

Social Bookmarking and Tagging in Library Science

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Abstract

This article explores the connotation of social bookmarking and tagging. Social bookmarking can help librarians, not only in providing the library patrons with better and faster access to information, but also with more reliable and well-organized information. Article shows the uses of social bookmarking in library science, what is bookmarking and tagging, advantages of these technological tools. And explain the social bookmarking and tagging with practical experience of my knowledge.

Keywords: Social Bookmarking, Tagging, Delicious, Library bookmarking, Web 2.0

1. Introduction

We've all heard about wikis, blogs, and RSS feeds. Now there's another hot Web-based tool for classroom use. It's called social bookmarking. Don't worry; it's not like MySpace, Friendster, or other social networking sites that have come under fire for exposing kids to unsafe Internet practices. Social bookmarking allows multiple users to save their favorite sites, articles, and even podcasts on the Web—instead of inside your browser—making them accessible from home, school, the library, or anywhere with Internet access. It's quickly becoming a popular way for teachers and students to store, classify, share, and search links, all of which are gathered by many users.

How can school librarians use this collaborative tool? The wonderful thing about bookmarks is that you can share them with just about anybody who has access to a shared username and password. And librarians and teachers can tailor bookmarks to meet a classroom's curricular and research needs.

Tagging is an open and informal method of categorizing that allows users to associate keywords with online content (WebPages, pictures & posts). Unlike library subject cataloging, which follows a strict set of guidelines (i.e. Library of Congress subject headings), tagging is completely unstructured and freeform, allowing users to create connections between data anyway they want.



2. Meaning of Social Bookmarking and Tagging

“Social bookmarking is a method for Internet users to store, organize, search, and manage bookmarks of web pages on the Internet with the help of metadata.” (Wikipedia), Instead of storing bookmarks or favorites on your local computer, social bookmarking tools enable you to store them on the web, organize them in a variety of ways, add “tags” or keywords to them, annotate them,



and access them from any computer. In addition, you can share the bookmarks with others and you can see what others have bookmarked. (You also have the ability to mark some or all of the bookmarks “private” so that only you can access them.

Bookmarks are created by using tags, which are one-word descriptors or phrases that you assign to the various sites. For example, for my first collaborative effort, I worked with the theater arts teacher to create a list of Web sites for an assignment about Anton Chekhov. Together, we decided on the types of sites we wanted to include (educational institutions, government agencies, and national organizations), and then we narrowed down the tags to describe the sites we found (“Three Sisters” and “Russian drama,” for instance). Students later accessed the bookmarks by searching the tags we gave them. Kids were also encouraged to bookmark other sites they found, further expanding the bookmark collection the teacher and I had created.

Bookmarks are great for research assignments because they keep all of your relevant online materials in one place. Del.icio.us offers an MP3+podcast tag combination, which also allows users to post their own podcasts and then create RSS feeds. Planning a school trip? Save links to hotels, activities, and transportation by using tags such as “travel” and “school trip.” You can even include interesting bookmarks on your blog. Teachers and students use the tool to tag interesting reviews to recommend books and DVDs for the library.

Several teachers in our high school have incorporated this tool into their assignments, and since we’ve written social bookmarking into our ninth-grade information literacy skills continuum,

all students in that grade will be taught how to use it as part of their research assignments.

Social bookmarking has become an integral part of our library program. Research is more collaborative and students are more diligent about evaluating resources because they know their peers will be using them.

A tag is a user-assigned keyword or term associated with or assigned to a piece of information.” (Wikipedia), Unlike Sears or LC subject headings; there is no pre-defined list of acceptable terms. Tags allow users to define what a site or article means to them, assign it to a particular teacher or subject, and provide multiple access points. Users can add as many or as few tags as they feel appropriate to describe the article or website.

“Folksonomy (also known as collaborative tagging, social classification, social indexing, and social tagging) is the practice and method of collaboratively creating and managing tags to annotate and categorize content. In contrast to traditional subject indexing, metadata is not only generated by experts but also by creators and consumers of the content.” (Wikipedia)

Tags are often displayed as tag “clouds.” A tag cloud is a visual depiction of user-generated tags used typically to describe the content of web sites. Tags are usually single words and are typically listed alphabetically, and the importance of a tag is shown with font size or color.” (Wikipedia) Clicking on a word in a tag cloud generally takes one to a list of items with that tag.

3. Tag Clouds from Delicious

I think that tag clouds used in libraries could be a good idea if the library was a specialized library,

such as a medical library or science library. If it had been just a general or public library, the theme of each tag cloud and of each different tag might have too much variation to be relevant. I agree that perhaps using a social bookmarking tool for a general public library could be very broad, but it can be divided by department. However, using it in a special library would have its advantages because there is more of a focus.

The other issue I see with tagging for library patron use is the responsibility of such task. Who would be doing the tagging? This is where the discussion of folksonomies comes in, something to which I'm sort of unfamiliar with aside from personal experience. But in my experience, too many tags can dilute the main content of the bookmark. All in all, I think it would be a fun and innovative project for a public library to undergo if there were a point person that would oversee the tagging.

