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Quick Takes—  
Content Curation  
Using  
Bag the Web



Brown Bag (with slits) created by Jeffrey Good. Available: <http://bit.ly/163264d>

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Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators both nationally and internationally on various aspects of technology use in schools. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provides a brief overview of an emerging technology along with examples of how educators are using this tool and further information available in the TICAL Resources Database.

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This Quick Take Asks...

- What is content curation?
- Why use Bag the Web?
- Where can I learn more?



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The Internet offers a boundless supply of digital resources, but what to do with links once found so they can easily be accessed later? This Quick Take focuses on a simple tool that educators can use to make digital resource management easy to do. This Quick Take addresses three questions: “What is a content curation?,” “Why use Bag the Web?” and, “Where can I learn more?”

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What is content curation?



Card Catalog by a trying youth. Available: <http://goo.gl/5D07X>

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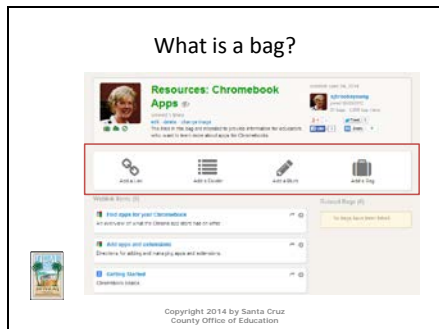
Not all that long ago, most people managed web-based and other digital resources using the Favorites or Bookmark feature of their Internet browser. More advanced users also used social bookmarking tools like delicious and Diigo, but sharing links with others wasn't necessarily seamless. With the advent of Web 2.0 tools, where users can both consume and create content, a variety of tools are now available that make it much easier to collect and share links. Beth Kanter, a consultant who helps non-profits maximize use of social media calls this content curation, “The process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.”

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Bag the Web is a web-based tool that works well for content curation in an educational setting, particularly for relatively static lists of 5 – 12 resources. Bag the Web accounts are free. Educators and students can create bags for any audience on any topic, making them perfect for use with administrators, teachers, students, even parents. And, because they are easy to set up and maintain, even the most busy administrator can establish and update bags to share with various groups.

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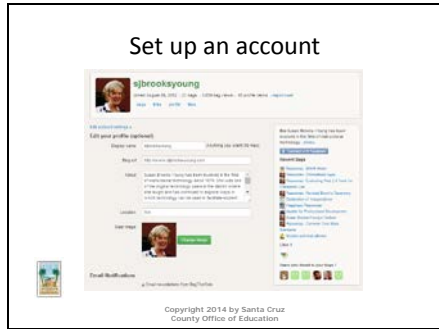
A Bag allows a user to make annotated lists of links to websites or create your own blurbs featuring text, images, and more. Dividers can be used to sort links into subgroups and it's possible to link bags within other bags.

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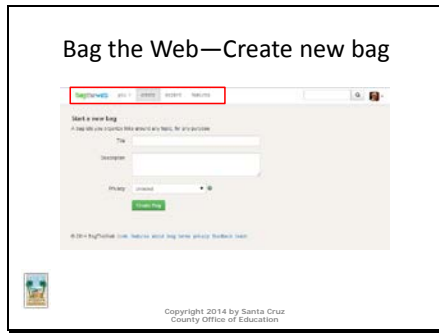
Here are examples of various links in a bag. Anything that can be digitized and posted somewhere online can be added to a bag.

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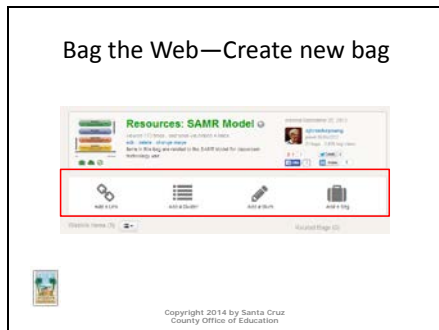
Setting up an account takes just a couple of minutes. Begin by filling out the simple registration form and decide if you want to received notifications from Bag the Web. That's it!

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Once you have an account, it takes just one click to create a new bag. While you are initially working on a bag, the default privacy setting is unlisted. Once completed, a bag can be public or private, but usually are public so that they are available to a wider audience than is possible with private bags.

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Once a new bag is created, you decide how resources will be organized, annotated, and presented. It's easy to create and maintain bags, but there are some things to think about including keeping the overall bag simple—you don't want too many resources, use of dividers for organization, moving links within the bag, and so on.

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Remember—initially bags are unlisted. Once yours is ready to share, click the edit option just below the bag’s title and then Change the privacy setting from Unlisted to Public.

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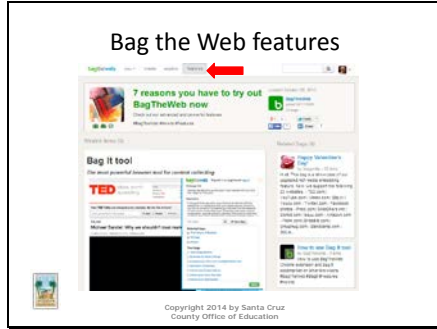
Bag the Web offers a Chrome extension and a bookmarklet to make adding new resources while surfing the Web a snap. Just follow the simple directions provided to access either tool.

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Click on explore to look at featured bags you may be able to use with students or share with colleagues.

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Check out the Bag the Web blog for additional information about using the tool by clicking the Features link at the top of the page.

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Bag the Web also offers help. Use the URL shown on this slide to learn more.

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Bag the Web can be used for professional development, committee work, staff materials, parent information, instructional materials. For example, this is a screenshot of a bag that is a collection of links to information about evaluating Web 2.0 tools for classroom use designed for use in a professional development workshop or as an on-going resource for school staff.

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**Learn more**

- Content Curation Primer at <http://goo.gl/fbW6F>
- 55 Content Curation Tools at <http://goo.gl/xslmT>
- Bag the Web at <http://www.bagtheweb.com/>




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This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about curating content and Bag the Web. The links provided on this slide lead to articles about content curation and the Bag the Web site.

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**Learn more—  
Sample Bags**

- Resources: Bloom's Revised Taxonomy bag at <http://www.bagtheweb.com/b/oxlMsb>
- Models for Professional Development bag at <http://www.bagtheweb.com/b/Brugdd>
- CCSS Sample Lessons bag at <http://www.bagtheweb.com/b/CIWi2C>



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This slide provides links to three sample bags, designed specifically for use by educators. Each of these resources can be found in the TICAL Resource database.

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**Thank you!**



Brown Bag (with staples) by Jeffrey Beaulieu. Available: <http://Pakr.fr/10Zkz61>



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Bag the Web offers exciting opportunities for educators to curate content and share information. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about this emerging technology.