Data Descriptor

A Large-Scale Dataset of Twitter Chatter about Online Learning during the Current COVID-19 Omicron Wave

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Abstract: The COVID-19 Omicron variant, reported to be the most immune evasive variant of COVID-19, is resulting in a surge of COVID-19 cases globally. This has caused schools, colleges, and universities in different parts of the world to transition to online learning. As a result, social media platforms such as Twitter are seeing an increase in conversations related to online learning. Mining such conversations, such as Tweets, to develop a dataset can serve as a data resource for interdisciplinary research related to the analysis of interest, views, opinions, perspectives, attitudes, and feedback towards online learning during the current surge of COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant. Therefore this work presents a large-scale public Twitter dataset of conversations about online learning since the first detected case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in November 2021. The dataset is compliant with the privacy policy, developer agreement, and guidelines for content redistribution of Twitter, as well as with the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles for scientific data management. The paper also briefly outlines some potential applications in the fields of Big Data, Data Mining, Natural Language Processing, and their related disciplines, with a specific focus on online learning during this Omicron wave that may be studied, explored, and investigated by using this dataset.

Dataset: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6624081

Dataset License: CC-BY 4.0

Keywords: COVID-19; COVID; Omicron; online learning; remote learning; online education; Twitter; dataset; Tweets; social media; Big Data

1. Introduction

The first cases of the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, were recorded in a seafood market in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 [1]. Since then, the virus has spread to all the countries of the world. At the time of writing this paper, globally, there have been 535,342,382 cases with 6,320,324 deaths [2]. Since the initial cases in China, the SARS-CoV-2 virus has undergone multiple mutations, and as a result, several variants have been detected in different parts of the world. Some of these include – Alpha (B.1.1.7), Beta (B.1.351), Gamma (P.1), Delta (B.1.617.2), Epsilon (B.1.427 B.1.429), Eta (B.1.525), Iota (B.1.526), Kappa (B.1.617.1), Zeta (P.2), Mu (B.1.621, B.1.621.1), and Omicron (B.1.1.529, BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5) [3]. Out of all these variants, the Omicron variant, first detected on 24th November 2021 from a sample collected on 9th November 2021, was classified as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by World Health Organization (WHO) on 26th November 2021 [4]. The Omicron variant has a spike protein that contains 30 mutations [5]. It has been reported to be the most immune evasive variant of COVID-19 and to present very strong resistance against antibody-based or plasma-based treatments [6]. According to WHO, the new cases due to this Omicron variant have been "off the charts" and are setting new records in terms of COVID-19 cases all over the world [7]. The Omicron variant currently accounts for 86% of the COVID-19 cases worldwide [8], and some of the countries that have recorded the most cases due to the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant include – the United Kingdom (1,138,814 cases), U.S.A. (945,470 cases), Germany (245,120 cases), Denmark (218,106 cases), France (110,959 cases), Canada (92,341 cases), Japan (71,056 cases), India (56,125 cases), Australia (46,576 cases), Sweden (43,400 cases), Israel (39,908 cases), Poland (33,436 cases), and Brazil (32,880 cases) [9].

Since the beginning of the pandemic, several countries in the world, such as - India [10], United States [11], United Kingdom [12], Spain [13], Greece [14], Italy [15], Austria [16], Nigeria [17], China [18], New Zealand [19], Ireland [20], Germany [21], South Africa [22], Australia [23], France, [24], Norway [25], and several more [26], went on a complete lockdown with work from home and remote work guidelines that affected several industries and sectors. Out of all these sectors that were impacted by the nationwide lockdowns and the associated guidelines in different parts of the world, the education sector was an important one. On a global scale, universities, colleges, and schools had to switch to online education, which required its faculty, administrators, staff, and students to get familiarized with online learning and the associated tools and platforms that were necessary for this new norm of education. Online learning may be broadly defined as "learning experiences in synchronous or asynchronous environments using different devices (e.g., mobile phones, laptops, etc.) with internet access. In these environments, students can be anywhere (independent) to learn and interact with instructors and other students" [27]. Online learning has a range of synonyms, and some of the most commonly used synonyms include remote education, online education, virtual education, remote learning, e-learning, distance education, virtual learning, asynchronous learning, and blended learning [27].

