Social Networking Tools

The phrase *social networking* is used to describe a variety of Internet-based services that people use to build online communities around shared interests or activities. The content of these services is largely user-defined and user-created and may include one or more of the following: discussion forums, instant messaging, blogging, wikis, or sharing photos, links, audio files, videos, ratings and so on. Social networking tools are being used more and more by educational institutions to reach out to current students and alumni.

Over the next several months we will be taking a look at some of the more popular social networking tools in current use. We’ll begin by looking at social bookmarking using a service called Delicious. Future installments will cover other social networking services and tools, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Creating Stable Links to Articles for Your Online Studies

Many instructors are creating reading lists of articles from library research databases in electronic documents or in ANGEL courses. To ensure that these links work correctly for your students, it is important that you capture the correct link. Simply cutting and pasting from the web address bar is not sufficient to create a stable link. For simple instructions on creating persistent URLs, visit the following web page: http://www.esc.edu/purl

ANGEL 7.3 Discussion Forum Fixes Coming in March and May

Over the past month and a half, The Center for Learning and Technology has been involved in ongoing communication with ANGEL Learning about discussion forum bugs and user interface issues that were identified as a result of the 7.3 upgrade. The good news is that there are fixes on the way!

Fixes scheduled for March include:

- When multiple tabs/windows are open, a discussion post can appear in the wrong forum. This makes the post look like it has disappeared.
- “Search Failed” error message in Firefox when accessing discussion posts from the Tasks (Guide) > Unread Posts link.

May fixes will address the following:

- Full screen option for the HTML editor
- Post lists no longer confined to the small area.
- List of posts will scroll down the full page.
- More space for Add File and Advance Options area
- Fix Mark as Read issues
- Increase font size on printed discussions
Library to Offer Trials of Academic Video–On–Demand Service, EndNote Web and RefWorks

Films on Demand (http://www.films.com/digital) is a web–based, video delivery system that provides access to a collection of high quality video titles suitable for college–level courses. Videos are available on demand, 24 hours a day.

- Parent company is Films Media Group.
- Master collection has over 5,500 programs available in Humanities & Social Sciences, Business & Economics, Science, and Health.
- Estimated annual subscription cost is based on Empire State College FTE (8,000 = $12,000 per year).
- The collection is searchable and browseable by title and subject.
- Instructors can paste URL links into electronic documents, e–mails, web pages or in ANGEL.
- Approximately 500 titles are added to the collection per year.
- Among the producers are BBC, ABC News, Bill Moyers, NBC News, Open University, PBS WIDE ANGLE, HBO and CBC Broadcasting.
- Our users would use their college logins and passwords just as they currently do to search the library's research databases.
- Film records can be integrated into the book catalog with links to a login page (paralleling what we already do with e–books).
- Includes special features that allow users to organize and bookmark clips, share playlists and personalize folders.

EndNote Web is a complementary, web–based version of EndNote, the CD–ROM–based bibliographic citation manager already in use at Empire State College. EndNote Web is available at no additional cost above our existing subscription to the EndNote software product and is designed to be used in concert with the software version. The web version can, however, be used on its own, thereby avoiding software installation issues, though offering less functionality.

RefWorks is a comparable web–based bibliographic citation manager used at many colleges and universities. There is no software component and the web–based service is designed to offer full functionality on its own. We will be evaluating this product relative to the EndNote product. The college will continue to offer PC– and Mac–based EndNote to faculty members, independent of this decision.

The library has requested trials for all three of these services to run throughout the month of April and is seeking feedback from faculty members and students. A demonstration of the RefWorks product has been scheduled to take place via webinar on Thursday, April 2nd from 10 – 11 a.m. (Eastern). Watch the library's home page (www.esc.edu/library) for a Trials page to appear in April. Faculty members can access trials to all three of these services as well as details about any upcoming demonstrations via that page. The librarians look forward to hearing your feedback!
Social Networking Series: Social Bookmarking with Delicious

What is Social Bookmarking?
Often, when we come upon a web page that we like, we bookmark it, which saves the link in our Internet browser so we can easily find the page again. In the browser, Internet Explorer, this is called a Favorite. In Mozilla Firefox, it is called a Bookmark. Social bookmarking is a way of sharing your saved bookmarks with anyone.

What is Delicious?
Delicious (delicious.com) is a popular social bookmarking service that allows you to tag, save, manage and share web pages all in one place. By building on the power of the online community, Delicious can help improve how people discover, remember and share web pages on the Internet.

What Can I Do with Delicious?
- Bookmark any site on the Internet, and get to it from any Internet-ready computer, anywhere
- Share your bookmarks, and get bookmarks in return
- Discover other popular, useful and interesting bookmarks on the web

How Do I Get Started?
Go to delicious.com to begin using the service. Once you join, you'll be prompted to import your existing bookmarks. You'll also be prompted to add some useful buttons, such as “Tag” or “Bookmark this on Delicious,” to your internet browser for saving and viewing future bookmarks in Delicious. Regardless of the buttons you've chosen, you'll see a box that looks like this:

When you log in and view your bookmarks on Delicious, they will display the following information:
Tech Tip: Find Charts, Graphs and Diagrams via EBSCOhost

Would you like to find a quality graph, diagram or chart to bolster your research or presentation? Now, you can use some EBSCOhost databases such as Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier, to make that search easier. Here’s how:

1. Log in to an EBSCOhost database.
2. On the search page, type in your search terms, as usual.
3. Scroll down to the lower right of the search page and look for a limiter option titled “Image Quick View” and click the check box next to it.

   ![Image limiter options]

4. If you like, limit your search results further to specific kinds of images using the “Image Quick View Types” field, as above.
5. Click the Search button. Each result will show thumbnails of any image associated with that result.

   ![Results page using Image Quick View limiter]

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