

What is social bookmarking?

Bookmarking is the practice of collecting and organizing links to websites, online journals and reports. The hallmark of social bookmarking is that these links are on a public website, not a personal computer. Bookmarks on a social bookmarking site are accessible from any computer with Internet access. They can be shared with and expanded by others with similar interests. Bookmarks can be assigned one or more tags or keywords, resulting in a classification scheme that is personally relevant. Descriptive information can also be added. The term “folksonomy” refers to this kind of collaborative tagging to annotate and categorize content.

Creators of bookmarks can specify whether a bookmark can be viewed by individuals or groups. Visitors to social bookmarking sites can view public bookmarks and tags to search for and discover new resources. They can also subscribe to a peer’s [RSS](#) feed and receive updates when this person creates new bookmarks.

How can social bookmarking enhance teaching and learning?

Social bookmarking can be used in a wide variety of academic disciplines to enhance teaching and learning.

- Instructors can share selected websites with students in a particular course or with a group of students researching a specific topic.
- Instructors can continuously add to collections of bookmarks and students can receive frequently updated lists of selected resources.
- Instructors can share selected websites outside the confines of a course management system. Students can access these sites after the course is over and after they leave Hunter.
- Students can be asked to locate, evaluate and contribute to resources relevant to class content.
- A research group can build collaborative annotated bibliographies.
- Instructors and students can discover related terms and broaden searches gaining insight into a topic by browsing and searching others’ bookmarks.
- Instructors and students can locate peers with similar interests, network and collaborate with others.

How do I get started with social bookmarking?

There are currently many free social bookmarking sites such as [Blackboard Scholar](#), [Del.icio.us](#), and [Diigo](#). They vary in the tools that they offer and the size and characteristics of their membership. An educational technologist can show you how to use social bookmarking sites, work with you to select the most appropriate tool for your needs and develop activities involving social bookmarking. Email edtech@hunter.cuny.edu to schedule a consultation.