

CHOOSING A CURATION TOOL

That's right for you.

Digital content curation is more than just collecting a list of links. It is the careful selection, annotation and publishing of a group of digital resources, which have been chosen to meet a particular purpose.

So many to choose from!

There are countless curation tools available - some, such as Diigo, have been around for a long time, others, like ELink are fairly new, while others, like Pinterest have huge numbers of account holders worldwide. How to choose?



Diigo <https://www.diigo.com/>

Diigo has been around since 2005. It is a text based curation tool, which allows you to save links and group them using tags. Diigo has many features as well as curation, including the ability to join with groups of like minded people to share links to resources. Although it doesn't have the visual appeal of some of the other tools it does allow the user to add extensive annotation and tags to help findability.

Elink <https://elink.io/>



Elink is a newer tool, but it is very flexible, with a number of different templates. This means you can choose the way you present your curated list so that it best suits the topic. You can have highly visual collections or curated lists with small images and more text. It is easy to embed an ELink board and to share with others.



Scoopit <http://www.scoop.it/>

Scoop.it! has many professional curators among its users. The tool combines visual and text and allows the user to create an effective curated list on a particular topic. Scoop.it has a free version, but you are limited to just one topic page and ten 'scoops' (additions to the list) per day unless you purchase a paid account.

Pinterest <https://au.pinterest.com/>



Pinterest is a hugely popular curation tool. It is extremely visual and easy to use. The amount of annotation you can add is limited so it is of less use for professional / academic curation. It also struggles with PDF or items that do not have images attached. A problem with Pinterest is that you must have an account to view Pinterest 'boards'. This limits its use for sharing with others (particularly those under 13 who cannot have an account).

There are many other curation tools you might also consider. These are some of the best known tools. Each tool has certain strengths and weaknesses. Most vary in how they render images, and how you can use them to publish curated collections. Other tools to explore include BagtheWeb or List.ly.

Your curated collection is a valuable resource. It is unlikely that anyone else has combined these particular resources to meet this particular need. Use the annotation of each resource to add value and draw the collection together.

Things to Consider:

Content Type

What type of content are you including in your curated collection? This will often determine which tool you choose. It is not uncommon to use different tools for different types of curated collections.

Curating a lot of academic articles, links to reports, blogs or other text-heavy resources? Consider Diigo, which does not require an image for each link.



Creating a resource on a visual topic, such as artwork, books or infographics? Using a tool which provides a visual element enables you to create an eye-catching web artefact.



Give your collection a descriptive title, add a subtitle or blurb if possible and use tags and annotations to add value. This makes your collection usable for others.



Audience



Consider the audience who will be using your curated collection; this may influence your choice of tool and will also affect the annotation. Choose visual tools for younger users.

Use the annotation to explain what the resource is about, how it could be used and why has been included.

Share-ability

A well curated list is a powerful resource, which takes time to construct. Ensure that you can easily share it with others once completed. Can the collection be embedded easily into a blog? Does the reader require an account to view your collection? Does the completed list have a permanent URL, so you can continue to add to it without users losing access?



Appearance

Most curation tools don't give many options when it comes to formatting appearance. ELink is one of the few that provides different templates and header designs.

However it is good to check how a particular tool renders the list when embedded in a blog if you are combining these tools. Also see how the tool performs on different devices. Some tools work better in particular browsers, and not all are easy to access on mobile devices.

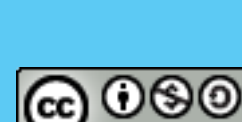


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