Investing in Your Future with Digital Networking

Presented by
Lauralyn Randles, Doctoral Candidate, COMS, TVI, Morris, Il
lauralynbogart@gmail.com

Molly Pasley, Ed.D., COMS, TVI, Instructor/Service Provider for Individuals with Visual Impairments, Out of Sight Accessibility, Peoria, Il
mollyclesen@gmail.com

Developed for 2019 SWOMA Conference
Power Point Content

Slide 1: Investing in Your Future with Digital Networking
Dr. Molly Pasley, COMS & TVI
Lauralyn Randles, COMS & TVI

Slide 2: Agenda
Digital Networking
- What?
- Why?
- Who?
- How?
  - Where? Different platforms and their accessibility
  - When? Appropriate for students/clients, professionals, and families

Slide 3: What is Digital Networking?
Internet-based tools that allow an individual to extend his/her reach globally to build meaningful relationships and facilitate professional growth

Slide 4: Why is Digital Networking Important?
We have approximately 212 TVI and 140 O&M/COMS working and retired across 57,915 square miles of Illinois.
That is...
- 1 TVI for 273.18 square miles
- 1 O&M/COMS for 413.68 square miles

Slide 5: Who Benefits From Digital Networking?
- Students and clients (as individuals and as a result of professional networks)
- Professionals
- Families

Slide 6: How Do We Engage in a Digital Network?
Professionalism is a MUST
- Protect client privacy
- What is posted on the Internet STAYS on the Internet
Slide 7: Where Can You Access the Digital Network?

Active Forms of Networking

- Email/texting
- Facebook
- Plethora of VI/O&M/Parent groups (gain perspective)
- Instagram
- Get ideas for programs/instructional materials
- Snapchat
- Twitter
- Vorail (mainly used by adults with VI)
- LinkedIn
- Google Hangouts/Skype/video conferencing

Slide 8: Where Can You Access the Digital Network? (cont.)

Passive Forms of Networking

- YouTube Channels
- Accessible to students through YouDescribe
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn
- Listservs
- Newsletters for organizations (CICBVI/Second Sense)

Slide 9: Accessibility

Be a responsible “post-er”!

- Content is only as accessible as the source of said content
  - Alt Text
  - High Contrast
  - Photo Captions
Slide 10: Facebook Groups

- DVIDB, NFB, AER, AFB, APH, Hadley, and so many more!
- Parents of the Blind & Visually Impaired Children
- Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- iPhone and iPad apps for the blind and visually impaired
- Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired/O&M Specialists
- National Organization of Parents of Blind Children
- Groups for Toys, Dating, Diagnosis Specific, Traveling, Tech, Homeschooling, Support

Slide 11: Instagram

- Molly Burke Official
- American Printing House (for new products)
- National Braille Press (for new products)
- EyeTeachTactile (teacher materials)
- Kassy Maloney (good vibes and COMS PD)

Slide 12: Podcasts and Reddit

- Podcasts
  - Cool Blind Tech
  - Blind Access Journal
  - Life After Blindness
  - Sense of Texas (TSBVI)
- Reddit
  - Forums

Slide 13: YouTube Channels

- Molly Burke
- The Tommy Edison Experience (Not always for children)
- The Blind Life
- The Blind Skateboarder
- Being Blind Works
- Braille Skateboarder
- Blind Grilling
Slide 14: When is it Appropriate to Begin Engaging Students/Clients?
- Appropriate tech skills
- Age-appropriate with adult supervision (when necessary)
- Expressing desire for community, building relationships with others with VI

Slide 15: Modeling for Families and Students/Clients
- Pointing out where you find the resources
- Talk aloud through what online resources or pages you are using
- Encourage them to reach out to support groups through social media for questions
- Encourage digital network savvy parents and students/clients to reach out to others

Slide 16: Things to Consider
- Parent permission
- Internet safety/security
- Different networking sites for different purposes
- Website access limitations while at school; likely will network at home
- Can be on social media without BEING on social media.
- Join closed groups, etc.
- Teaching to control how much they share about themselves on the internet so they might minimize digital footprint

Slide 17: Your Turn!
What platforms or groups do you find you useful?
What about your students/clients?
Any others for family members?

Slide 18
Lauralyn Randles, COMS & TVI
lauralynbogart@gmail.com
Dr. Molly Pasley, COMS & TVI
mollyclesen@gmail.com
No portion of this handout may be used or reprinted without express permission from the speaker(s).
Texas School for the Blind & Visually
Outreach Program

This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Special Education Program (OSEP). Opinions expressed here are the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the Department of Education.