

## Cool Online Tools (and how to implement them in your courses)

My hope is that you look through this document, find a site or two that looks interesting, and contact me to discuss how I can personally and painlessly help you implement in your courses.

### Social Bookmarking

Social bookmarking is a way for Internet users to store, organize, share and search bookmarked web pages.

#### Delicious/Furl/Connotea

<http://delicious.com> (similar sites: furl, Magnolia)

<http://furl.net>

<http://connotea.org> (similar sites: CiteULike, BibSonomy)

#### What is it:

Users save links to web pages that they want to remember and/or share, the links are stored on a remote server allowing access from any internet connected computer. These bookmarks may be saved privately or shared with specific people or groups. Delicious has the largest number of users; easy methods to share bookmarks or subsets of bookmarks, join networks to share and receive new bookmarks; integrates nicely with browsers; used by the masses. Furl is similar to delicious with the difference that furl saves a copy of the site that is available to you forever, even if the original page is deleted. Connotea and CiteULike have a more Academic focus; automatic biblio creation for some sites; many links are academic articles.

#### Ideas for using in your course(s):

Create tags for course(s) or more specifically a unit or topic ★ Share tags with students/peers/friends ★ Feed links to your homepage/site ★ Create a network – students' responsibility to find and share sites for current topics ★ Join networks and receive links from professors at other schools.

*Almost*

### Everything Google

Google's search engine is top notch, but in addition to helping you find what you are looking for Google also offer a myriad of tools for presenting, storing, collaborating and publishing documents online.

#### Google Docs

<http://docs.google.com/> (similar sites: zoho, coventi)

**What is it:**

Online office suite similar to Microsoft Office with a word application, a spreadsheet program and a presentation tool. For 99.3% of users has everything you need.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Upload/import documents from Word/WordPerfect/Excel/PowerPoint and in one click publish those documents ★ Provide link to documents from syllabus/homepage/email for students ★ Share instead of publishing– choose the email address of student(s) you want to share the document with, those students can contribute to document ★ Easily track changes and compare past versions of the document ★ Coventis built around the idea of collaboration and tracking changes, use for grading online papers ★ Ability to highlight and make comments in the margins– return electronically submitted papers electronically.

**Google Calendar**

<http://calendar.google.com/> (similar sites: yahoo calendar, kiko)

**What is it:**

Online calendar.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Translate dates in syllabus into online calendar ★ Publish and link from syllabus/homepage ★ Students can subscribe, automatically receive emails with upcoming dates ★ Share calendar, allow students to add dates – upcoming speakers/presentations that fit into course topics

**Google Pages**

<http://pages.google.com/> (similar sites: blogger)

**What is it:**

Easy web publishing. Create pages, link pages, add tools including RSS feeds from delicious.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Create a home page for each course you teach ★ Link to published syllabus, calendar, course resources ★ Have students use to create central location for research/collaboration with groups ★ Use as a presentation tool

## More Tools

### Mind Mapping

<http://mindmeister.com> (similar sites: mindomo)

#### What is it:

Online tool useful for visually organizing your ideas. Imagine a flowchart of a discussion or an outline organized as a web.

#### Ideas for using in your course(s):

Use it to organize ideas, discussions or lectures ☆ Students can use to track ideas/direction of discussions ☆ Use to organize thoughts before beginning a paper ☆ Similar to Freemind or Inspiration (desktop programs) ☆ Easy to share/publish/collaborate on maps ☆ Helpful for visual learners

### Instant Bibliography

<http://citationmachine.net/> (similar sites: ottoBib)

#### What is it:

Citationmachine – choose your citation type, source, fill in the form and Citationmachine will present you with a nicely formatted bibliography entry. Ottobib– enter a ISBN code and get a nicely formatted bibliography entry for that book.

#### Ideas for using in your course(s):

Pass along to your students ☆ Use in your writing

### Wiki

<http://www.pbwiki.com> (similar sites: wikispaces)

#### What is it:

Free space for creating a wiki. Create an editable and collaborative web site in 30 seconds. Site includes whitepapers on collaborating in the classroom using a wiki. All changes are tracked.

#### Ideas for using in your course(s):

Have one wiki for class, use to update class on current topics/assignments ☆ Assign groups to a wiki, have students use and supply you with URL – track who contributes to discussion and final product.

**Online Surveys**

<http://surveymonkey.com> (similar sites: createsurvey)

**What is it:**

Easy tool to create surveys and online quizzes.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Easily assess students' learning ★ Receive feedback from students on topics/discussions ★ Evaluate course/teaching/learning

**Open Courseware**

<http://ocw.mit.edu/> (similar site: Open Learning Initiative)

**What is it:**

MIT and Carnegie Mellon have hundreds of courses with full content online for use.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Supplement course material ★ Provide link for students ★ Take a look at what your peers are teaching, how they approach a topic/subject

**Social Network**

<http://facebook.com> (similar sites: LinkedIn, friendster)

**What is it:**

A social network that connects users.

**Ideas for using in your course(s):**

Show your students you are cool ★ Recognize that social networks are a tool for communication/research/collaboration ★ Create a group for your course ★ Instant notification of postings

**Note:**