

# Using Del.icio.us in Education (by John Pederson)

## Prerequisites

1. Register an account with <http://del.icio.us>.
2. Get [Firefox](#).
3. Fetch the [del.icio.us Bookmarks](#) addon for Firefox.

I'm keeping the scope of this tutorial narrowed to Firefox 2.0 and the del.icio.us Bookmarks add-on from Yahoo, Inc. There are alternatives. Much of this can be accomplished with other add-ons, tools, and browsers. I'm sticking with these tools.

## Unlearning

Warning: You now need to unlearn something that we've all held closely for the past 10 years. Bookmarks. We are going to turn control over to del.icio.us. This will make you very uncomfortable. It won't feel right. It's going to take a bit of time to unlearn and relearn. My initial trip into this world lasted about 10 minutes. Fight the urge to give up.

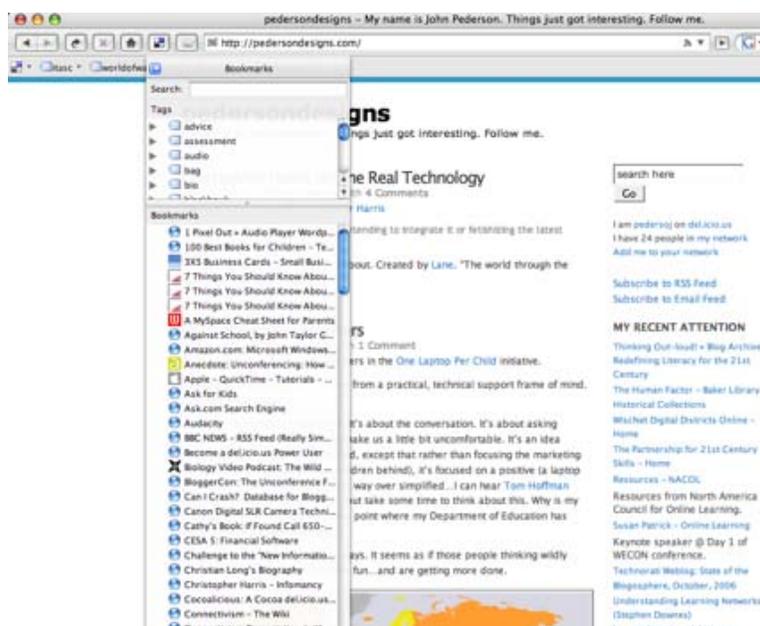
## Configuration

Your old bookmarks are all gone. (Actually, del.icio.us has them, but they aren't showing up like they used to.) Under the "Bookmarks" menu, check to see that you are logged into your own del.icio.us account.

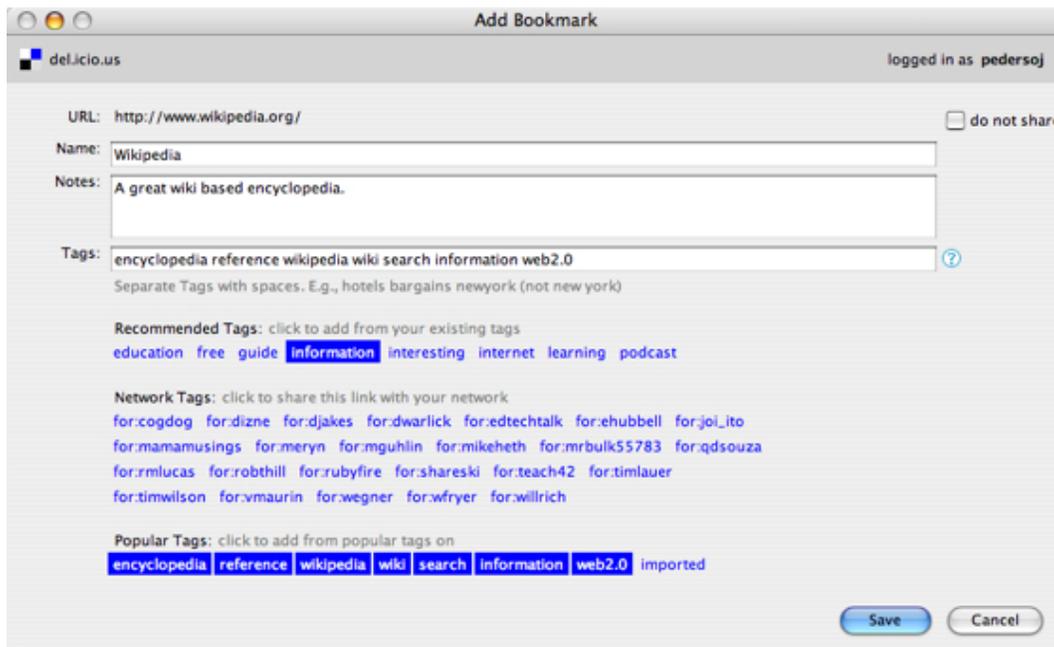
Two new buttons. Just to the right of the "Home" button is a new "Search Your Bookmarks" followed by a "Tag" button.



