

EDG14 DEVELOPING LEARNING RESOURCES II

Social bookmarking and learning resources

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2012

What is social-bookmarking?

In the good, old, pre-internet days, when there were still a lot of people who were reading books, the bookmark was one item that people carry around with them in their possession. People use bookmarks to



mark important pages in a book. But as more and more people are reading web-based resources, the bookmark idea has been adopted across to online environments.

Social bookmarking refers to saving important URLs of web-based resources to a public social-networking website. And I am not referring to social networks such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*. I am referring, however, to websites that have been specifically designed, and equipped with special tools, just for

sharing bookmarks.

There are hundreds of social bookmarking tools and you can access a list of commonly used ones on the *Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies* website at <http://goo.gl/4LxeK>. I'm very glad that this website has listed my social bookmarking tool, *Diigo*, in their list of *Top 100 Tools* for 2011. (See list: <http://c4lpt.co.uk/top-100-tools-2012/>).

Why should you use social bookmarking?

There are millions of resources on the internet which you can use in your teaching. While many of these resources are copyrighted, many others are free so you can change and adapt these to your own teaching circumstances.

Further, the existence of this large amount of excellent resources on the internet means that, for teachers (and students) who have access to the internet, it is not a question of whether there are available resources. It is, rather, a question of how to get through the chaos of the web to the required resources, in the quickest and cheapest way possible.

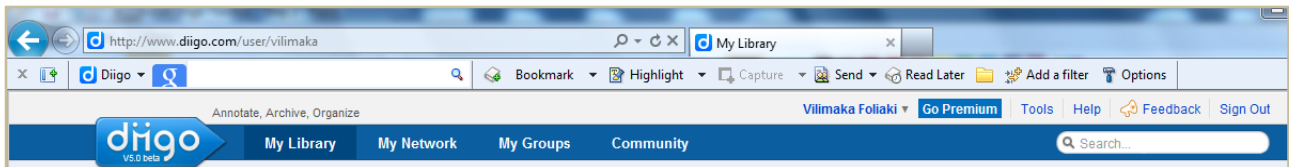
Social bookmarking websites can significantly reduce the amount of time you often spend searching for relevant and useful resources. With many of the bookmarking tools, not only users can bookmark the favourite resources for ease of reference in future, but they can also highlight texts, take screen-shots, make comments – and then share all these with friends in their network.

Research on the use of new technologies in teaching and learning have shown that students and teachers prefer social bookmarking tools over printed coursepacks and library reserve materials (Farwell and

Waters, 2010). High costs of textbooks, relevance of resources, ease of access, and ease of use of social bookmarking tools have been identified as the main reasons for such preference. Nonetheless, however, there is also evidence that significant number of students and teachers are unaware of social bookmarking.

Social bookmarking sites

As mentioned earlier, there are many social bookmarking sites which are available on the internet. The two social book marking tools that I have used are *Diigo* (<http://www.diigo.com/>), and *Delicious* (<http://www.delicious.com/>). This handout, however, is about how to use Diigo.



Diigo

Diigo is not just a social bookmarking site. It is also a powerful online research tool and collaborative research platform that integrates several key technologies, including social bookmarking, web annotation, tagging, and group-based collaboration.

Once you have signed up for Diigo, you will be able to do the following:

1. Bookmark and collect all favourite resources and webpages
2. Use tags and lists to organise items. These tags and lists are picked up by search engines.
3. Access your Diigo library from any computer, anywhere.
4. Form groups of people with similar interests to collaboratively curate the internet, share findings and pool resources.
5. Share individual resources or whole lists of resources with groups of people with the same interests.
6. Download and install a toolbar which allows you to annotate resources with highlight and interactive sticky notes
7. Capture and annotate screenshots

Diigo has free downloadable apps with mobile devices (iPads, mobile phones, Android).

What educators are saying about Diigo

“Truly a unique and transformative tool ~ Diigo has the potential to change the ways in which we mentor all our students”

“Diigo fosters discussion and encourages active, critical reading .. the most efficient way I have discovered to share content and commentary.”

“Diigo Groups are a phenomenal tool for building, maintaining, and contributing to a professional learning network as they tap into the collective intelligence of the network by allowing many users to share resources and annotations with the group.”

