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Freesources: a Treasure Chest of Free-to-Use Online Tools and Goodies

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Freesources

a treasure chest of free-to-use online tools & goodies



Diana Finkle
Instructional Designer
Clemson University Libraries

Caveat ~~emptor~~ ^{y'all}

Infographics

Canva

[canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

- + Facebook & Twitter sharing
- + Social media layouts
- Free vs. “premium” images
- Beta testing (β)

\$ 1 per “premium” image you publish

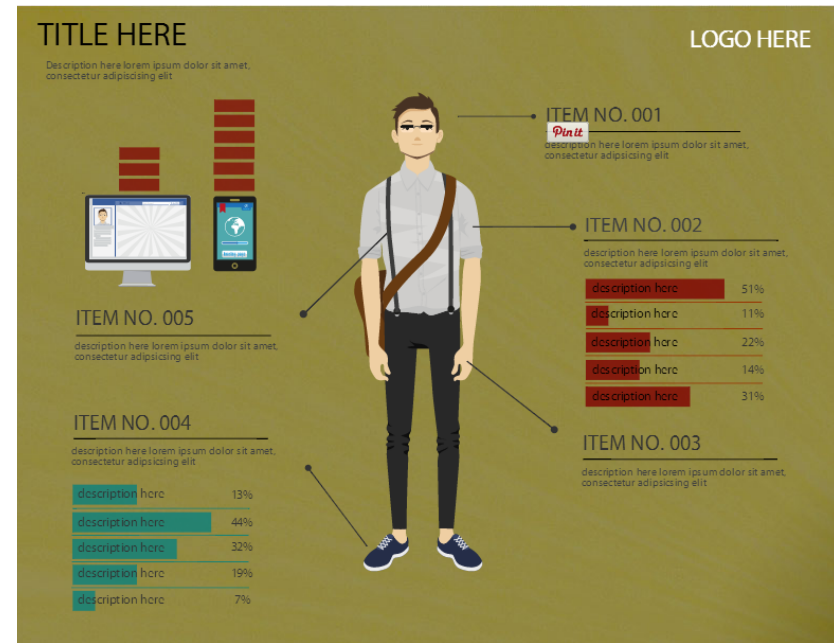


Infographics

Easel.ly

easel.ly

- + Numerous themes help provide ideas
- + Easy drag-and-drop designing
- Limited color customization
- Cumbersome interface



Infographics

Piktochart

piktochart.com

- + 7 themes
- + 20 image uploads
- Low-resolution export
- brand watermark

\$ 39.99 a year

GTC Library Databases

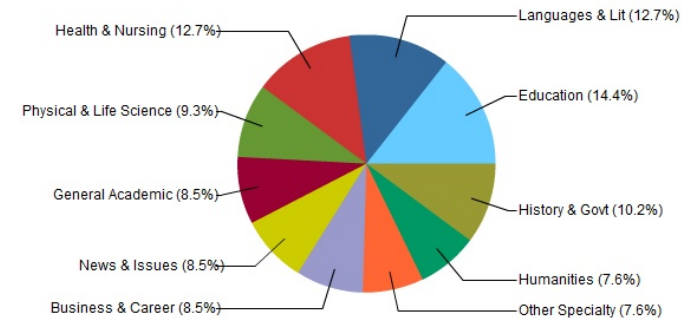
Want to...

- ✓ download an eBook about the iPad... or eye health... or I Ching?
- ✓ hear someone correctly pronounce cheilognathopalatoschisis?
- ✓ see the last public appearance of Woodrow Wilson?
- ✓ tune up your 1978 AMC Gremlin?

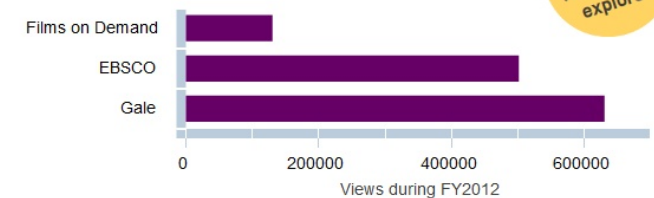


We have a database for that.

Databases by Topic



Most Popular Databases



Fast Facts

Database articles count as print sources, just like library books do.

Gale users accessed 3,958 documents during July 2012, an average of 127.7 a day.

Many databases provide instant citation information for one or more styles.

Culturegrams users accessed 26,377 documents in FY2012.

For off-campus access, you will need your GTC library card number (no spaces).