On a global scale, more than 43,518,726 students were affected due to in-person school closures [28]. Due to the worldwide adoption and familiarization with various forms of tools, platforms, software, and hardware necessary for online education, the online education market is rapidly booming and is expected to reach more than USD 350 billion by 2025 [29]. Due to COVID-19, the closing of universities, colleges, and schools was recorded in 188 countries [30], and 90% of the countries reported a switch to one or more forms of online learning [31]. Despite these promising numbers, 31% (463 million) of students in schools (in pre-primary to secondary education) could not adopt online learning either due to lack of technologies, training, or accessibility, and 75% of students who belonged to the poorest households could not switch to the technologies required for online learning [31].

With the advancements in vaccine research and other forms of treatment of COVID-19 towards the later part of 2020 [32-34] and in compliance with the recommendations from various local and national policy-making bodies, several universities, colleges, and schools started to transition to hybrid learning (both online and in-person) as well as completely in-person learning [35]. However, this was associated with several challenges [36], including a surge of COVID-19 cases in students, educators, and staff members, increase of stress and anxiety in both students and their parents, and need for allocation of funds by these educational institutions to conduct classes in a socially distant manner, for procurement of hand sanitizers, and disinfectants. Despite these challenges, education continued in both hybrid and in-person forms for a few months. However, due to the recent global surge in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant [7-9], several educational institutions all over the world have transitioned back to online learning since the beginning of 2022, and several are in the process of transitioning to online learning over the next few months [37-42].

The modern-day Internet of Everything lifestyle [43] is characterized by people spending more time on the internet than ever before, with a specific focus on social media platforms. The use of social media platforms has skyrocketed in the recent past [44]. Social media usage characteristics include conversations on diverse topics such as recent issues, global challenges, emerging technologies, news, current events, politics, family, relationships, and career opportunities [45]. Twitter, one such social media platform, used by people of almost all age groups [46,47], has been rapidly gaining popularity in all parts of the world and is currently the second most visited social media platform [48]. At present,

there are about 192 million daily active users on Twitter, and approximately 500 million tweets are posted on Twitter every day [49]. Mining of social media conversations, for instance, Tweets, to develop datasets has been of significant interest to the scientific community in the areas of Big Data, Data Mining, and Natural Language Processing, as can be seen from these recent works where relevant Tweets were mined to develop Twitter datasets on 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections [50], 2022 Russia Ukraine war [51], climate change [52], natural hazards [53], European Migration Crisis [54], movies [55], toxic behavior amongst adolescents [56], music [57], civil unrest [58], drug safety [59], and Inflammatory Bowel Disease [60].

In the context of the recent surge of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant and its impact on the education sector, there has been a significant increase in conversations on Twitter related to online learning. Mining such conversations to develop a dataset can serve as a data resource for interdisciplinary research related to the analysis of interest, views, opinions, perspectives, attitudes, and feedback towards online learning during the current surge of COVID-19 cases caused due to this variant.

Previous works related to online learning since the outbreak of COVID-19 have focused on analyzing some of these factors only in certain geographic regions, mostly by using surveys, and not on a global scale by analyzing conversations from all over the world, such as Tweets. Prior works related to the development of Twitter datasets related to COVID-19 have also not focused on mining relevant tweets related to online learning. To address these limitations, this work proposes a dataset of about 50,000 Tweet IDs (that correspond to the same number of Tweets) about online learning that was posted on Twitter from 9th November 2021 to 28th May 2022, which is publicly available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6624081. The earliest date was selected as 9th November 2021, as the Omicron variant was detected for the first time in a sample that was collected on this date. 28th May 2022 was the most recent date as per the time of data collection and writing of this paper.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents an overview of recent works in this field. The methodology that was followed for the development of this dataset is presented in Section 3. Section 4 provides the description of the dataset. Section 5 briefly discusses a few potential applications of this dataset. The conclusion and scope for future work are presented in Section 6, which is followed by references.

2. Literature Review

There has been a significant amount of research related to online learning since the global outbreak of COVID-19. These include - analysis and study of student perspectives [61], perceptions of educators [62], psychological impacts on students [63], barriers to online learning [64], student attitudes [65], student experiences [66], strategies implemented by teachers [67], student satisfaction [68], perspectives of students [69], mental health of students [70], student responses and actions [71], stress detection [72], online systems adopted and the associated challenges [73], difference in access and participation amongst students [74], effect on the learning status of students [75], student well-being [76], student readiness [77], new teaching strategies and models [78], use of virtual reality technology [79], ethno-cultural competence [80], degrees of student adaptation [81], student views [82], methodologies for online inclusion [83], academic integration [84], impact of using Google Classroom [85], degrees of user satisfaction with different platforms [86], educational outcomes [87], challenges faced by educators [88], impact of student diversity towards the effectiveness of online learning [89], and awareness and knowledge of students towards online learning [90].

