

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL BOOKMARKING USING DELICIOUS

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WHAT IS SOCIAL BOOKMARKING?

This means using a “social bookmarking” site (and there are a number of them) to share (with your permission) all or some of your favorites with others. It’s also a window into the web to see what other people are tagging and reading. At the simplest level, it’s a bookmark site. At the most technical level of use, it’s a whole social interaction site, using tags and building a network with others based on common interests or areas of study.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF USING A SITE SUCH AS DELICIOUS?

- ❖ ***Your favorites are accessible from any computer, anywhere with an internet connection.*** No need to keep one set of favorites at home, and another on your computer at school
- ❖ No need to e-mail your favorites to yourself from one location to another, or email friends good links. Just put your friends in your network, and they can see your favorites. You can also “tag” sites for them to look at when they check their accounts. You can import all your favorites from Internet Explorer so that you can see them anytime, anywhere, from any computer by logging into Delicious.
- ❖ Your favorites become easy to find because you can tag them with a number of different tags. You don’t have to “remember” how you listed a site you need for lesson planning or personal use.
- ❖ When you add people to your network, and they add you to theirs, you are building a community bank of resources you can use when planning lessons or to get more information on a topic.
- ❖ Delicious suggests tags for each of your favorites as you are tagging them. These tags often act as leads you can follow to dig deeper into a topic and gather information.
- ❖ Following the tags of others helps keep you current with what sites people are reading and using.
- ❖ Delicious will show you other websites with the same tag and give you the number of people that have tagged that website. You quickly and easily find the most popular websites on a given topic.

WHAT EXACTLY IS TAGGING?

A tag is a short (usually 1-3 word) description of your bookmark. It’s a good idea to use multiple tags on a website you find. For example, if you found a great website teaching photosynthesis, you might

use all these tags: science, plants, photosynthesis, energytransfer. Notice that “energytransfer” is one word. You can’t separate the words on your tags, or it creates two tags: energy and transfer. Since our seventh grade has to teach transfer of energy in photosynthesis, these might be good tags to use.

Tagging makes things easier to find. You can also tag items for your colleagues. For example, if I come across a good website on math, I might tag it for:BrianH so that my teaching partner can look at it and use it for math. I had to put him in my network in order to do this. Other teachers can tag items for me, and when I open my account, I can see all the websites other science or social studies teachers thought might be useful for me. ***Use the word for followed by a colon and a username (no spaces) to tag something for another person.***

Delicious automatically “suggests” tags for your websites. If you like the suggestion, just click on it.

You also have a description box that you can use when tagging a site for more explanation. You might put something in such as, “Great website for practice with fractions”.

There are other ways to use this site, including bundling tags that have a common theme and looking at popular or most recent tags, but the real beauty of this site is the ability to store, locate, and share your favorites.

If you have any sites you don’t wish to share, you can click on a box when you tag it to make it unavailable for others to look at.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Go <http://delicious.com> and sign up for an account. Make sure you follow the directions to put the del.icio.us icon on your toolbar in internet explorer. That way, you can simply click on the word “tag” next to the icon anytime you want to add a favorite, and you don’t need to type the website into your browser to get there.