

Social Bookmarking the World Assembly: (An experiment)

What is social bookmarking?

Social bookmarking is a way of **storing and sharing links to useful information online**. You can categorize links using 'tags', allowing others to easily find a collection of web-links grouped together about a shared theme.

How can it help at the Civicus World Assembly?

If everyone at the World Assembly creates a 'social bookmark' link to some of the following:

- Information online about their organisation
- Anything they post online about the World Assembly
- Any useful information they think is linked to the themes discussed during the assembly

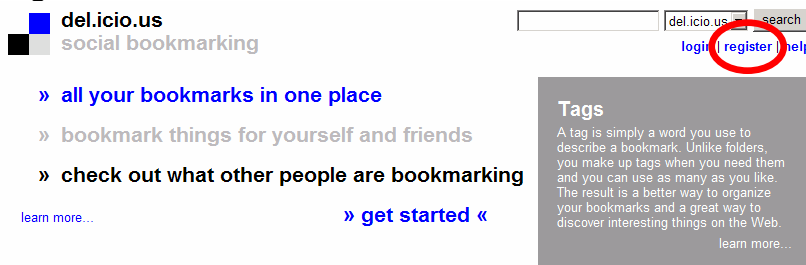
Then we will end up with a rich directory of resources, reflections and ideas, built from the shared experiences of participants in the Civicus Youth Assembly and Civicus World Assembly.

How can I do it?

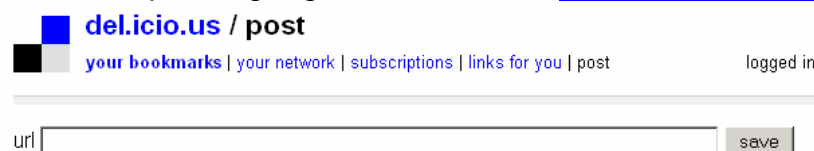
There are a number of different social bookmarking tools. One of the largest is called 'del.icio.us'.

To use del.icio.us

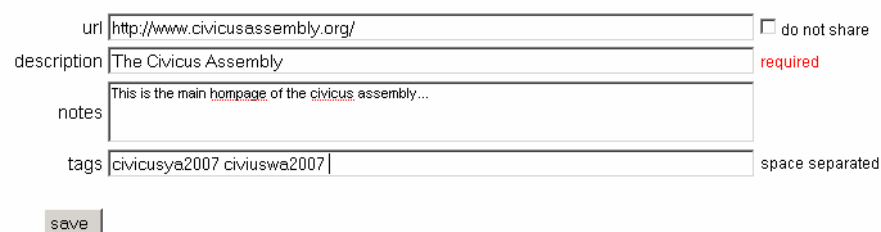
1. Visit <http://del.icio.us/> in a web browser
2. If you do not yet have an account with del.icio.us, click the 'register' link and follow the registration instructions.



3. When you want to add a link to a resource, either use the 'browser buttons' that you will have set up during registration, or visit: <http://del.icio.us/post/>



4. Enter the web address of the site or resource you want to link to and click 'Save'
5. Enter a description for the link and option notes



6. Add the tags 'civicuswa2007' or 'civicusya2007' to the tags box. **This is the important bit!**
7. Add any other words in the 'tags' section that describe your link. For example, if it is a paper on accountability, you might add the tags 'paper' 'accountability'. Or if your link is to

your organisations website and you work on agricultural issues, you might add the tag 'agriculture'

8. Save your link.
9. You can now visit: <http://del.icio.us/tag/civicusya2007> or <http://del.icio.us/tag/civicuswa2007> to start looking at the links other people have contributed.

Viewing and using links:

As the number of links associated with the 'civicuswa2007' and 'civicusya2007' tags builds up, tools will become available on the webpages at <http://del.icio.us/tag/civicusya2007> and <http://del.icio.us/tag/civicuswa2007> to start filtering the different links by the other tags they are associated with. This would allow you to find, for example, all the links that delegates have 'tagged' as associated with donor accountability.



Using other social bookmarking sites/blogs/photo sharing

If you are blogging about the World Assembly or Youth Assemblies, sharing photos on a website like www.flickr.com or you are using another social bookmarking website to record useful links... then e-mail tim@practicalparticipation.co.uk and we'll be able to explore 'aggregating' your online posts with those made through <http://del.icio.us>.

TAGS:

I'm suggesting that the key tags for the World Assembly and the Youth Assembly could be:

World assembly: [civicuswa2007](http://del.icio.us/tag/civicuswa2007)

Youth assembly: [civicusya2007](http://del.icio.us/tag/civicusya2007)

You could use these tags on photo-sharing websites as well, to help us build up a dynamic picture of the assembly in action...

An experiment

Social bookmarking has great potential to enable delegates at a conference to follow up shared themes and information during and following the event. However, I've not yet seen it used on the scale of the Civicus Assemblies. So this is an experiment – to see how it can help us to be inspired by each other, to forge stronger links with one another, and to share through new technologies.

If anyone has experience to share of using social bookmarking, or if anyone would like to explore the ideas more – please do e-mail me: tim@practicalparticipation.co.uk