In terms of mining relevant conversations related to a specific topic on Twitter since the outbreak of COVID-19, the prior works in this field have focused on the development of datasets for healthcare misinformation [91], misleading information [92], vaccine misinformation [93], patient identification [94], updates related to vaccine development [95], and rumors related to COVID-19 [96].

Despite these emerging works in the fields of online learning and the development of Twitter datasets, there exist multiple limitations. First, these works in the field of online learning have been confined to studying or analyzing the success or failure, degrees of acceptance, and associated factors related to online learning in specific geographic regions such as Pakistan [61], Indonesia [62,63,66,67], Philippines [64], UAE [65], Saudi Arabia [68], Jordan [69], Kazakhstan [70], Ghana [71], Saudi Arabia [72], Bangladesh [73], United States [74,77], India [75], United Kingdom [76], Germany [77], UAE [78], Ukraine [79], Russia [80], Spain [81], Greece [82], Italy [83], Austria [84], Nigeria [85], China [86], Australia [87], South Africa [88], Taiwan [89], and Sri Lanka [90], and not at a global level. Second, due to the lack of datasets such as Twitter conversations related to online learning from global users, the data that were analyzed in these studies were mostly in the form of surveys that were conducted in these respective geographic regions. Third, the Twitter datasets related to COVID-19 [91-96] do not focus on online learning and the ongoing chatter on Twitter about the same amidst the global rise of COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant. The dataset proposed in this paper aims to address all these limitations.

3. Methodology

This section describes the methodology that was followed for the development of this dataset publicly available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6624081. The raw version of the dataset (presented in the form of 6 .txt files) contains 52,868 Tweet IDs corresponding to 52,868 tweets about online learning publicly posted on Twitter from 9th November 2021 (sample collected on this date was the first case of Omicron) to 28th May 2022 (the most recent date at the time of data collection). This section also outlines how this work and the associated dataset development is in compliance with the privacy policy, developer agreement, and guidelines for content redistribution of Twitter, as well as follows the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles for scientific data management. These are discussed in Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, respectively.

3.1. Process for Dataset Development

As this work focuses on developing a Twitter dataset, the privacy policy, developer agreement, and guidelines for content redistribution of Twitter [97,98] were thoroughly studied, and after studying the same, it was concluded that mining relevant tweets from Twitter to develop a dataset (comprising only Tweet IDs) is in compliance with all these policies of Twitter. Therefore this dataset contains only Tweet IDs and does not contain any other information related to the respective Tweets that were mined. A detailed explanation of this compliance is mentioned in Section 3.2.

The tweets were collected by using the Search Twitter "operator" [99] available in RapidMiner studio [100]. RapidMiner is a data science platform that allows the development, implementation, and testing of various algorithms, processes, and applications in the fields of Big Data, Data Mining, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and their related areas. There are various RapidMiner products available such as RapidMiner Studio, RapidMiner AI Hub, and RapidMiner Radoop. For this work, the RapidMiner studio, version 9.10, was downloaded and installed on a laptop with the Microsoft Windows 10 Home operating system with Intel(R) Pentium(R) Silver N5030 CPU @ 1.10GHz, 1101 Mhz, 4 Core(s), and 4 Logical Processor(s). In the RapidMiner platform, "process" and "operator" are two commonly used terminologies. An "operator" represents a specific function or operation that can be used to fetch data from a social media platform such as Twitter based on a specific set of guidelines or to perform a specific operation on a dataset. RapidMiner has a number of in-built "operators". It also allows users to develop "operators" from scratch. A collection of "operators" that are connected in a logical sequence to achieve the desired purpose is called a "process". A "process" may also contain just one "operator" if the complete functionality of the "process" can be found in one in-built or user-defined "operator". The Search Twitter "operator", an in-built "operator" of RapidMiner, works by connecting with the Twitter API and by complying with the Twitter API standard search policies [101] to fetch tweets between two given dates that contain one or more keywords or phrases which are provided as input to this "operator". As there are different keywords that Twitter users can use to refer to both COVID-19, the Omicron variant, and online learning, therefore a bag of words was developed based on studying commonly used synonyms, phrases, and terms used to refer to online learning [102], COVID-19 and the Omicron variant [103]. These synonyms, terms, and phrases, all of which were included in the data collection process, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. List of commonly used synonyms, terms, and phrases for online learning and COVID-19.