GTC Libraries
gtclibrary@gvltec.edu



Not just books.

Piktochart

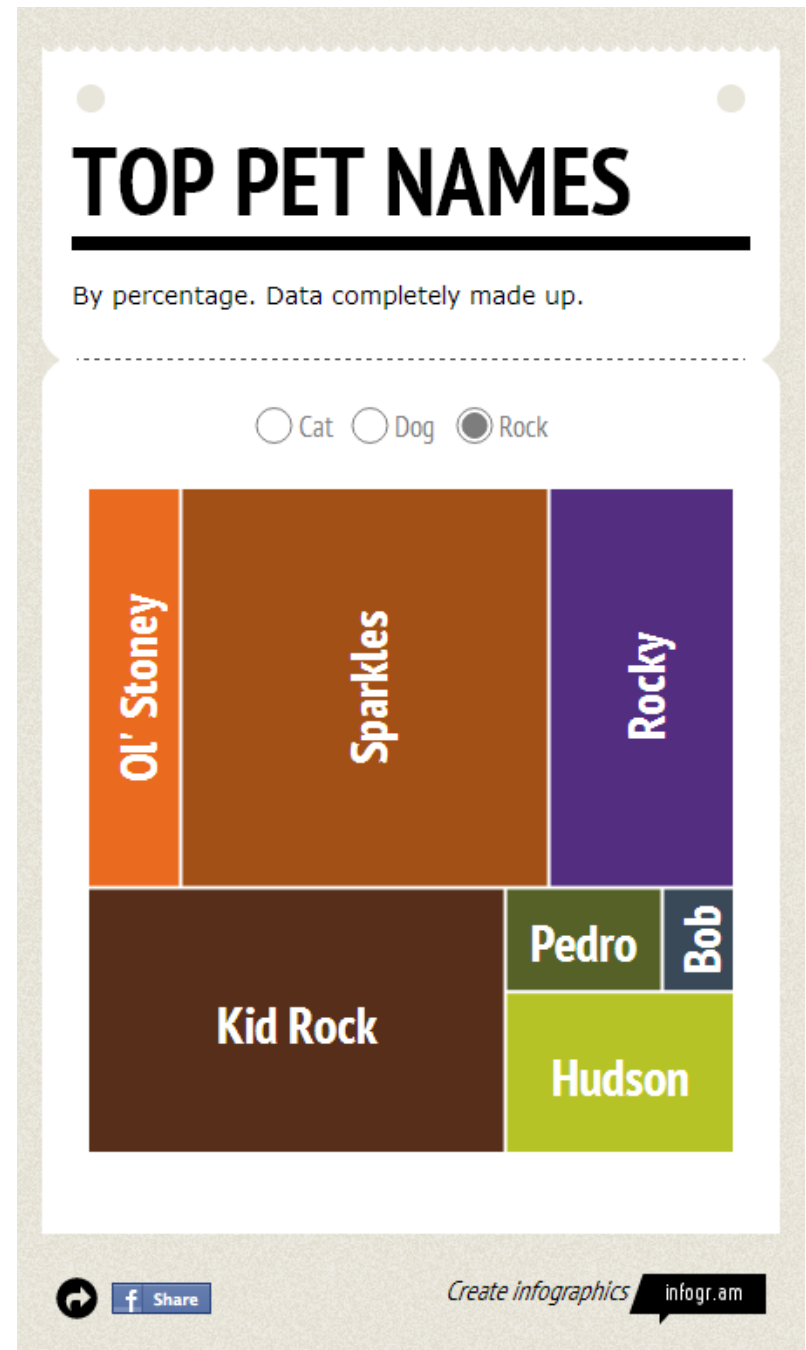
Infographics

Infogram

infogr.am

- + Quick way to publish data/ charts
- + Excellent color customization
- + Social, web, and embed sharing
- Must create an account
- Rigid content formatting
- Only able to share online

\$ 18 monthly for "Pro" account



Word Cloud

Wordle

wordle.net

- + Excellent font and layout options
- + Use up to 5 custom colors
- + Paste text (best option) or pull from website
- Requires Java to run
- Loses settings each time
- Limited saving options



eNewsletters

Smore

smore.com

- + Appealing eNewsletters
- + Social sharing
- + Visitor analytics
- Not for downloading
- Limited color choices

\$ 59 a year "educator" plan

Freesources

a treasure chest of free-to-use online tools & goodies

@ SC LIBRIS 2014

What's it about?