Viewing your bookmarks is different from your traditional bookmarking. You now have the ability to perform a search on your bookmarking. You can also see sorting based on tags in this view. Tags are similar to the folders in traditional browser based bookmarks.



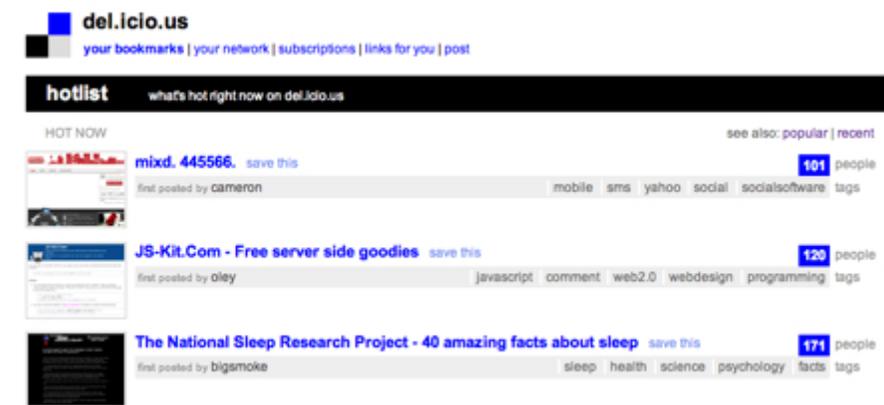
Bookmarking a website brings new options when integrated with del.icio.us. Notice that you can now add Notes. Use this space to give the bookmark your own flavor. It might be a personal note, a quote you enjoyed from the website, or a message to others about why you have bookmarked this website. Finally, we have the issue of tagging. del.icio.us usually provides a few examples that can be clicked on to populate the Tags field. You can add your own tags by typing into the tags window. The key here is to be short and messy. You will overthink and undertag your first few sites. Resist the tendency to be clean, orderly, and thoughtful during the tagging process. Messy is preferred at this point. (Note: Tags are separated by spaces in this process. New York needs to be tagged newyork to prevent the computer for interpreting this as tags for new & york.)



Go out and tag a number of sites at this point. Learn the flow. Resist the urge to be clean, orderly, and thoughtful. Visit, bookmark, and tag every search engine you can think of. Tag them "search" & "reference". Visit, bookmark, and tag every library card catalog in your local area. Tag them "library" & "catalog". Get busy. It's time to populate your del.icio.us account with loads of bookmarks.

You should now have a few sites bookmarked and tagged. It's time to jump to del.icio.us on the web and see what has happened.

Visit <http://del.icio.us> . Log in if necessary.



The main page of del.icio.us points you at what is popular at the moment. It's a combination of "recent bookmarked things " and "how many". **Social bookmarking**. This is what the masses think is interesting on the web at this very moment.

Click **"your bookmarks"** in the upper left.

del.icio.us / pederso /  by John Pederson

popular | recent

logged in as pederso | settings | logout | help

All your items (203)

del.icio.us/help/playtagger edit / share / delete  
Play Tagger is a del.icio.us tool that adds a funky, simply "play" option to your mp3 files. Add a simply bit of javascript and your mp3 files automatically become playable right within your page.  
to podcast del.icio.us audio ... saved by 1108 other people ... not shared ... 13 hours ago

Fishing - WoWiki edit / share / delete  
to worldofwarcraft ... not shared ... 14 hours ago

Welcome to Splashr.com edit / delete  
Cool little Flickr presentation creator.  
to flickr ... saved by 605 other people ... 16 hours ago

Amberjack: Site Tour Creator - Simple. Free. Open Source. edit / delete  
Quick tool to create website tours for users.  
to tour opensource guide ... saved by 1463 other people ... 16 hours ago

Storynory: Free Audio Stories for Kids edit / delete  
Podcasting for children.  
to podcast.kids earlyelementary itasc opensource ... saved by 403 other people ... 17 hours ago

Ephemeral Solutions edit / delete  
to won moodle opensource ... 17 hours ago

QR Codes: What are the Edu-Possibilities? edit / delete  
Christian Long describes QR codes (barcodes 2.0) and plays with some of the possibilities. I was just trying to describe this concept to my father-in-law over the Thanksgiving holiday.  
to informationliteracy ... saved by 2 other people ... 1 day ago

School Proxy - Get To MySpace In School edit / delete  
Doug Johnson taught me how to be a hacker. :p)  
to fishing ... saved by 5 other people ... 1 day ago

