To Tweet, or Not to Tweet

Several years ago I joined Twitter. It was all the rage, and I thought I would jump on the bandwagon. I dipped my toe in, and treaded water a bit, then drowning in other work, I ignored it for a while. Again, I had heard that it was a great tool, and tried it again. I even did a Twitter chat, where there is a facilitator and numerous people join in on a topic and share their views. It was fun, again I left it. I did not need something else to keep up on. At ASTE, we were fortunate to have a Ninja Tweeter - Gwyneth Jones - AKA the Daring Librarian as one of the guest speakers. Twitter is her jam, she uses it for mostly professional purposes. She suggests using twitter as part of your PLN (Personal Learning Network).

Gwyneth recommends to start off with using your own name, uploading a picture or avatar, writing a positive, professional, and fun, profile description (include your title, level, area of interest, awards, certification, and 1 or 2 quirky things). Other tweeting advice includes: tweets with images get noticed. Use real words. Being thankful creates PLN goodwill and builds relationships. Follow - And then follow who they follow. Remember Twitter is a conversation.

She says to share good content. search out and share with your PLN. Things to share include: Blogs, lessons, articles, new tech, and pedagogy, and your original content. Share a good website deal or legit promotion. Share kids being awesome making and learning. Putting the spotlight on kids, and share a tech tip or tool.

Her advice for twitter balance 82% ed tech and library, 8% pop culture, 4% personal stuff - funny or daring (not private).

I started tweeting again. You can find me @AKJules54. I use it to keep up on the latest education, library, and technology scoops. I’ve begun to tweet out what is happening in my community. Examples include: I Tweeted about our Read Across America event, positive things happening in my school, library, and with my students.

I hope to be able to keep up with it - I don’t tweet everyday, but I do check it. It really is good professional information that will inform my teaching. And, I’ve gotten a few likes - as a librarian you often feel underappreciated and your work overlooked, it feels good to be noticed.