

# Retweeting into Twitter

By Sue Osborne

## Snapshot

Sue Osborne, in her last article for the Online Life Section, (Thank-you Sue!) reflects on her online life and makes a strong case for twitter as part of our professional learning. Sue includes an excellent list of suggested people and organisations to follow in order to fully utilise the platform as a supportive and stimulating tool.

As I was thinking about what to write for this column, my last, I found myself reflecting on my practice and use of online technology and resources and how things have changed for me over the past two years. I have: lost 41kg; written and published my very first PAID journal article; attended a myriad of PD events; attended my first interstate conference; started managing the SLAV Mentor program; attained my Graduate Diploma in Children's Literature; left a job I thought I would have until I retired; and started a new job managing three campus libraries for the largest Catholic secondary school in the country. It's been an eventful couple of years, but has my practice changed? Have I developed myself and my online life?

First, I had to consider: what was I doing 2 years ago? Recalling my first column, I was discussed my presence online, and how the online study community connected to my university course was helping to deepen my understanding of the subjects. I also noted at the time that online communication with fellow students, and with colleagues, was something that needed to be unambiguous. Those observations still hold true as I write this column today. In this era of "fake news" and instant outrage, what we say and how we say it is probably even more important. In an era where throwaway slogans like "have a go to get a go" and "how good is Australia?" are used by our government leaders, it seems even more imperative to ensure our students, our young citizens, have access to as much accurate and informed content as possible, in as many

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forms as possible. I have to say that for me, Twitter still holds up as a tremendously important source for this content. I have had cause to review my use of Twitter in recent months. Earlier this year, at the SLAV conference where Prof Ross Todd was a keynote speaker, Twitter locked me out. I was tweeting so fast and in such high quantities that the algorithm thought I was a bot! I had to verify my details before I could continue, which left a seven-minute gap in my

coverage of the conference. This was contrasted for me a few weeks ago when I was laid up with a debilitating case of sciatica. I was due to attend a professional development event about reading engagement, but since I could barely walk around I elected to stay in bed and follow the tweets for the morning. Imagine my dismay when there were TWO tweets in 4 hours. TWO! Both were from someone I follow, and literally became friends with via Twitter. But nothing else.

Contacting the organiser of the event, I asked "what happened?" I was informed that the content

of the day was particularly involved and engaging and perhaps people had been too caught up in the proceedings to send out anything. Really? Of all the people there, only two found the time to tweet 240 characters or less? In four hours? It brought home to me how MUCH I rely on Twitter to catch up on professional development events that I can't get to. And how few of my colleagues appear to use it regularly. How can we change this? How can I change this? CAN I change this? Well, I'm going to give it a red-hot go!

So, what's the big deal? I'm sure the non-tweeters out there are sceptical about the value of Twitter as a PD tool, or perhaps you are reluctant to take on another social media platform, or even taken on one social media platform.

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Despite all the "fake news" and Trump tantrums, Twitter is still important. It's immediate, its content is easily digested, to-the-point information or observation, and it is a great community for feedback and sharing of ideas. My Wakelet collection from the March 29 SLAV Conference, Digital and Global Connection (mentioned above), <https://wke.lt/w/s/LeF5z2> tells the story of the conference through my eyes. In it, you see not only my own tweets, but those of others attending the conference, and there is a wealth of information there. Shared information, curated by a great little tool, and available for anyone to peruse. THIS is powerful, this curated collection of tweets is how I wrote my report about the conference for the other library staff at my school, and it enabled me to present a report about digital wellbeing concepts to the curriculum leadership. Sending and receiving tweets connected to the #SLAVConf hashtag builds

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a repository of knowledge and responses that can be looked at later: not only by the person doing the tweeting, but by the organisers. The presenters can see, quickly, what people are saying about their presentations. Some presenters even respond straight after their presentations offering insights into the content they have put forward.

Twitter is dynamic and worldwide. It's available 24/7, 365 days a year. You can follow tweets from auspicious peer-reviewed journals, from advocate organisations, from movers and shakers in the library profession and beyond, from researchers, from publishers, and from organisations such as SLAV. As a final contribution, I have curated a list of people, bodies and publications I follow on Twitter. I hope you will be inspired to do the same! It can be accessed via this hyperlink.

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If you need advice on Twitter, please get in touch with me via the contacts listed at the end of this column. Thanks for reading for the past couple of years. I've had fun writing this – and see you in the Twittersphere at the next SLAV conference.

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## Appendix

### A curated list

This is a suggested list to kickstart using Twitter as a professional development tool. There are SO many more than these. Take this as a “taster” of what it has to offer. When you find something you like, look at who they follow. You’ll build your own list in no time!

#LoveOzYA - For the best that Australian Young Adult Literature has to offer	@LoveOzYA
ACER - Australian Council for Educational Research - Creating & promoting research-based knowledge, products & services to improve learning	@acereduau
Adele Walsh - Creative Enterprise Producer, YA and Teen Lit Advocate	@snarkywench
AITSL – focusing on creating better education outcomes for Australian children	@aitsl
Anna Burkey - Heading up <b>#StartSpace</b> entrepreneurship & creative enterprise <b>@library_vic</b> Co-founder <b>#Foundry658</b> & <b>@EdinCityofLit</b>	@AnnaNotKarenina
April Staines - Nerd, Software Developer, Hacker, Robot Geek Chic, 3D Modeler & 3D Printer Consultant & Enthusiast of all things Geeky	@April_Staines
ASLA - Peak professional association for school libraries and teacher librarians in Australia   Australian School Library Association	@aslanational
Bright Ideas - SLV and SLAV exploring technology in teaching and libraries	@brightideasblog
Dr Ross J Todd - Director, Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries, Rutgers University	@RossJTodd
Express Media - We’re here for young writers. Publisher of Voiceworks magazine	@Express_Media
Great School Libraries - Great School Libraries is spearheaded by the School Library Association, CILIP and CILIP School Libraries Group	@GreatSchLibs
Greg O'Connor - Exploring edtech possibilities for ALL students. Texthelp AsiaPac EdTech Manager	@gregoconnor
Innovate Here - News and info on innovation in education, early childhood development and skills	@innovatehere
James Hutson - Explanation designer. Uses words, pictures & moving pictures to make complex information easier to understand	@jameshutson
John Schu - Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic. Lecturer at Rutgers. 2014 Newbery Committee member. Writer	@MrSchuReads
Joyce Valenza - Assistant Professor Rutgers University, teacher-librarian, learner, SLJ blogger	@joycevalenza
Kelly Gardiner - Writer. Educator. Co-host <b>@ItsUnladylike</b> Novels: 1917, The Sultan’s Eyes, Act of Faith, and Goddess	@kmjgardiner