Flat Classroom Project edit / delete  
The Flat Classroom project is a genuine assessment project between Julia I Infaus/Infaus 11 ITGS class at International School Dhaka (ISD) in Bangladesh and

tags

- advice aggregator ajax assessment audio bag bio blackhawk blog blogging blogosphere blogs books brain business calculator camera cc censorship cesa5 charge collaboration conference conferences connectivism copyright creativecommons creativity curriculumdesign darwinpark darlington data del.icio.us design diagram disclosure drm earlyelementary edublogging education educationtechnology educase elearning elementary environment epic esi extension facilitation feed filtering financial firefox flickr free funny future games gaming gspingvokl gear gettingfai globalization google googlesearch graphicorganizer gst guide hardware hiv howto humor in information informationliteracy informationliteracy innovation interesting internet itasc jkita K12 kids languagearts laptop learning learningtheory lessig lessons library library20 ithack itshacking linklogs linux manifesto mapping math mic microphone moodle movie moviemaker movies mp3 music mustread myspace netnewswire npr oipc onlinecommunities onlearning openoffice opensource openspace osx pagefakes parents pd pedagogy philosophy photo photography photos play plk plugin podcast podcasting politics portal powerpoint presentation presentations printing privacy professionaldevelopment purchase question ringtone rogue rss safety school Science screencast search security sftware skype snowball social socialbookmarking socialnetworking socialsoftware software sound storytelling students systemunified tagging teaching technology techtools theory theworldisflat thinking timbuk2 tips tools toread tour tutorial tutorials ubd unconference unschooling usability usb vacuum video warcraft won web web2.0 weknow whiteboard wiki wikipedia windows wicnet wiconsin wishlist wordpress worldofwarcraft wpr youtube

tag options

- view as cloud | list
- sort by alpha | freq

This is a snapshot of the sites you have bookmarked. Pretty simple. You have options to edit / share / delete on this screen. You can always go in here to clean up titles, add/delete tags, and annotate your bookmarks in the notes section. You can view your tags in a standard list format, or make it more visually interesting with the cloud format (see "tag options" on the lower right). As you begin tagging more and more sites, you will start to appreciate the "tag cloud" on the right. This is a visual representation of what tags and how often you are using particular tags.

Here's where things start to get very interesting.

Click on **"your network"** in the upper left.

del.icio.us / network / pederso

popular | recent

logged in as pederso | settings | logout | help

earlier | later

elearningspace. everything elearning. save this  
Must read  
by mikaheth to e-learning education knowledge learning networks theory web2.0 conference ... saved by 4 other people ... 38 mins ago

Fake Selling Better Than The Original save this  
by mikaheth to phone information rights trends future ... saved by 1 other person ... 39 mins ago

Full Circle Online Interaction Blog: Chocolate and Collaboration save this  
by mikaheth to collaboration networks ... saved by 8 other people ... 50 mins ago

Wikimapia - Let's describe the whole world! save this  
This is another mashup that piggy-backs on Google Maps. You can mark places on the map and leave notes about them for everyone to see. (Thinking about your students marking points of interest in their county or province.)  
by dwarlick ... saved by 10 other people ... 2 hours ago

BuzzTracker.com save this  
Buzztracker is a mashup applications that draws the latest news from Google News, and then visually constructs a global map, indicating where news is happening at that moment!

your network (29)

- AKMA x
- budtheteacher x
- cogdog x
- dizne x
- djakes x
- dwarlick x
- edtechtalk x
- ehubbell x
- foeblog x
- GEMalone x
- joi\_ito x
- knann x
- mamamusings x
- merjn x

Your network is probably empty. Go ahead, add me to your network. Enter pedersoj and click "add" in the upper right. You now have a stream of my bookmarks entering your network page. You have a sense for what I'm reading. Your bookmarks + my bookmarks.

Here's where things get viral. Notice that after you add me to your network, you have the option "view pedersoj's network". Go ahead. These are the streams of bookmarks I'm paying attention to.

All AKMA's items (135)  
AKMA is in your network, view AKMA's network

Once you have added a host of other people to your network you can "deliver" links directly to them via the tags you add when you bookmark a site. So to send or highlight a bookmark to a specific user all you have to do is tag the site with *for:xxxxxxx* (replace xx's with a del.icio.us username) so to send me a link you think I would find interesting tag it *for:tbarrett*

It started with your bookmarks. Went to my bookmarks. Now you can begin searching through my network of bookmarks. If that person seems to be bookmarking things interesting to you, add them to your network. Choose your own adventure. Go back to my network or visit the networks of the new people you had added to your network.

You can see that we've quickly taken bookmarking and made it wickedly interesting. You now have a scan of what's percolating in the minds of those in the edublogosphere. This is a look at their rawest layer of digital attention. If what you find is interesting, bookmark it. Add it to your stream.

Let this set in for a while. Lather, rinse, repeat.

### **Educational Technology Sites Using Del.icio.us**

<http://edtechtalk.com/> The "Ed Tech Weekly" podcast uses del.icio.us as an aggregator and link community for their weekly updates on educational technology. Using del.icio.us, tag **for:edtechtalk** to add a site to their attention stream for inclusion in the show.



<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/>

If you are interested in helping collaborate on this project, email me at [pedersoj@gmail.com](mailto:pedersoj@gmail.com) and I will send you an invitation giving access to contribute to this project!

John Pederson - <http://www.pedersondesigns.com> - My [del.icio.us bookmarks tagged "del.icio.us"](#) .  
Tom Barrett - <http://tbarrett.edublogs.org>

### **Using Del.icio.us in Education** by John Pederson.

Retrieved from: [http://docs.google.com/View?docid=ad62vwjv8zm\\_6fh3r2s](http://docs.google.com/View?docid=ad62vwjv8zm_6fh3r2s)  
July 12, 2007