

Webliographer FAQ

What is Webliographer?

Webliographer is one of the earliest web-based applications designed for managing and sharing bookmarks. The first usable version was available in October 1998. Now, there are many “social bookmarking” services on the web, but Webliographer is designed especially for classroom teachers.

Why use Webliographer?

It's important to understand the advantages of web-based bookmarks (“Social bookmarking” is the buzzword.) versus browser-based bookmarks. First, teachers and students can access these bookmarks anywhere - at home, at the library, in the classroom, on a friend's computer, etc. (No more writing cumbersome URLs on the board or manually adding them to the browsers on your classroom computers.) Second, the bookmarks are viewable and editable by all. There's great potential here for interdisciplinary collaboration.

What are some other advantages of Webliographer?

One feature that sets Webliographer apart from other social bookmarking websites is the fact that it tracks the use of URLs. When users click on a link, a counter updates the database. Links that receive more hits are promoted to the front page of Webliographer's display. A teacher can get a sense of whether or not a particular site was helpful or relevant to the users (primarily students).

With a bit of training, teachers can use Webliographer to make clickable, annotated bookmarks available on all of their machines---without knowing HTML and without having access to a web server. All you need is an Internet connection, a user account, and the Webliographer URL:

<http://webliographer.com/fulton/>

How do I start using Webliographer?

It's easy! See the step-by-step instructions on the next page.

Using the Fulton High School Webliographer

Step 1: Request an Account

1. Go to the Fulton High School Webliographer homepage:
<http://webliographer.com/fulton/>
2. Click on the “How to Participate” link in the upper left corner.
3. Follow the instructions on the page. After entering your preferred username and email address, click on the “Sign Me Up!” button. An email confirmation and temporary password will be delivered to you momentarily.
4. Check your email and return to Webliographer. Now, you can submit and verify your desired password on the “Edit Profile” page. Be sure to scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the “Submit changes” button.
5. Finally, you will be prompted to join the Fulton High School Webliographer. Simply click the link in the upper left corner to join.
6. OPTIONAL: As a registered user, you may join any Webliographer at webliographer.com. If you are interested, click the “Other Views” link to see the bookmark collections built by other teachers.

Step 2: Add some topics

1. Before you can bookmark URLs on the Fulton High School Webliographer, you must add your name and at least one subtopic to the list of topics. Using your password, login to the Fulton High School Webliographer.
2. Click on the “Topics” link in the upper left corner.
3. You will see a list of topics currently available in Fulton High School Webliographer. Note how the topics and descriptions are formatted.
4. IMPORTANT: When submitting topics, **always** use this exact format:

Your Name:Subtopic

Your name will be viewable to students and others who visit the Fulton High School Webliographer homepage, so think carefully about how you wish to format it and be consistent. Subtopics are general headings that appear beneath your name. These are the actual headings that you will use to sort and organize your favorite URLs.

5. After formatting topic:subtopic as described in step 4, type a short description of the links that you plan to add under the subtopic.
6. Skip the long description for now; scroll down and click the “Add Topic” button.
7. NOTE: Your topic:subtopic will NOT be viewable on the homepage until you add at least one URL, so move on to Step 3!

Step 3: Add URLs

1. It is best to use the tabs or multiple windows feature of your web browser, so you can toggle back and forth between your favorite websites and Webliographer.
2. While still logged in, click on the “Add URL” button in the upper left corner. Manually enter or cut and paste the URL of the site you wish to add to Webliographer.
3. For the “Name” field, enter a specific label that identifies the contents of the page precisely. Sometimes, if you are bookmarking a page within the context of a larger site, the “Name” is simply the title of that page.
4. For the “Title” field, enter a longer label. Often this is the official name of the site.
5. In the “Description” field, you can precisely annotate the site using your own words, or cut and paste a description taken from the site itself.
6. IMPORTANT: After “Description,” click the pop-up menu and select the topic under which you want the URL to appear. Then, click the “Add URL” button.