Terminology	List of synonyms and Terms
	Omicron, COVID, COVID19, coronavirus, coronaviruspandemic, COVID-19, corona, coronaoutbreak,
COVID-19	omicron variant, SARS CoV-2, corona virus
online learning	online education, online learning, remote education, remote learning, e-learning, elearning, distance learning, distance education, virtual learning, virtual education, online teaching, remote teaching, virtual teaching, online class, online classes, remote classes, distance classes, distance classes, virtual classes, virtual classes, online course, online courses, remote course, remote courses, distance course, distance courses, virtual course, virtual courses, online school, virtual school, remote school, online college, online university, virtual college, virtual university, remote college, remote university, online lecture, virtual lecture, remote lecture, online lectures, virtual lectures, remote lectures

Tweets were searched using this "process" that comprised the Search Twitter "operator" in a way that it consisted of at least one synonym or term or phrase used to refer to COVID-19 and at least one synonym or term or phrase used to refer to online learning. The Search Twitter "operator" is not case-sensitive, so it returned the tweets based on keyword matching by ignoring the case (uppercase or lowercase).

The output of this RapidMiner "process" comprised of multiple attributes such as the Tweet ID, Tweet Source (the source used to post the Tweet such as Twitter for Android, Twitter for IOS, etc.), Text of the Tweet, Retweet count, and the username of the Twitter user who posted the Tweet, all of which is public information that can be mined in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Twitter API standard search policies. However, as per the developer policy, privacy policy, and content redistribution guidelines of Twitter, all the attributes other than the Tweet IDs were deleted by using data filters. Therefore, the dataset consists of only Tweet IDs. These Tweet IDs were grouped into different .txt files based on the associated keywords representing tweets related to both online learning and the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The description and details of these dataset files are presented in Section 4.

The complete information associated with a tweet, such as the text of a tweet, user name, user ID, timestamp, retweet count, etc., can be obtained from a Tweet ID by following a process known as hydration of Tweet ID [104]. Researchers in the field of Big Data, Data Mining, and Natural Language Processing, with a specific focus on Twitter research, have developed multiple tools for hydration of Tweet IDs. Some of the most commonly used tools include – the Hydrator app [105], Social Media Mining Toolkit [106], and Twarc [107], all of which work by complying with the policies of accessing the Twitter API. Any of these tools can be used on this dataset to obtain the associated information, such as the text of a tweet, user name, user I.D., timestamp, and retweet count for all the Tweet I.D.s. A step-by-step process on how to use one of these tools – the Hydrator app for hydrating all the Tweet IDs in this dataset is mentioned in Appendix A.

A couple of things are worth mentioning here. First, Twitter allows users the option to delete a tweet which would mean that there would be no retrievable Tweet text and other related information (upon hydration) for a Tweet ID of a deleted tweet. All the Tweet IDs available in this dataset correspond to tweets that have not been deleted at the time of writing this paper. Second, the Twitter API's standard search feature does not

return an exhaustive list of tweets that were posted in a specific date range. So, it is possible that multiple tweets that might have been posted in between this date range were not returned by the Twitter API's standard search feature when the data collection was performed and are thus not a part of this dataset.

3.2. Compliance with Twitter Policies

The privacy policy of Twitter [97] states – "Twitter is public and Tweets are immediately viewable and searchable by anyone around the world". To add, the Twitter developer agreement [98] defines tweets as "public data". The guidelines for Twitter content redistribution [98] state – "If you provide Twitter Content to third parties, including downloadable datasets or via an API, you may only distribute Tweet I.D.s, Direct Message I.D.s, and/or User I.D.s (except as described below). It also states - "We also grant special permissions to academic researchers sharing Tweet I.D.s and User I.D.s for non-commercial research purposes. Academic researchers are permitted to distribute an unlimited number of Tweet I.D.s and/or User I.D.s if they are doing so on behalf of an academic institution and for the sole purpose of non-commercial research." Therefore, it may be concluded that mining relevant tweets from Twitter to develop a dataset (comprising only Tweet IDs) and sharing the same is in compliance with the privacy policy, developer agreement, and content redistribution guidelines of Twitter.

