



What is del.icio.us?

del.icio.us (pronounced "delicious") is a social bookmarking site. One primary use for del.icio.us is to allow users to save all of their bookmarks or favorites in one place. This permits Internet users to access the same bookmarks on any computer at any location.

Unlike the Favorites lists in most browsers, del.icio.us does not organize your bookmarks into folders. del.icio.us also allows users to classify bookmarks using tags. **Tags** are one word descriptions assigned to bookmarks by the user. They are not hierarchical. The use of tags rather than folders in organizing the content has several implications for del.icio.us users. First, users can label content however they want based on their own interpretation of the content. Second, users can invent their own tags. This allows users not only to tag resources based on content, but also based on what they want to do with content. For example, a student might tag a resource as *to_read* if they want to read it later, as *eng101* if the resource is for a particular course, or *for:mom* if the resource is something they want to share with their mother. Finally, tags make your bookmarks at del.icio.us searchable. Users can assign as many tags to a bookmark as they want.

Summary

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del.icio.us permits users to share links with others by simply providing them the link to their del.icio.us page. By sharing links through del.icio.us rather than by sending links in an email, users are providing access to current and future links they may add to their del.icio.us accounts. Users can mark links as private so that visitors to their del.icio.us site will not see them. del.icio.us also allows users to share content directly through certain tags.

A final benefit of del.icio.us is the ability to view information from other del.icio.us users. When a user bookmarks a site on del.icio.us, they can see how many other people have saved that content. They are also able to see the usernames of those who have tagged the content, allowing them to find people with similar interests. In addition, users can search del.icio.us using tags to find other peer-recommended links.

Please note that although del.icio.us is available to anyone via the internet, it is not a supported technology at Towson University. If you need technical support for del.icio.us, you should check the del.icio.us FAQ (<http://del.icio.us/help/faq>), Help (<http://del.icio.us/help/>), or contact the del.icio.us Technical Support (<http://del.icio.us/help/contact>).

Registering for a del.icio.us Account

The first step is to register for a del.icio.us account.

1. Go to <http://del.icio.us>. Select the **get started** link.
2. Fill in the requested information and select **register** (Figure 1, 1).
3. After you have registered for your account, you will be taken to a page allowing you to install the del.icio.us buttons on your browser. These buttons will allow you to navigate and save bookmarks to your del.icio.us page in a more seamless fashion.

Figure 1

<p>username</p> <p>full name</p> <p>password</p> <p>password again</p> <p>email</p> <p>please type these letters</p>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="register"/>
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4. If you wish to install these buttons and you have administrative rights on your computer, select **Install Buttons Now**.
5. **Save** the delicious.msi installer to your desktop.
6. After the installer has completely downloaded, close all open Internet Explorer windows.
7. Double-click to run the delicious.msi installer and select **Run**.
8. Once the installation is done, a new browser window will automatically open to your del.icio.us account.

You now have an active del.icio.us account. You should be able to access your bookmarks from any computer on the internet by going to the URL <http://del.icio.us/yourusername/>. You will need to verify your account by clicking on the appropriate link in your registration email, but you are able to access and use your account without verifying it.

del.icio.us

View the figure below to explore some of the features of del.icio.us. The image below shows a page from a user's del.icio.us account.

1. The URL used to access your bookmarks is listed at the top of your page (Figure 2, 1). Insert your username in the highlighted area.
2. Select **your favorites** (Figure 2, 2) to navigate to your bookmarks.
3. The **links for you** (Figure 2, 3) feature allows you to access links sent to you by other del.icio.us users. Others can send you links by simply tagging the links with **for:username**.
4. The **post** link (Figure 2, 4) allows you to save new bookmarks to your account.
5. The **settings** link (Figure 2, 5) allows you to modify account information, such as email, password, and privacy settings.
6. The search tool (Figure 2, 6). allows you to search your own bookmarks, bookmarks on del.icio.us, or the web using keywords.
7. The main content frame (Figure 2, 7) displays your bookmarks, with most recently added links listed first.
8. The **tags** menu (Figure 2, 8) allows you to see which tags you have used most frequently in your bookmarks and to modify your tag settings.

Figure 2

The screenshot shows a user's del.icio.us account page. At the top, the URL is [del.icio.us / username /](http://del.icio.us/username/), with a yellow highlight under 'username' and a callout '1' pointing to the input field. Below the URL are navigation links: [your favorites](#) (callout '2'), [your network](#), [subscriptions](#), [links for you](#) (callout '3'), and [post](#) (callout '4'). On the right, there are links for [popular](#) and [recent](#). Below these is the text 'logged in as rv' followed by [towson](#) (callout '4'), [settings](#) (callout '5'), [logout](#), and [help](#). A search bar is located below the navigation links, with a callout '6' pointing to the search input field. The search bar contains the text 'All your items (3)' and a dropdown menu set to 'del.icio.us' with a 'search' button. Below the search bar, there are navigation links: [« earlier | later »](#) and [showing all 3 items](#). The main content area displays three bookmarks:

- [Mediasite Presentation Catalog](#) [edit / delete](#)
Towson's general MediaSite catalog
to [mediasite](#) [ciat](#) [towson](#) [technology](#) [education](#) ... 13 mins ago
- [Update CIAT Workshops](#) [edit / delete](#)
This is my link for making changes to CIAT workshops
to [towson](#) [work](#) [ciat](#) ... saved by 1 other person ... 1 hour ago
- [Towson University website](#) [edit / delete](#)
This is where I worl
to [towson](#) [university](#) [highered](#) [work](#) ... saved by 1 other person ... 23 hours ago

 On the right side, there is a 'tags' menu (callout '8') showing:

- 2 [ciat](#)
- 3 [towson](#)
- 2 [work](#)

 Below the tags menu is a 'tag options' section:

- » view as [cloud](#) | [list](#)
- » sort by [alpha](#) | [freq](#)
- » use minimum: 1, 2, 5
- » show | [hide](#) bundles
- » [bundle tags](#)
- » edit tags: [rename](#) | [delete](#)

 A callout '7' points to the main content area of the bookmarks list.

