subjects, which were divided between two repetitions for males at a rate of (2%) and one occurrence for females at a rate of (1%) compared to (2%) for Al-Mustansiriyah University with two recurrences for males only. Very little) that did not receive any recurrence, with a percentage of (0%). We can deduce from the aforementioned results that social networking sites contribute significantly to arranging youth priorities and increasing their interest in political issues by highlighting and providing detailed information about those events that help them in that. Young people's confidence in what is published in those means.

## 12. Arranging follow-up issues on social media according to their importance

**Table 13.**Shows the order of political issues that the respondents follow on social media according to their importance to them

Preferred political issues in order of importance	Repetition												Total	Perce ntage
	Baghdad University					Perce ntage	Mustansiriya University					Perce ntage		
	M.	%	F	%	F		M	%	F	%	F			
Demonstrations and sit-ins	22	7.4 %	23	7.8 %	45	15.1 %	21	7%	21	7%	42	14%	87	29.1%
Government performance	15	5%	16	5.3 %	31	10.4 %	18	6%	19	6.4 %	37	12.4%	68	22.8%
Parliament performance	14	4.6 %	14	4.6 %	28	9.2%	16	5.3 %	14	4.6 %	30	9.9%	58	19.1%
The performance of political parties	13	4.3 %	13	4.3 %	26	8.6%	11	3.7 %	13	4.3 %	24	8%	50	16.6%
Foreign affairs	11	3.7 %	9	3%	20	6.7%	9	3%	8	2.7 %	17	5.7%	37	12.4%
Total	75	25%	75	25%	150	50%	75	25%	75	25%	150	50%	300	100%

To reveal the order of the preferred cases from the viewpoint of the respondents, the question was asked about that, and the answer indicated - in which they were asked to choose three categories, and as shown in the aforementioned Table (13) - that (87) respondents, with a percentage of (29.1%), prefer Following up (demonstrations and sit-ins) through social media, the percentage of Baghdad University reached (15.1%) with an average of (45) respondents, of whom (22) were males (7.4%) and (23) females were (7.8%) and from Al-Mustansiriyah University, the number reached (42) respondents with (14%) of which (21) are males (7%) and (21) females with (7%), while the number of respondents who prefer to follow (government performance) is (68) respondents with a rate of (22.8%). Of them (10.4%) at a rate of (31) respondents from the University of Baghdad, of whom (15) were males at a rate of (5%) and (16) were females at a rate of (5.3%). From Al-Mustansiriyah University, the number of voters for this paragraph reached (37) respondents by (12.4%) of them (18) were males at a rate of (6%) and (19) were female respondents at a rate of (6.4%), while the number of those who preferred to follow (Parliament's performance) reached (19.1%) at a rate of (58) Of them (28) were surveyed from the University of Baghdad, at a rate of (9.2%), of which (4.6%) with a rate of (14) For males, and the same for females, and from Al-Mustansiriyah University voted for this paragraph (30) respondents by (9.9%), of which (5.3%) for males at a rate of (16) repeatedly and (14) for females at a rate of (6.4%), and voted on the paragraph (Performance of political parties From the University of Baghdad (26) respondents, at a rate of (8.6%), of which (4.3%) for both males and females, and from Al-Mustansiriyah University chose this paragraph (24) respondents by (8%) distributed among (11) males, at a rate of (3.7%) And (13) were females, at a rate of (4.3%), followed by a paragraph (foreign affairs) at a rate of (12.4%) and the average of (37) respondents, of which the share of Baghdad University was (6.7%) at a rate of (20) respondents, of which (11) were males. With a percentage of (3.7%) and (9) of females at a rate of (3%), the percentage was (5.7%) repeated (17) respondents, of which (3%) were males at a rate of (9) respondents and (8) were females with (2.7) %). The results showed a convergence of the percentages of respondents who follow each of the government's performance,

demonstrations and sit-ins through social media, which indicates that they are getting private information about that provided by the traditional media.

## RESULTS

1. The results of the research showed an increase in the percentage of young people who are exposed to social media, which reached (94%) of the research sample.
2. The interest of young people in social networking sites, as the percentage of those who (care about it a lot) and those who (care about it very much) reached (75%) compared to (25%) who care less about it than the respondents, and this shows how important these sites are to them with what it provides from the information.
3. The clear confirmation of the majority of the research sample on the permanent use of social media, as their percentage reached (59%) from the research sample, which indicates its importance for the majority of students to use them for various purposes.
4. The clear use of social media by the majority of university students for more than three years, at a rate of (51%), indicates their continued use of these sites because of the benefits they have on various levels.
5. The youth's continued use of social media daily, as the percentage of those who use it (daily) has reached (74%), and this shows how important these sites are to them and their communication in using them.
6. The results of the research showed that (44%) of the research sample use social networking sites (from one to three hours) daily, and this is an indication that an important part of their time is devoted to using those sites.
7. About the sites most favoured by young people, the results showed that (Facebook) was the highest in the ladder of interest at the level of use, at a rate of (50.2%), compared to the lowest interest in (blogs), at a rate of (4.4%).

8. The results regarding the reasons for youth using social networking sites showed that (communicating with others) was the highest in the ladder of interest of the respondents by (27.7%), and ranked second (obtaining general information) by (23.5%), and came in third place (entertainment) with a percentage of (22.7%), while (following up on political events) ranked fourth with (11.6%).
9. The results of the research indicate that the majority of the research sample trusts the political news circulating through social media (to some extent), reaching (87%), and this confirms their confidence in these sites in obtaining information on current political events.
10. Youth affirmation that they (sometimes) depend on social media to see the course of political events, at a rate of (48%).
11. The clear indication from the respondents revealed by the research results that they rely on social media sites when they feel the need for more information about current political events, at a rate of (49%), and this shows the interest of university students in the important information provided by these sites.
12. The largest percentage of young people, which reached (78%) of the research sample, confirms that social media has contributed very much to prioritizing their interests in political events, and (11%) of young people believe that it has contributed a lot to prioritize their interests.
13. The results on political topics that university students prefer to follow through social media showed that (demonstrations and sit-ins) were the highest in the respondents' interest by (29.1%), and ranked second (government performance) by (22.8%), and came in third place (Parliament performance) by (19.1%).

## CONCLUSIONS

1. As a result of the respondents' high confidence in social media sites and their reliance on them in obtaining information, and these sites contain information that

differs from what is provided by the traditional media, these sites perform an important function in arranging the priorities of young people regarding current political events.

2. By examining the preferences of young people among social networking sites, Facebook took the lead among those sites, which reveals that the aforementioned site is the most effective in terms of arranging their priorities regarding the current political events.
3. Keeping up with social media sites of current and current events and the respondents' interest in using them and following up on what is published in them made them perform an important function in arranging their priorities regarding current political events.

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