One of the most amazing things about the Internet is its wealth of free, high-quality resources. Come learn about some free, online sources for video and infographic creation, productivity tools, and image and audio sources and software. We'll also compare free and paid options for some services and see examples of what you can create. This whirlwind tour will cover more than twenty resources, so you should be able to find at least one new tool for your professional (or personal) toolkit!



9:30AM Madren Center Meeting Room 1



Your Presenter

Facebook @clemsonlibrary

Diana Finkle

Instructional Designer
Clemson University Libraries

R.M. Cooper Library

864-656-6374

dfinkle@clemson.edu

clemson.edu/library

eNewsletters

MailChimp

mailchimp.com

- + 2,000-person mailing list
- + 12,000 emails per month
- + Templates available
- Subscriber management can be difficult
- Recipients must allow images



\$ *10 a month is lowest paid tier*

Realtime Polling

Poll Everywhere

polleverywhere.com

+ 40 responses per poll

- Requires Internet connection or smart device (phone)
- Branded

Poll Question:


What's your favorite color? Red, Blue, or Green


How will my audience respond?


Open Ended
Your audience can respond with anything.
You can set more advanced options later.


Multiple Choice

Clickable Image

 Text Wall

 Word Cloud

 Cluster

 Ticker

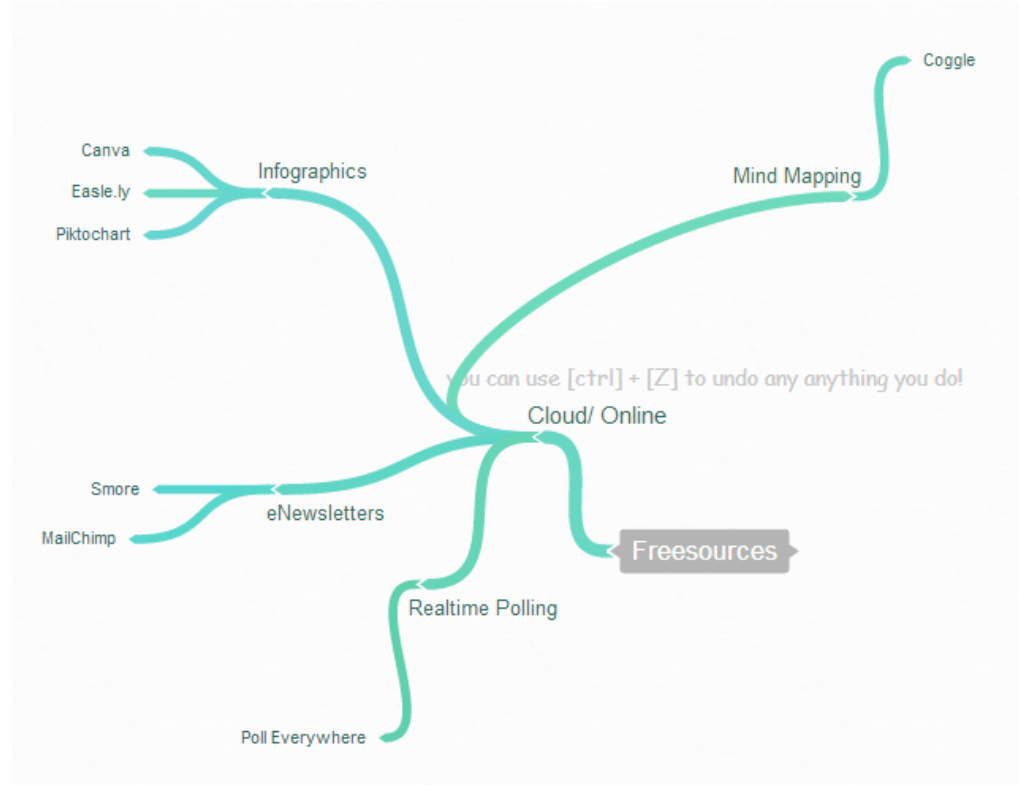
\$ 15 a month is lowest paid tier

Mind Mapping

Coggle

coggle.it

- + Share, embed, or download
- + Supports collaboration
- Sign-up required (Google)
- Formatting via **Markdown**