3.3. Compliance with FAIR

This section outlines how this dataset is compliant with the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles for scientific data management [108]. The dataset is findable as it has a unique and permanent DOI, which was assigned by Zenodo. The dataset is accessible online. It is interoperable due to the use of .txt files for data representation that can be downloaded, read, and analyzed across different computer systems and applications. The dataset is re-usable as the associated tweets and related information such as user ID, user name, retweet count, etc., for all the Tweet IDs can be obtained by the process of hydration in compliance with Twitter policies (Appendix A), for data analysis and interpretation.

4. Data Description

This section provides a detailed description of this dataset. The raw version of the dataset comprises 52,868 Tweet IDs corresponding to 52,868 tweets about online learning posted on Twitter between 9th November 2021 (the sample collected on this date was the first case of Omicron) to 28th May 2022 (the most recent date at the time of data collection). The dataset is available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6624081. It comprises 7 .txt files. The raw version of this dataset comprises 6 .txt files (TweetIDs_Corona Virus.txt, Tweet-IDs Corona.txt, TweetIDs_Coronavirus.txt, TweetIDs_Covid.txt, _Omicron.txt, and TweetIDs_SARS CoV2.txt) that contain Tweet IDs grouped together based on certain synonyms or terms that were used to refer to online learning and the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the respective tweets. Table 2 presents the description of each of these raw dataset files along with the number of Tweet IDs present in each of them. Several tweets were recorded that fit into the description corresponding to multiple such groups. An example of such as tweet is - "new variant of covid is very dangerous #Omicron Looking at the situation of covid and do classes online and also get mid semester exam online then. why exam online, Take exam online. @RGPVBhopal #OmicronVariant #rgpvexam #rgpvexam2021". So, according to the definition for grouping of these Tweet IDs, the Tweet ID of this tweet is present in both the .txt files - TweetIDs_Covid.txt and TweetIDs_Omicron.txt. Therefore, data preprocessing was performed for the removal of such duplicate tweets, and after the removal of these duplicate tweets, a total of 46,208 unique tweets were recorded. The tweet IDs corresponding to all these unique tweets is presented in the dataset file with filename - TweetIDs_Duplicates_Removed.txt. Table 3 presents a random collection of 7 tweets from this dataset. In this Table, "Serial No." refers to the serial number and not the Tweet ID.

Table 2. Description of all the files present in this dataset.

Filename	No. of Tweet IDs	Description
TweetIDs_Corona Virus.txt	321	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keywords – "corona virus" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_Corona.txt	1819	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keyword – "corona" or "coronaoutbreak" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_Coronavirus.txt	1429	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keywords – "coronavirus" or "coronaviruspandemic" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_Covid.txt	41088	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keywords – "COVID" or "COVID19" or "COVID-19" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_Omicron.txt	8198	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keywords – "omicron" or "omicron variant" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_SARS CoV2.txt	13	Tweet I.D.s correspond to tweets that comprised the keyword – "SARS-CoV-2" and one or more keywords/terms that refer to online learning
TweetIDs_Duplicates_Re- moved.txt	46208	A collection of unique Tweet I.D.s from all the 6 .txt files mentioned above, made available after data preprocessing, data clearing, and removal of duplicate tweets

Table 3. A random collection of 10 tweets from this dataset.

Serial No.	Tweet text
1	In view of the third wave of the Corona virus pandemic, the Government of West Bengal in School Education Department has decided to start online classes for Classes X and XII and Banglar Shiksha Durbhashe for classes VI to X respectively from 17th January 2022.
2	As a teacher myself, I would consider: A) If students are not engaging in virtual lectures/classes, maybe they weren't engaging as much as I thought in-person either. B) Wanting to be in-person is less important than preventing the COVID spread.
3	Many sudents of Arid Uni have been tested positive for Covid most probably Omicron ,in this grim situ Online exam is inevitable . Authorities must consider the option of Online in the best intrest of Students health as well as staff #AridianLivesMatter
4	Teaching College in BC During Omicron, Day 41: 100% attended online class. Since the start of term, 60% of students reported contracting COVID.
5	University of Hawaii campuses extend online classes until 31st January amid the Covid-19 omicron spike! #bbn #Hawaii #COVID19 #Omicron #college #uhawaii
6	Students at UT Arlington and UT Dallas will begin their spring semester with online classes because of the COVID-19 omicron variant.
7	University of Cincinnati moves to online classes to start the first two weeks of the Spring 2022 semester due to high Covid-19 omicron case numbers in Greater Cincinnati! #bbn #Covid #Omicron #Cincinnati #Ohio #uofcincy #col-

