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Workshop: Tagging, Bookmarking and Scholarly References: How Web 2.0 Technologies Benefit the Student, Scholar and Researcher

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ABSTRACT

A primary challenge for any student, scholar or researcher is organizing and managing the massive amount of content readily available in today's digital world. Several attempts have been made to provide solutions to this problem but many have fallen short of expectations. For example, many of the reference management software programs such as EndNote or RefWorks, as licensed products, are designed to support individual researchers in managing personal reference collections. On the other hand, the Web, and in particular Web 2.0, represents an approach to an evolving use of the Internet as a dynamic, participatory and collaborative medium for finding, organizing, managing, and sharing sources of information. This workshop introduces the use of user-defined tagging and social bookmarking within the context of an online freely available resource (CiteULike) for managing and sharing scholarly sources of information. These Web 2.0 technologies were introduced and implemented in an interdisciplinary NSF funded project focused on teaching students to effectively assess web site validity, engage in collaborative sharing and organization of scientific literature, and utilize technologies they were familiar with, social bookmarking and tagging, to research a scientific question and synthesize their findings. The benefits of sharing scholarly resources to facilitate collaborative work were demonstrated through this project.

Keywords

Academic references, scholarly references, social bookmarking, tagging, information sharing, collaboration

OUTLINE

The following topics will be covered:

Definition of tags - Tags are terms a user assigns to a resource as a way to aid in finding that resource later. Tags may be associated to Web pages, images or any other type of resource located on the Web.

Introduction to folksonomy and social bookmarking – Folksonomy, or the collaborative creation of tags, will be defined and the idea behind social bookmarking will be explored.

Creating a tagging structure - No hard and fast rules exist for building a tagging structure but applying logic and organization to the creation of tag names makes tagging more effective. Issues such as reducing tag name ambiguity, balancing specificity with usability and utilizing vocabulary control to address issues with synonyms and homonyms will be discussed.

Introduction to CiteULike – CiteULike is a resource designed to support the organization and sharing of scholarly sources. A basic introduction to the site and how it works will be presented.

Building a Library – CiteULike provides several options for building bibliographies. These include manual entry of source metadata as well as automated population of this data for sources retrieved from bibliographic databases and public repositories of scholarly works. Various methods for including sources in a library (also called a bibliography), including the use of the CiteULike 'bookmarklet' will be demonstrated.

Scholarly Networking – One of the powerful features of CiteULike is the ability to manage access to a library of sources. Libraries may be private, public or shared with a specific group of users. How CiteULike envisions and implements the concept of groups will be introduced and the process used for sharing libraries will be demonstrated.

The tutorial is intended to be of interest to a wide audience including students, faculty and anyone who engages in research or any other form of scholarly work. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet with Wi-Fi enabled to the presentation.

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