

# Additional Information Management Tools and Resources

While Diigo and Pageflakes are two of the best free tools available to educators interested in managing information online, there are a range of other services that might be worth exploring. This handout details some of the most common.

## Social Bookmarking

**Delicious** ([www.delicious.com](http://www.delicious.com)) was one of the first social bookmarking services to draw widespread attention from the Web 2.0 world. Working just like Diigo, Delicious allows users to install a bookmarking toolbar in their Internet browser in order to organize public, Web-based collections of bookmarks sorted by tag. Users can also easily search and follow the bookmarks of other Delicious users.

The main advantage of Delicious is the size of the community of users. There are literally millions of Web links added to Delicious each day, creating a vibrant community worth exploring for researchers interested in any topic. The main disadvantage is that Delicious doesn't offer protected student accounts or the ability to annotate websites together.

## Annotation

Seeking to capitalize on its position as an information provider, Google has recently introduced a new shared annotation tool that users can add to their Internet browsers called the **Sidewiki** ([www.google.com/sidewiki/](http://www.google.com/sidewiki/)). Much like Diigo, the Google Sidewiki allows viewers of websites to engage in conversations around any content posted online. Readers can add reviews to sites spotlighting products and services, or they can express individual viewpoints on sites tackling controversial topics.

The main advantage of the Sidewiki is that, as a Google product, it is likely to continually improve over time and to gain the attention of Web users around the world. The main disadvantage of the Sidewiki is that it is a relatively new service, and as such, there aren't many users. What's more, Sidewiki doesn't allow users to form into study teams or to target the additions of a select group of likeminded peers.

## Content Aggregation (Feed Reading)

One of the common complaints that students and teachers have about new digital work is that keeping up with usernames and passwords for dozens of different Web services can be completely overwhelming. If this describes your general feelings toward life in the 21st century, you may want to consider exploring the **Google Reader** ([www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader)). Working much like Pageflakes, the Google Reader will monitor updated content on the websites you visit the most.

The main advantage of the Google Reader is that you can access your content with the same username and password that you use for any other Google service—the Google Calendar, Gmail, Blogger (Google's blogging service), Sidewiki—so your online life is instantly simplified. The main disadvantage of the Google Reader is its no-frills interface. While your content won't look pretty, it will definitely be organized and easy to access.