

Web Tools You Can Use

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FINDING HELP ONLINE:

When you need help using software or a web tool, chances are someone has posted a tutorial online.

- AtomicLearning is a subscription service that offers very short tutorials on specific topics on many different software & web tools.
- YouTube and TeacherTube are good free sources. Start by searching just for the software/tool and then narrow your search if needed.

RSS FEED READERS: **Bloglines**, Google Reader, many more

Feed readers bring the content of regularly updated pages to you! This makes it possible to follow blogs, news feeds, and other content easily.

- Follow your favorite news outlet's content, get weather updates, and never miss a new posting to Craig's List.
- Subscribe to professional journals, colleague's blogs, and news feeds about your school.
- Help students create news feeds tailored to their interests for a current events class.

SOCIAL BOOKMARKING: **Diigo** or Delicious

The "social" part of this is optional. It can simply be a portable "Favorites" list.

- Bookmark your sites on the web rather than on your computer so you can access them anywhere.
- Post a list of sites you want your students to use for research for ease of access.
- Use Diigo's highlight & sticky note tools to have students organize their research.

GOOGLE TOOLS: Maps, Reader, Docs, Earth, Calendar, Scholar, News—the list of things that Google offers in addition to searching is constantly growing.

- Organize your personal and professional calendars all in one place that's accessible anywhere.
- Create and save your own maps.

- Have students create and collaborate using Docs. No more emailing unfinished work home to students! No more incompatibility issues!

PHOTO SHARING: **Flickr** or Picasa, and many others

Upload your own photos, search for photos on a particular subject, find photos grouped by topic or location.

- Upload and share your personal photos with family and friends without sending huge email attachments. (you can choose to make them public or invitation only)
- Use groups, pools, or maps to find stunning pictures to enhance your curriculum.
- Have students participate in a Flat Stanley or other project that connects classrooms around the world.

CITATION TOOLS: CitationMachine.net, NoodleTools, or EasyBib

No, this isn't cheating! Students still need to remember to cite their sources and find the appropriate information. These tools just make formatting easier.

SCREENCASTING: **Jing** and others

Create a video of exactly what is on your screen with your own voice explaining what's being done!

- Visit Screencast.com to watch tutorials or visit the sites mentioned in "Finding Help Online" to watch screencasts.
- Create a quick screencast to demonstrate to students how to do something on the computer. (save a file, format a Works Cited page, use a web tool, etc.)
- Have students create their own screencasts that demonstrate their understanding of a project they have completed or to critique a web site, piece of art, etc.