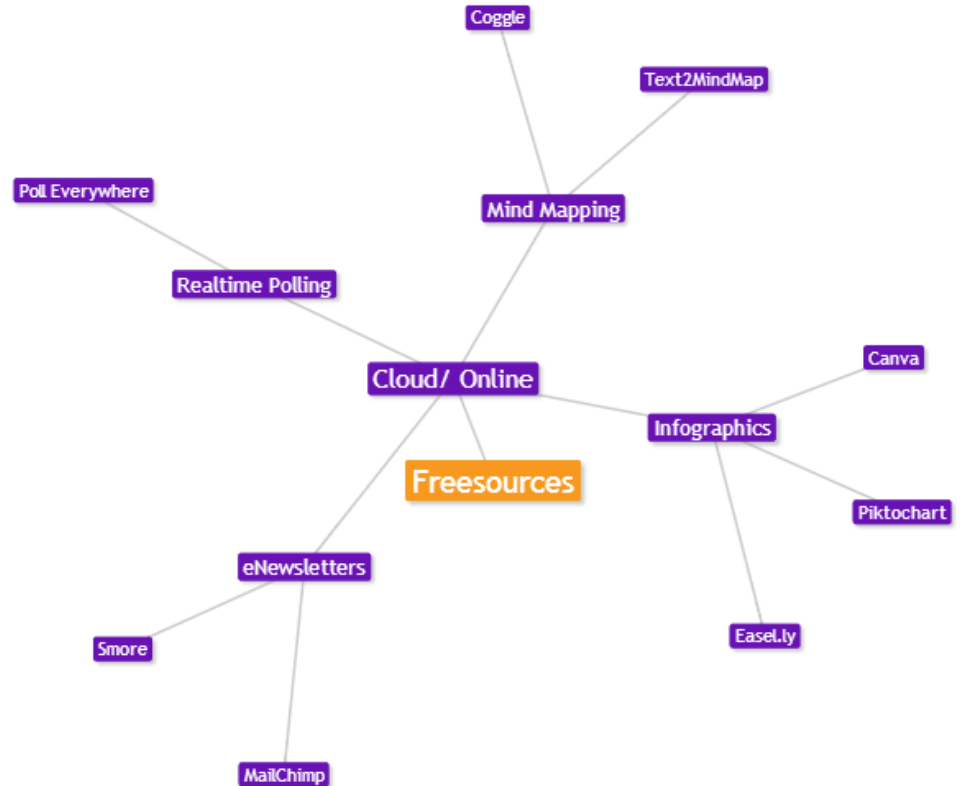


Mind Mapping

Text2MindMap

text2mindmap.com

- + No account required
- + Gives view-only and edit links
- + Download as PDF or JPG
- Limited color customization



Miscellaneous

Doodle Polls

doodle.com

- + Poll on days & times
- + Allows anonymous response
- + No account required
- + Easy to create and use


- No color customization

Mutually agree on a time

Enter your name in the input field below and check the box for times that you are available.


Caturday
Poll initiated by Diana | 👤 0 | 💬 0 | ⌚ less than a minute ago

When is the best time for Caturday?

Table view 

0 participants

May 2014				
Mon 19	Tue 20	Wed 21	Thu 22	Fri 23
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



\$ 39 annual “private” subscription (30-day free trial)

Miscellaneous

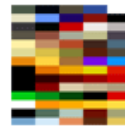
Sporcle

[sporcle.com](https://www.sporcle.com)

- + Search or browse available items
- + Create online quizzes & games
- + Social sharing options
- + No account needed to play

- Account required to create
- Limited quiz types

GERMAN: COLORS



Can you name the colors in German?

by  SporcleAdmin

Featured Feb 22, 2009

Enter color:

SCORE

0/10

TIMER

02:57



QR Codes

QR Stuff

qrstuff.com

- + No account required
- + Good color customization
- No usage tracking
- Download as PNG only



\$ *11.95 monthly subscription*

QR Codes

Delivr

delivr.com

- + Allows 25 codes
- + Provides usage data for past 90 days
- + Multiple download & color options
- It's still a QR code



*Paws added outside Delivr with EPS file

\$ *25 monthly subscription (100 campaigns)*

Social Media

HootSuite

hootsuite.com

- + Schedule social media posts
- + Track multiple feeds/ media on one screen
- Facebook restricts 3rd-party posting



\$ *8.99 monthly for multi-user account (30-day free trial)*

Social Media

Buffer

bufferapp.com

- + Schedule social media posts
- + Access basic analytics
- Facebook restricts 3rd-party posting



\$ 10 monthly for “Awesome” plan for “power users”