4. Uses of Social Bookmarking

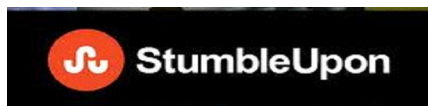
Uses of social bookmarking from library media to other all type of users such as publics, students, teachers, research scholars, ect.

- ❖ List web resources by class. Students/interested people go to the bookmarking URL and click on the tag for their class
- ❖ Create pages of links students/users need for creating a particular project
- ❖ As a library professionals teach about social bookmarking to students and teachers
- ❖ To help students/users manage resources for projects and papers
- ❖ To help teachers organize resources for units, projects and topics

- ❖ Organize favorites in different ways
- ❖ Access bookmarks from home, school, classrooms, or anywhere
- ❖ Linking from library media center webpage to links for different disciplines, classes, teachers, projects, etc.
- ❖ Create RSS feeds of different tags for the school library media center webpage to keep it current
- ❖ Guide students to most-relevant websites for assignments
- ❖ Sharing great sites and articles with other library media specialists
- ❖ Sharing sites with teachers by tagging them with their names and/or subjects
- ❖ Store and organize bookmarks
- ❖ Create pathfinders
- ❖ Collect and share lesson plan ideas
- ❖ Collect and share new curriculum related websites when the curriculum is changing
- ❖ Provide quick bookmarks for specific teachers for specific research projects
- ❖ Create a page of research/report help sites
- ❖ Create bibliographies for student research
- ❖ Check out sites recommended by others with similar interests
- ❖ Contact others who have similar interests to collaborate on ideas, projects, papers, publications, presentations
- ❖ Annotate websites for students and teachers
- ❖ Export bookmarks for handouts or websites for students and teachers

5. Some of the Bookmarking and Tagging Sites

5.1 StumbleUpon



5.2 Clipmarks



5.3 Del.icio.us



Among the best-known and most popular Web-based tools, del.icio.us actually coined the term “social bookmarking.” Its innovation? Introducing tagging to the mix, which enabled the sharing of links and of globally aggregated results based on tag phrases. Because users could see how others bookmarked a site, del.icio.us also measured the popularity of Web sites by category. Del.icio.us boasts a large user base, and while it does offer the standard features (networks/groups, browser tools integration, and RSS feeds), the site seems rather Spartan when compared with diigo. Created by Joshua Schachter in 2003 and acquired by Yahoo! in 2005.

5.4 Diigo



Diigo is my personal favorite for social bookmarking. Users can not only import del.icio.us or other bookmarks, they can also update those other services using diigo. In addition, diigo’s informational video and screencasts—accessible on its home page—provide a great introduction to social bookmarking. Diigo’s secondary features include a rich set of browser tools that allows users to highlight passages and leave comments on Web pages for other diigo users to see (a great way for teachers to effectively assess student assignments). Diigo also lets you send an email or blog post directly from a Web page, automate a daily blog post of your bookmarks with comments, or create blog or site widgets with your bookmarks. Founded in 2005 by Wade Ren.

5.5 Furl

Classroom 2.0 users tapped Furl for its amazing research feature: all bookmarked sites are archived, so you can retain access to a site’s material even if the site no longer exists or has changed. Furl also allows users to rate Web sites—a very nifty feature—and its front page displays the most popular recent links from all members. Using its rating system, Furl actually personalizes links and topics, and tells you about other members whose similar usage patterns might make their links valuable resources for you. Founded in 2003 by Mike Giles and acquired by Look Smart in 2004.

6. Social Bookmarking Beneficial to Library Science or Not

Libraries can include on their websites tag clouds from Delicious so their users can find information on specific topics just by clicking on a tag. The use of Delicious link rolls could add to the information provided through more traditional tools like pathfinders and subject guides.

The disadvantage that subject guides and pathfinders can have in comparison to the use of

tags is that the topic addressed by the first two can be very broad. Social bookmarking on the other hand can be more specific since links can be assigned multiple tags.

Better organization of the information can be provided thanks to the use of tag bundles. In this way tags could be grouped in subjects of importance to the library patrons or even according to the classification system that the library has normally in place for its collection.

I believe that by embracing social bookmarking the library could not only strengthen its position as information provider in its community but also collaborate with other libraries and their patrons.

7. Tools Explicates with Practical Example

7.1 Discovery Activities

- ❖ Create a Del.icio.us (<http://www.delicious.com/>) account for yourself and discover how this useful bookmarking tool can replace your traditional browser bookmark list. Add some bookmarks and try tagging them for easy indexing — add an explanation to your entry so you will know what the site is about. Explore some of the tools available for Del.icio.us — try adding a network badge to your blog. Ex: <http://www.delicious.com/kannika.mlisc/>
- ❖ Create a blog post about your experience and thoughts about this tool. What kind of potential do you think this tool has? How could you use this in your own personal productivity? Could this be used in the library?
- ❖ Remember to keep commenting on your classmates blogs, pick up ideas, and share ideas.

8. Suggestions with Conclusions

I suggesting here bookmarking and tagging is a wonder full tools for access resources immediately without a span of time killing.

Resource can access anywhere, not only a single computer or a single user.

The librarians and teachers both are collaboratively teach these technologies to students or other interested users.

Lastly I conclude my topic with librarians not only maintains or administrative the libraries there are also teaching the new technology to the teachers and students that's why we called "Librarians are teacher to the teachers".

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