

GATHERING PERSONAL LEARNING NETWORK TWIGS TO CO-CREATE A DIGITAL TWITTER NEST

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Aim & Background

- The aim of this project is to interact with Twitter and/or Yammer in groups and search specialty health profession tweets with the intent to develop current and sustainable e-books for academia, patient education and/or professional development.
- Microblogging services offer superb data mining, up-to-the-moment data and a rich opportunity to retrieve data for current research endeavors.

Method

- Critical care staff gather and find other similar experts' posts/re-tweets and then perhaps create an e-textbook of Tweets for students or professionals.
- Or, create a Tweet chat to afford conversation with like-minded professionals who have similar interests, such as critical care.
- To help one another expand knowledge and share information to create sustainable learning (Spong, 2012)
- Focus groups or workshop-like scenarios for the method

Discussion

- Various web 2.0 tools, such as Twitter, may assist individuals to design a personal learning network and co-create a professional digital footprint or I like to think of it as a “nest” that contains very specific expert information (sometimes evidence base) to share with students, colleagues, patients and healthcare professionals.

Discussion

- Individuals may search and find others who have similar goals and interests in health to follow on Twitter, post (showcase) who they are following, decide to un-follow if necessary, re-tweet, and create a clear two-way street to develop knowledge, share findings, and help one another with health care solutions that are needed for example in critical care units.

Discussion

- Health care professionals are in a key position to understand patients are people, and people are “social” and very web savvy today and, therefore clinicians are fortunate to gather personal network learning, or digital “twigs,” to co-create and “weave” a digital “nest” for patients, clinicians, families, friends and healthcare providers.

Discussion

- Dive into Twitter with a specific professional health interest and also create a Tweetdeck (<http://www.tweetdeck.com/>) to create activities, watch a live timeline of Tweets and follow who is following you on Twitter.

Conclusion

- Discover the rich Twitter/Yammer databases; learn how to harness specific topics of expertise; collect appropriate tweets; develop an interactive e-book for self, students, peers, colleagues and tech-savvy patients; and learn how to use social media datasets for data-mining that may assist with research and evidence base practice.
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- <http://cyhealthcommunications.wordpress.com/>