Social Media

Pinstamatic

pinstamatic.com

+ Pin places, dates, websites

- Can be slow/ buggy

The screenshot displays the Clemson University Libraries website. At the top, there are social media sharing buttons for Pin it, Like, Visit Site, Send, and Share. The main header features the 'CLEMSON LIBRARIES' logo and navigation links for 'Clemson Home', 'catalog', and 'databases A-Z'. The main content area is titled 'Clemson University Libraries' and includes a 'Library Home' section with links to 'Ask a Librarian', 'Start Your Research', 'Find Articles', 'Locate a Journal', 'Hours', and 'Where Can I Find?'. A 'Welcome to LibChat!' section is also present. On the right, there are three columns of links: 'FIND INFORMATION', 'LIBRARY SERVICES', and 'ABOUT THE LIBRARY'. Below these is a search bar with 'OneSearch', 'Library Catalog', and 'LibGuides' tabs. A 'LIBRARY NEWS BLOG' section lists recent updates. At the bottom, there are logos for 'RefWorks', 'Giving to the LIBRARIES', 'Digital Initiatives', and 'TIGER PRINTS'. A vertical 'Ask Us' button is on the far right edge.

Image Sources

freeimages

[freeimages.com](https://www.freeimages.com)

- + Good variety of quality photos
- + Allows searching by keyword, resolution, category
- Use Advanced Search --> Restricted OK
- Requires free account to download



**formerly sxc.hu*

Image Sources

Compfight

compfight.com

- + Excellent variety of photos (Flickr)
- + Provides CC information, attribution
- Photo credit in HTML format
- ! Pay attention to & respect licenses
- ! Track credit if downloading



By ucumari

\$1 stock photos (first results)

Image Sources

Open Clip Art

openclipart.org

- + Search and download images
- + No account required
- Results vary.



Image Sources

The Noun Project

thenounproject.com

- + Search and download icons
- Account required
- Attribution required (CC 3.0)



By Allison Dominguez

\$10 monthly for "personal" account

Image Sources

Graphic Burger

graphicburger.com

- + Search and download icon sets
- + Some available as vector images
- Requires graphic editor access/ knowledge

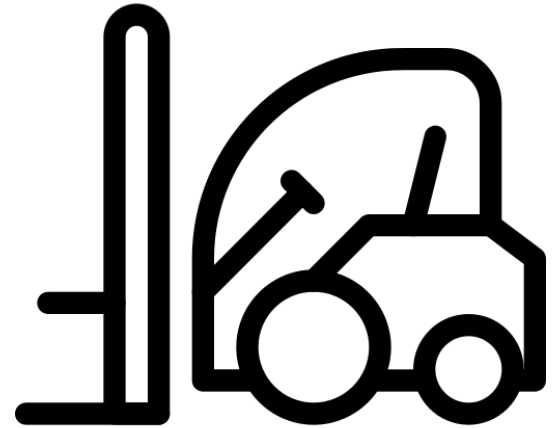


Image Manipulation

BeFunky

befunky.com

- + No account necessary
- + Excellent palette of tools
- + Social sharing connected
- + Download as JPG or PNG

- May be slow or freeze (Flash plug-in)
- Some effects cancel out others
- Undo option not always stepwise

\$ *4.95 monthly or \$24.95 yearly for “premium”*





Special skill: bibliomancy



PILAR ASSAULT #96

Image Manipulation

PicMonkey

picmonkey.com

- + No account necessary
- + Good palette of tools & themed tools
- + User-friendly interface with some tips
- + Download as JPG or PNG

- ! Premium options indicated by small crown

- Less “useful” effects

\$ 4.99 monthly or \$33 yearly for “royale”



Image Manipulation

GIMP (the GNU image manipulation program)

gimp.org

- + Offers most features of Photoshop
- + Works on many platforms
- + Old enough to vote

- Download



Image Manipulation

Sumopaint

sumopaint.com

- + Offers many features of Photoshop
- + Web-only
- Download work as PNG, JPG, or SUMO