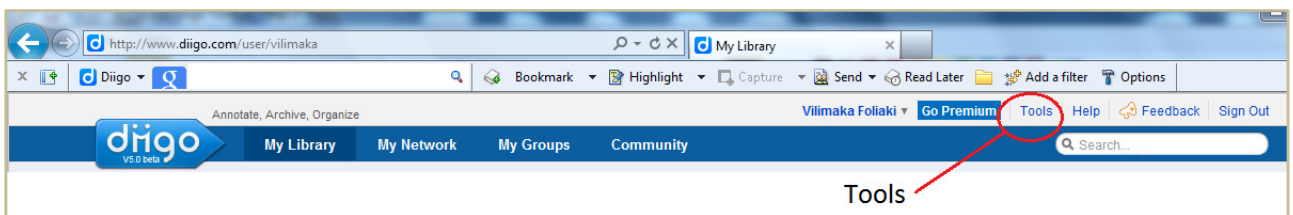
To use Diigo

1. Go to Diigo (<http://www.diigo.com/>) and register. Login if you are already a member of Diigo.

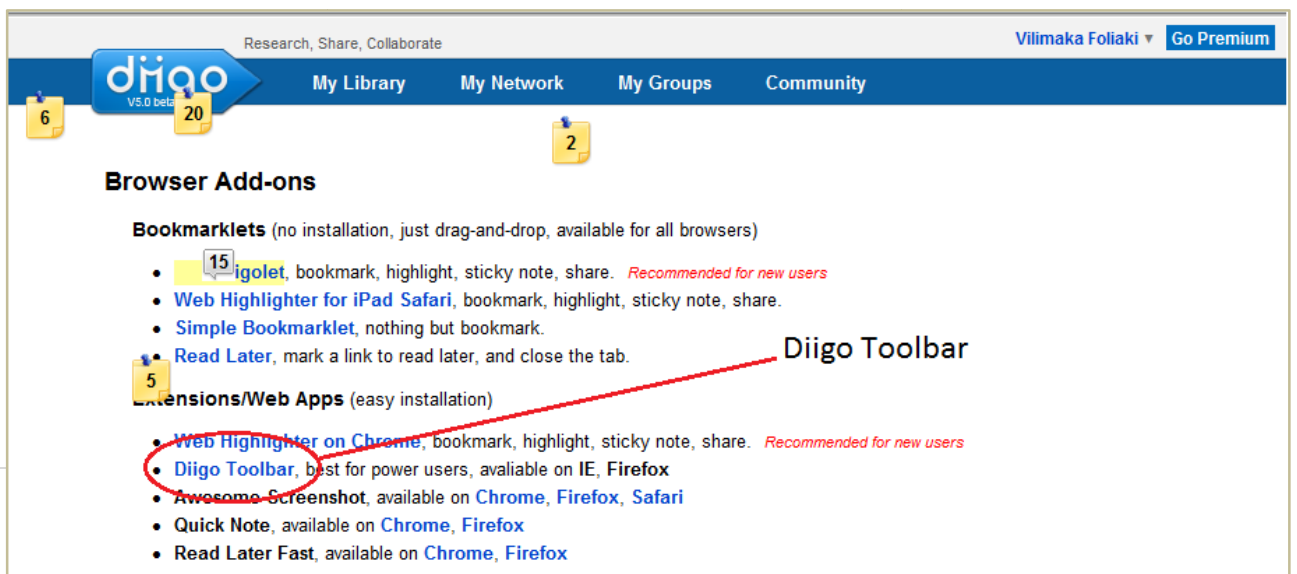


Note: You can also join by using your login information for other social media such as Facebook or Twitter.

2. On the Diigo website, click on *Tools*.



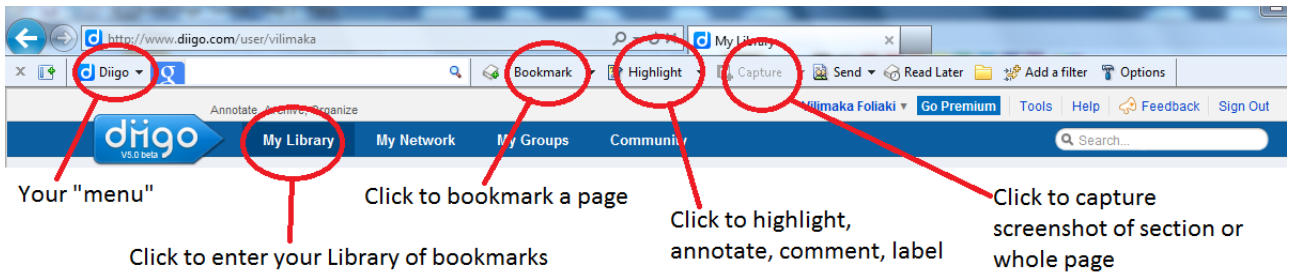
3. Click *Diigo Toolbar*.



4. Click Install Diigo Toolbar



You must allow the toolbar to install completely. Once the toolbar has been installed, your toolbar will appear similar to one below:



5. Now your Diigo is ready to use.

References

1. Farwell, T. M. & Waters, R. D. (2010). Exploring the use of social-bookmarking technology in education: An analysis of students' experiences using a course specific Delicious.com account. *MERLOT: Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, 6(2), 398-408.
2. Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies. (2000-2012). *30+ Bookmarking tools*. Accessed 14 November, 2012: <http://c4lpt.co.uk/directory-of-learning-performance-tools/social-bookmarking-tools/>
3. Diigo website.