

# The evolution of curation

## From confusion to control

Each of the information strategies described below serve a particular (and valid) purpose. Of the four, curation is the most time consuming, however has the most long-term value, and creates the most potential value for others through sharing.

### Accumulating Collecting Aggregating Curating

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saving everything that looks even the slightest bit interesting.</li><li>• Saving content using whatever is easiest at the time (bookmarking on PC, save in Facebook, liking on Twitter); items are scattered widely and unlikely to be re-found easily.</li><li>• Saving as a way of managing feelings of overload - "I'll come back to that later."</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saving items as they appear, being aware of the reason each item is being saved.</li><li>• Saving content in one place/using one tool (e.g. Pocket, Diigo) but not adding metadata (tags, categories).</li><li>• Saving as a way of collecting useful information that will most probably be used some time in the future - "when I attend to task A, I will use this."</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saving purposefully, often as the end point of a particular search.</li><li>• Saving content in one place/using one tool (e.g. Pocket, Diigo) grouping into categories and adding search metadata.</li><li>• Saving as a way of bringing together information in order to serve a particular purpose or meet a need - "I am looking for resources on Topic A."</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating a collection to meet a particular purpose or to serve a particular audience.</li><li>• Saving items using a curation tool which has been chosen to best display the information being collected and is most accessible for chosen audience.</li><li>• Saving as a way of creating a new resource which in its entirety adds value to the individual pieces by communicating a particular message or theme - "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."</li></ul> |
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