

Information and communication technology, social media, and speech and language therapy

Dr Caroline Bowen, PhD, CPSP

Biography

Caroline Bowen is a speech-language pathologist whose research, writing, clinical, and continuing professional development (CPD) activities focus mainly on children's speech sound disorders, and the role families can play in intervention. She has honorary appointments at Macquarie University in Sydney and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. She is a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and a life member of Speech Pathology Australia. Since 2005, Caroline has presented more than 130 CPD events in Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, the Philippines and the US. Her virtual adventures began in 1998 and have centred on her interest in the professional use of information and communication technology (ICT) and social media in speech and language therapy. Caroline has maintained a discipline-specific website (www.speech-language-therapy.com) since 1998 and has written an internet column called Webwords for the Journal of Clinical Practice in Speech-Language Pathology since 1999. She has also moderated the phonologicaltherapy discussion list since 2001; has administered the 'Speech and Language Therapy' Facebook group since mid-2013; and has been co-administrator, with Bronwyn Hemsley, of the @WeSpeechies Twitter handle, which has had a different speech-language professional at the helm every week since March 2014.

Abstract

Twitter's potential as an empowering co-catalyst for intra and inter-professional discourse and change is largely untapped and un-researched by speech-language professionals whether they are students, new graduates or experienced academics, clinicians, educators, managers, researchers or retirees. In this talk, and the associated workshop, delegates will learn about potential uses of ICT, social media in general, and Twitter in particular, and consider how their roles as advocates for clients and their families and the profession, might be enhanced by embracing Twitter as an ally in achieving their professional goals. For example, SLTs can generate and disseminate news by tweeting links to current abstracts or live-tweeting evidence-based practice-innovations reported at conferences; SLTs can engage in a tweet chat on how the profession can survive and thrive irrespective of economic contexts; SLTs can provide information via Twitter, particularly around translating research into practice, clearly quantifying and demonstrating the value of what we do, and letting all stakeholders know; and SLTs can inspire and support, in the form of initiating or participating in a campaign or event, encouraging a colleague, or spurring-on a consumer advocate, allied professional or member of the general public. If you do not have a Twitter account, you might like to sign up for one now, so that you can learn how to use it during the workshop, which follows on from this keynote presentation. Anyone with an email address can access Tweets by signing up for a free Twitter account at www.twitter.com. This will allow you to follow @RCSLT, @GivingVoiceUK, @ICP2014, @speech_woman (Caroline's Twitter handle), @WeSpeechies and other Twitter handles that are of interest to you. You might also like to see what is happening on the #RCSLT2014 hashtag prior to and during the conference.