Adding a Bookmark

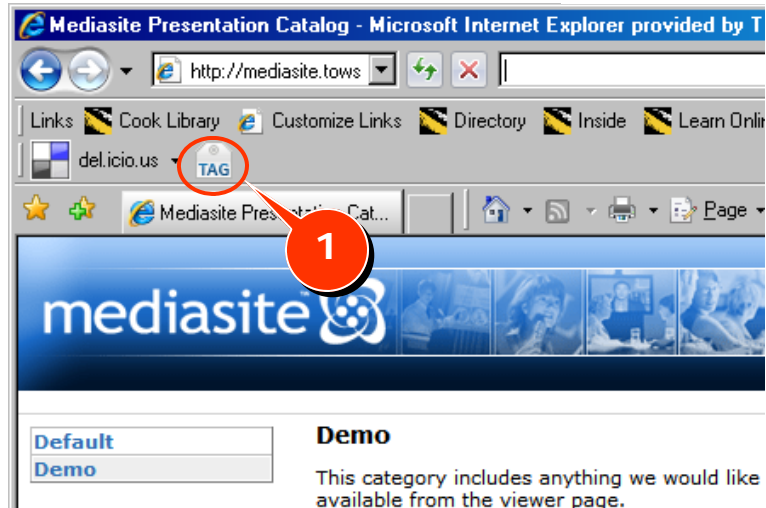
You can add a bookmark to del.icio.us using the **Post** tool in del.icio.us or by using the **Tag** button in your browser.


Bookmarking with the Tag Browser Button

Note: You can only add bookmarks using this method if you choose to install the del.icio.us buttons in your browser.

Figure 4

1. Navigate to the website you want to bookmark.
2. Once at the website, click on the **Tag** button (Figure 4, 1).
3. A new browser window will open. If you are not logged in to del.icio.us, you will need to login at this point.
4. You should now see a page allowing you to enter more information about the bookmark. The URL and the description will already be filled in.
 - Enter any additional information in the **Notes**. Be aware that these notes can be seen by anyone looking at your del.icio.us. page.
 - Enter tags for the page, separated by a space. You may use as many tags as you like.
5. Click **save**. The new browser window will close. Your bookmark is now available both through your account and through your del.icio.us link.



-  As you begin building a library of bookmarks, you will develop a list of commonly used tags. This list of tags will appear at the bottom of your post page. You can simply click on these tags to add them to your **tags** textbox.

Bookmarking with the Post Tool

1. Log into del.icio.us.
2. Select the **post** link from the menu at the top of the page (Figure 3, 1).
3. Enter the URL for the bookmark and click **save**.
4. You should now see a page allowing you to enter more information about the bookmark.
 - Enter the title of the bookmark in Description.
 - Enter any additional information in the Notes. Be aware that these notes can be seen by anyone looking at your del.icio.us. page.
 - Enter your tags for the page, separated by a space. You may use as many tags as you like.
5. Click **save**. You will now see your new bookmark and description at the top of your main del.icio.us page.

Figure 3



Sharing del.icio.us Bookmarks

You can share your del.icio.us bookmarks in several ways, depending on whether you want to share all of your bookmarks, bookmarks with a single tag, or a specific bookmark. How you share your bookmarks can also vary based on whether or not you are sharing your bookmarks with another del.icio.us user. The most common methods of sharing bookmarks are detailed below.

Sharing Bookmarks Outside of del.icio.us

If you want to share your book marks with someone who does not have a del.icio.us account, you can simply share the URL for your del.icio.us bookmark page (<http://del.icio.us/username>).

You may also share all of your bookmarks associated with a specific tag. The URL for all of the book-marks associated with a tag is <http://del.icio.us/username/tag>. For example, if a del.icio.us user with the username jdoe wants to share all of his bookmarks tagged as "edtech", the URL for these book-marks is <http://del.icio.us/jdoe/edtech>.



Keep in mind that if you share the URL for a specific tag with someone that it is relatively easy for them to determine your general account URL. If you have some bookmarks that you do not want to share, mark them as private before sharing any of your account URLs with anyone.

Sharing Bookmarks with Other del.icio.us Users

You can share your bookmarks with other del.icio.us users through the use of tags, as long as you know the person's username. To share a specific book mark with another del.icio.us user, simply tag the content as **for:username**. These links can be accessed through the user's **links for you** tool at the top of their del.icio.us account.

Other Resources

del.icio.us has support documentation available through their website. Some suggested resources include:

- What is social bookmarking? : http://del.icio.us/about/#What_is_social_bookmarking
- Search hints: <http://del.icio.us/help/search>
- Saving bookmarks as private and importing bookmarks: <http://del.icio.us/help/saving>
- Subscribing to "tag" updates: <http://del.icio.us/help/subscriptions>
- Extra navigation hints: <http://del.icio.us/help/navigation>
- del.icio.us FAQ: <http://del.icio.us/help/faq>

If you would like more information on social bookmarking and education, visit these resources.

- Using del.icio.us in Education: http://docs.google.com/View?docid=ad62vwjv8zm_6fh3r2s
- Tagging for Teachers: http://personal.strath.ac.uk/d.d.muir/Delicious1_2.pdf
- The Brave New World of Social Bookmarking: http://www.blogwithoutalibrary.net/talk/brave_new_world.pdf
- Tag Mania Sweeps the Web: http://www.infoworld.com/article/05/07/20/300Pstrategic_1.html