**Personal/Professional learning network (PLN)**

A PLN is a set of informal, social, and often virtual connections to knowledge sources, practitioners, and experts that contribute to one's personal and professional development and knowledge. Below is a table outlining practical steps to create and cultivate your very own PLN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify learning goals</th>
<th>Employ appropriate tools</th>
<th>Develop learning habits</th>
<th>Tips, Tricks, &amp; Tweaks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn a new topic/field.</td>
<td>Blogs (e.g., WordPress, Blogger, Tumblr etc.)</td>
<td>Read postings daily.</td>
<td>User Feedly or other RSS readers to aggregate blogs into one place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep current on a topic/field.</td>
<td><strong>Twitter</strong></td>
<td>Tweet resources using appropriate #hashtags.</td>
<td>Use HootSuite or tweet aggregators to manage your Twitter account.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collect resources related to a topic/field.</td>
<td>Social Bookmarking &amp; Boards (e.g., browser bookmark, Diigo, Pinterest, etc.)</td>
<td>Bookmark or pin resources regularly.</td>
<td>Use tags and/or folders to organize bookmarks and boards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organize existing resources.</td>
<td>Learning Boards (e.g., Learnist, Scoopit, Mightybell, etc.)</td>
<td>Add new resources to learning boards.</td>
<td>Install bookmarklets or plugins for one-click posting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follow colleagues or experts in a field.</td>
<td>Listservs &amp; Discussion Forums (e.g., POD, EDUCAUSE, etc.)</td>
<td>Post resources in listservs &amp; discussion forums regularly.</td>
<td>Subscribe to professional organizations’ listservs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share resources within a community.</td>
<td><strong>Google Custom Search</strong></td>
<td>Create custom searches of a topic to keep current on latest development.</td>
<td>In Chrome browser, right-click on address bar to edit search engines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribute knowledge and expertise to a field.</td>
<td>Social networking (e.g., LinkedIn, Google+, Facebook, etc.)</td>
<td>Comment, reply, and/or like posted resources within your network.</td>
<td>The 90-9-1 principle states that 1% create, 9% edit/modify, &amp; 90% view only. Be the 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborate with others around the world.</td>
<td>Collaboratories (e.g., DHCommons, Nanohub, Bamboo Dirt, etc.)</td>
<td>Find a collaboratory within your field and actively participate.</td>
<td>Most cutting-edge research are done collaboratively.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated: 4/16/2013
Personal/Professional Learning Network Resources

Overview of PLN for Educators – YouTube video by Skip Via
   • http://goo.gl/DuwHf

Sketchy Explanation: Starting a PLN – YouTube video by John Spencer
   • http://goo.gl/7OciY

PLN: Continuous Professional Development – YouTube video by JC Elgin
   • http://goo.gl/mTvS

What is a Professional Learning Network (PLN)? – LiveBinders by Tim Wllhelmus
   • http://goo.gl/Omehh

Power Up Your PLN – LiveBinders by Jennifer Carrier Dorman
   • http://goo.gl/jfQ4r

PLN for Educators – Scoop.it by Daniel Gibson
   • http://goo.gl/JC7Yz

Cultivating a PLN – Scoop.it by Jennifer Fenton
   • http://goo.gl/A9xCw

Connected Educator / PLN – Learnist Board by Rosanna Claudia Luzarraga
   • http://goo.gl/grrxB

Creating your PLN – Learnist Board by Anna Armstrong
   • http://goo.gl/Lkmvj

Personal Learning Networks – Pinterest Board by Eric Sheninger
   • http://goo.gl/9y3ab

Social Media and PLNs in Education – Pinterest Board by Tina Wahlert
   • http://goo.gl/AoAIT