


Exercise #2

Using Your del.icio.us Account

del.icio.us is a powerful tool for organizing and finding within websites you add to Bookmarks or Favorites. In this exercise, first you will use del.icio.us to bookmark some websites and to search within your del.icio.us bookmarks. Second, you will use del.icio.us to find websites on a topic.

A. Add some bookmarks to your del.icio.us account:

1. Go to your account in del.icio.us. You should already be logged into your account. If not, click login (upper right) to do so.
2. Open another browser window (CTRL+N), and go to **google.com** in it.
 - a. Perform a search for "library 2.0"
 - b. Looking in the first page of results, quickly choose two websites to visit.
 - Click the link to bring the page into your browser window.
 - Add it to your del.icio.us account by clicking on the TAG toolbar button. 
 - Don't be choosy. You can delete things later.
 - c. Add at least three descriptive tags to each website. You can use any word as a tag. Put a space between each tag word.
 - d. You may also write a brief description.
 - e. Click SAVE to add each bookmark.
3. In your Google window, perform a search for libraries gaming and repeat steps b. through e. above.
4. As time permits, you may continue to add websites and tag them in your del.icio.us account on any subject you choose to search for.

B. Explore the tools in del.icio.us to navigate your bookmarks:

1. Go to your del.icio.us account. If it is not still in a second IE window, click on the blue/black/grey/white del.icio.us toolbar button to open your account.
2. Take a moment to orient yourself to what you see:
 - a. In the gray column on the right, all the tags you assigned are listed alphabetically.
 - b. On the left is a list of all the web pages you tagged, most recently added first. Beneath them are all the tags you assigned to each web page. A pink bar after your tags tells how many other users also tagged that page (we will explore that later).
 - c. After the link to each page, notice you can edit / delete an entry.
3. To see only the pages you assigned a particular tag to, click on that blue tag on the gray column on the right. Related tags list all the other tags used in addition to the one you clicked.

O V E R

C. Search within your favorites (your tagged web pages):

1. In the search box, enter the tagword you just clicked in B.3, followed by any tagword listed in Related tags. Use the pop-down menu to set the search to your favorites.
2. Try searching within "your favorites" for any of your tag words
3. In the results, click View everyone's favorites. See what other websites have been assigned the tag(s) you searched on. Click on some of the sites that have been tagged by many other people (look in the pink areas for this).

D. Explore a web page's history in del.icio.us:

1. Click on the pink bar saying, "saved by XX other people."
2. Take a moment to orient yourself to what you see:
 - a. On the left:
 - The title of the web page
 - Your entry and tags (pale yellow)
 - Any user notes, beginning with your own, and listing all others, followed by the username who created each note. If you click a user name, you will see a list of all that users' other favorites in del.icio.us.
 - b. On the right (gray background):
 - A tag cloud analyzing the tags most commonly used for this web page
 - The "posting history" in del.icio.us for this web page.
 - When initially posted
 - Daily log of all postings, most recent first
 - Username of each person who tagged this web page all other tags he/she assigned.

E. Search all of del.icio.us to try to answer ONE of the following questions.

1. *I am trying to find some good websites on fast food nutrition. When I search Google for fast food nutrition, I get over 3 million results. How can I try to see some interesting/good sites that are probably buried way down in Google's results? I want an alternative to Google's popularity ranking.*

Suggestion: Search del.icio.us for **fastfood nutrition**

2. *I want to find some websites where I can learn to make mashups using the Google Maps API. I am overwhelmed by what I get from a Google search.*

Suggestion: Search del.icio.us for **howto mashups google maps api**

See *Cheat Sheet #1 Getting the Most from Your del.icio.us Account* for more options.