

Social Bookmarking in the Classroom

What is it?

Social bookmarking refers to web-based tools that allow users to collect bookmarks (links to web pages) on a site where they can be annotated, categorized, and shared with other users via RSS feed. Some popular social bookmarking sites are Diigo, Delicious, Digg, and Reddit. By *tagging* their bookmarks with keywords, users create what is called a *folksonomy* or collaboratively-created taxonomy of resources on any subject.

What does it look like in practice?

Most social bookmarking systems offer browser tools that allow you to instantly send a bookmark to your account. You can also choose to send them to a particular bookmarking group. So, the process of collecting bookmarks works alongside your browsing without requiring you to go to the bookmarking site each time.

Social bookmarking sites are also an interesting place to search for web content. Searching by tag reveals content that has been annotated and organized, and may often be more useful than general search engine results.

How does such a tool fit into my course?

- You can create a social bookmarking group for the general subject of your discipline or for a specific topic in a single course. Over time, your collection would become a valuable resource for many classes.
- Instead of posting links one-by-one in your Blackboard site, you can simply post the RSS feed for students.
- Create a bookmarking group for a class and invite students to be contributing members, building a collection of resources throughout the semester. Such collaborative work would be not only a good resource for the class, but also good practice in web research and evaluation of sources, resulting in a final class product.
- Here's the RSS feed for a group of faculty copyright-friendly image resources:
https://groups.diigo.com/group/copyright_friendly-resources

Further Reading:

EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) "7 Things You Should Know About Social Bookmarking":

<http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7001.pdf>

Video: Social Bookmarking *in Plain English*:

This video uses Delicious as the example. <http://www.commoncraft.com/bookmarking-plain-english>