



Using Scholar for Social Bookmarking in Blackboard 8

What is social bookmarking?

Bookmarking is the practice of saving and organizing links to favorite or frequently visited websites. The hallmark of social bookmarking is that links to “favorites” 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.

What is Scholar?

Scholar is a social bookmarking application that is customized for education and integrated into Blackboard 8. Students and instructors can use Scholar to bookmark and tag favorite Web sites and add descriptive information. These bookmarks are then added to both the individual’s list and to the overall repository, where other users can see them. Because Scholar is integrated into Blackboard 8, an instructor can easily use social bookmarking as a course tool by creating a course-specific collection of bookmarks to which students can add.

Scholar also connects you to an educational community of faculty and students pursuing similar aims, from whom you can easily obtain resources and find expertise. Students and instructors can use each other's classifications, as well as information such as who and how many people saved a resource, as an aid for finding and evaluating online resources.

How can Scholar enhance teaching and learning?

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

- Instructors can share selected Web sites and resources (including recommended library databases, journals, etc.) 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.
- Students can be asked to locate, evaluate and contribute to resources relevant to class content.
- 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 Scholar?

An educational technologist can show you how to use Scholar and develop activities involving social bookmarking. Email edtech@hunter.cuny.edu to make an appointment with an educational technologist.