



## YOUR PERSONAL LEARNING NETWORK

<http://www.iriss.org.uk/pln>

### Transcript

Learning used to look like this...

But in today's workplace we learn with and from one another. This is called *social learning*.

Popular social media, such as Twitter and LinkedIn, offer great opportunities for connecting, conversing, collaborating... and *learning* from one another.

Ok, but this is only going to add to my workload, isn't it?

Well, no. Using social media you'll find ways of doing things you've always done - finding, listing, filing, sharing - only more easily and more quickly.

You'll build a network through which you can find and share and share information, knowledge and experience: a *Personal and Professional Learning Network*.

Kristina's a mental health team leader with a national charity. She'd heard about Twitter and thought she'd give it a try...

She quickly discovered how useful it is for keeping up to date with other people and organisations in her field.

She identified people and organisations who had interesting and new information. She *follows* them to keep up to date with what they have to say. Often they provide links to new reports, news or events.

Her Twitter feed has become her current awareness service.

She finds that she relies less and less on emailed newsletters, which reduces inbox clutter.

Kristina is now connected to the key people and organisations in her field, not just at home, but around the world.

What's more, she can browse her twitter feed anywhere, anytime: while having a coffee... waiting for a bus.

Through Twitter she discovered Mindreel, a collection of films from the Scottish Mental Health Film Festival, which she shared with her network. Her team find it useful too, and they too use Twitter to share their learning.

As Kristina's confidence grew she began to investigate the 'share this' icons she saw beside blogs posts and articles on the web.

These handy little buttons encourage us to *share* what we find on the web.

But how does she keep track of the websites she finds useful? She uses a social bookmarking service.

This means she keeps all her favourite websites in one place ... and she can easily create topic lists ... which she can share with her network.

Kristina also finds *online communities* useful for finding people working in related fields with whom she can share ideas, ask questions or seek advice.

There are many kinds of community. Through LinkedIn she has made international connections.

Kristina is discovering new and efficient ways finding information to support her own learning as well as that of her team.

She is building relationships and contacts through ever-changing and ever-evolving social media.

There are many tools and services to help you find and share resources to support continuous learning and development.

But remember, no-one uses *all* their tools *all* the time. We choose the tool that's best for the job.

When services change appearance or functionality Kristina isn't fazed because, like driving a car or riding a bike, skill and confidence come from doing and experiencing.

By engaging with social media you'll build a network of people and organisations that will help you learn and keep abreast of what's new and important.

As you gain confidence you'll discover how easy it to develop your own personal learning network, which will support continuous learning.

Embracing this new way of working requires a degree of cultural change - and there may be setbacks.

If *this* happens Kristina gathers the evidence, talks to her line manager about why access these tools and services is important.

We need more people to be like Kristina ... especially if Scotland's aspirations for a digital future are to be realised.

So why not get started now?