Kevin Henna - Speaker & Consultant who challenges traditional ideas on library design, layout, image, signage & visual merchandising	@Kevin_Henna
Laurie Halse Anderson - teen advocate, lover of history, proud grandma, author of Speak, Wintergirls, Chains, Forge	@halseanderson
LibMark - Inspiring, enthusing & educating library staff through discussion & collaboration to actively market & promote Vic public libraries	@Libmarkvic
Librarian Voices - the latest ideas and news in the always-changing world of #librarians	@LibrarianVoices
Libraries Australia - Australian libraries working together	@LibrariesAust
Libraries Interact - Latest posts from blog central for Australasian Libraries	@libsinteract
Library as Incubator - <a href="http://libraryasincubatorproject.org">libraryasincubatorproject.org</a>	@IArtLibraries
Library FAQs - All the questions you weren't afraid enough not to ask. Views expressed are what you're all thinking	@LibraryFAQs
LISResearchAu - A 3 year project aimed at encouraging & enabling research culture & practice in Australia's library & information profession	@LISResearchAu
Makerspaces.com - transforming schools & libraries into hubs of hands-on 21st century STEM/STEAM learning	@Makerspaces_com
Margaret K. Merga - Senior lecturer & researcher in literacy and higher education	@MKMerga
Matthew Lynch - Dr. Lynch is editor of The Advocate/The Tech Advocate	@Lynch39083
Maxine Beneba Clarke - Author of Foreign Soil/The Patchwork Bike/The Hate Race/Wide Big World. Poet Laureate of <a href="https://www.satpaper.com">@satpaper</a>	@slamup
Media Literacy Now - the leading national advocacy organization for media literacy education policy	@MediaLitNow
Melbourne Writers Festival - the feed of the annual writerly event, in August/Sept each year	@MelbWritersFest
Michael Earp - Editor of 'Kindred: 12 Queer <a href="https://www.loveozya.com">#LoveOzYA</a> Stories' (out June 2019) Writer & <a href="https://www.childrensbookseller.com">#Childrens/#YA</a> Bookseller	@littleelfman
Michael Stephens - LIS educator, writer, speaker, dreamer	@mstephens7
Mike Shuttleworth - Former Director of CYL, current Readings bookseller	@mike_sh
National Centre ACL - one of Australia's largest collections of books, authors' papers, artwork, research on creators, visual & audio material	@NatCentAusChLit
NCIE - National Centre of Indigenous Excellence liberating possibilities for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians	@theNCIE
Pew Research Center - Nonpartisan, non-advocacy data and analysis on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world	@pewresearch
Pew Research Internet - Nonpartisan, non-advocacy <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/">@pewresearch</a> data about technology and the internet	@pewinternet
Professor Anita Heiss - Wiradjuri. Author. Runner. Prof of Communications @ UQ. Board Member <a href="https://www.slqld.com">@slqld</a> Ambassador <a href="https://www.gofoundationau.com">@GOFoundationAU</a>	@AnitaHeiss
Save School Libraries - A campaign based in Brighton & Hove to promote and save school libraries, and the librarians who run them	@bhsosl
School Library Journal - School Library Journal is the largest reviewer of kids & YA content, from books to digital	@sljournal
Seymour Simon - author of 300 books for children and friend to students and teachers	@seymoursimon

Shelley Ware - Teacher, TV & web presenter, MC, Key Note Speaker - Aboriginal, education, AFL & AFLW, Author	@ShelleyWare
SLAV - Peak professional association representing teacher librarians and all school library professionals in Victoria	@SLAVConnects
Speakola - All speeches great and small. Curated by <a href="#">@byTonyWilson</a> . Submit or suggest a speech	@Speakola
Students Need School Libraries - To ensure student access to high quality school library services	@NeedSchoolLibs
Tara Brabazon - Dean of Graduate Research & Professor of Cultural Studies, Flinders University. Pop Cult Obsessive. Listener. Learner. Teacher	@tarabrazon
The Conversation - Independent news & analysis from the sharpest academic minds	@ConversationEDU
The Lit Centre - nurtures young people's interest in reading, writing, exploring and interpreting literature. Fremantle, WA.	@TheLitCentre
The Monthly - Australian politics, society and culture (what The Bulletin used to be)	@TheMonthly
The Saturday Paper - A weekly newspaper, from the publisher of <a href="#">@TheMonthly</a> and Quarterly Essay	@SatPaper
The Stella Prize - major literary award celebrating Australian women's writing and an organisation that champions cultural change	@TheStellaPrize
The YA Room - Melbourne YA book club	@TheYARoom_ MELB
World Digital Library - Free access to treasures from world libraries. Rare books, maps, manuscripts, photographs on a multilingual site	@WDLorg