5. Potential Applications: Brief Overview

This dataset of about 50,000 Tweet IDs is expected to help advance interdisciplinary research in different fields such as Big Data, Data Science, Data Mining, Natural Language Processing, Healthcare, and their related disciplines. A few potential applications and usecase scenarios that may be investigated using this dataset include performing sentiment analysis [109], performing aspect-based sentiment analysis [110], predicting popular tweets [111], detecting sarcasm [112], developing topic modeling [113], tracking retweeting patterns [114], ranking tweets [115], performing content value analysis [116], tracking

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credibility of information [117], detecting conspiracy theories [118], predicting emoji usage patterns [119], studying the relevance of information [120], detecting satire [121], detecting deception [122], extracting categorical topics and emerging issues [123], characterizing Twitter users [124], and detection of Twitter user demographics [125] in the context of Twitter chatter related to online learning during the current Omicron wave of COVID-19.

6. Conclusion

The outbreak of COVID-19 led to schools, colleges, and universities in almost all parts of the world closing and transitioning to online learning. The development of vaccines and other forms of treatment towards the end of 2020 led to some of these educational institutions re-opening and starting to function in a hybrid as well as in a completely inperson manner. The recent surge of the COVID-19 cases globally due to the Omicron variant, the most immune evasive variant of COVID-19 that presents very strong resistance against antibody-based or plasma-based treatments, has resulted in several such educational institutions switching to online learning once again. This has led to an increase in the number of online conversations, specifically on Twitter, related to online learning since the first detected case of the Omicron variant in November 2021. Mining such tweets to develop a dataset would serve as a data resource for interdisciplinary research related to the analysis of interest, views, opinions, perspectives, attitudes, and feedback towards online learning during the current surge of COVID-19 cases caused due to this variant. The prior works in this field did not focus on the development of a similar data resource. Therefore, this work proposes a public dataset of about 50,000 Tweet IDs (that correspond to the same number of tweets) about online learning posted on Twitter between 9th November 2021 (the sample collected on this date was the first case of Omicron) to 28th May 2022 (the most recent date at the time of data collection). The raw version of the dataset that contains 52,868 Tweet IDs, as well as the cleaned and preprocessed version that contains 46,208 unique Tweet IDs, are presented. The dataset is compliant with the privacy policy, developer agreement, and guidelines for content redistribution of Twitter, as well as with the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability) principles for scientific data management. Future work on this project would involve updating the dataset with more recent tweets to ensure that the scientific community has access to the recent data in this regard.

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Data Availability Statement: The data presented in this study are publicly available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6624081

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest

Appendix A

The following is the step-by-step process for using the Hydrator app [105] to hydrate this dataset or, in other words, to obtain the text of the tweet, user I.D., user name, retweet count, language, tweet URL, source, and other public information related to all the Tweet IDs present in this dataset. The Hydrator app works in compliance with the policies for accessing and calling the Twitter API.

- 1. Download and install the desktop version of the Hydrator app from https://github.com/DocNow/hydrator/releases.
- 2. Click on the "Link Twitter Account" button on the Hydrator app to connect the app to an active Twitter account.
- Click on the "Add" button to upload one of the dataset files (in .txt format, such as TweetIDs_Omicron.txt). This process adds the dataset file to the Hydrator app.

- 4. If the file upload is successful, the Hydrator app will show the total number of Tweet IDs present in the file. For instance, for the file "TweetIDs_Omicron.txt", the app would show the Number of Tweet I.D.s as 8198.
- 5. Provide details for the respective fields: Title, Creator, Publisher, and URL in the app, and click on "Add Dataset" to add this dataset to the app.
- 6. The app would automatically redirect to the "Datasets" tab. Click on the "Start" button to start hydrating the Tweet IDs. During the hydration process, the progress indicator would increase, indicating the number of Tweet IDs that have been successfully hydrated and the number of Tweet IDs that are pending hydration.
- 7. After the hydration process ends, a .jsonl file would be generated by the app that the user can choose to save on the local storage.
- 8. The app would also display a "CSV" button in place of the "Start" button. Clicking on this "CSV" button would generate a .csv file with detailed information about the tweets, which would include the text of the tweet, user I.D., user name, retweet count, language, tweet URL, source, and other public information related to the tweet.
- 9. Repeat steps 3-8 for hydrating all the files of this dataset.

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