\$ *19 lifetime license for desktop app*

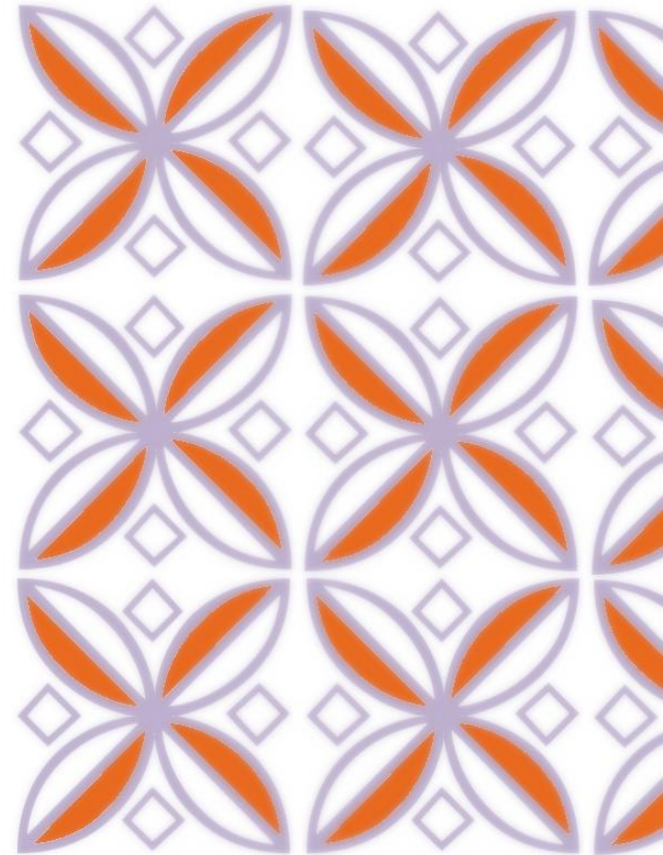


Image Manipulation

Inkscape

inkscape.org

- + Comparable to Adobe Illustrator (vector graphics)
- + Windows, Mac, and GNU/ Linux
- + Good tutorials available

- Download



INKSCAPE

Image Manipulation

Autotracer

autotracer.org

+ Unlimited downloads to multiple formats

Vector Magic

vectormagic.com

- Limited downloads (2)



Image Manipulation

LICEcap

cockos.com/licecap

- + Easily create animated GIFs
- ! Requires planning
- Download only



Audio Manipulation

Audacity

audacity.sourceforge.net

- + Recording, editing, and blending tracks
- + Noise removal, fade out, volume manipulation
- + Available for Windows, Mac, and GNU/ Linux

- Download
- mp3 export requires additional download

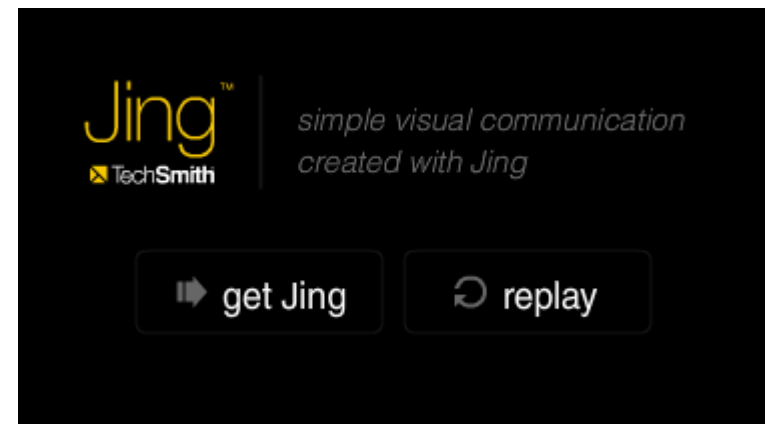


Video Creation

Jing

techsmith.com/jing

- + Available for PC or Mac
- + Good features (snap to window, no mic)
- Download only
- Shares via free Screencast.com account
- Saves only as SWF



Video Creation

PowToon

powtoon.com

+ Make colorful animated videos

! Attention to detail

- Requires sign-up
- Only share via YouTube
- PowToon branded (2-3 types)

\$ 16 annual “student” plan



Video Creation

Animoto

animoto.com

- + Videos from images & clips
- + Multiple style options
- ! 30-second length
- Requires sign-up
- Web-quality only

\$ 39 monthly or 249 yearly “pro” plan



Miscellaneous

Google URL Shortener

goo.gl

- + Shorten URLs
- + Track use over time
- ! Requires Google account

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1mRsPNrxYZQ5YqMAkZ7KWAPHgLIgiclOwK5WvIhZDiHk/edit>



<http://goo.gl/pEH8dm>

Miscellaneous

Google Docs Presentation

docs.google.com

- + Similar to PowerPoint
- + Good for cross-platform collaboration
- + Allows saving as PPTX, PDF, TXT, or image
- ! Requires Google account & Drive
- ! Fonts may not transfer

