

Work Smarter: New Research Tools on the Web

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Getting Started Today

- Firefox provides the most flexibility when working with many of these tools. If you usually use Internet Explorer, you may want to give Firefox a try today.
- In your browser, please go to tinyurl.com/worksmarter09 to tell us what you'd like us to learn more about today. You can use this handout to read a little more about each tool before we begin.

Tools for Searching and Discovering Information

[LibX, lib.utexas.edu/tools](http://lib.utexas.edu/tools)

Purpose: Search the University of Texas Libraries resources no matter where you are on the Web.

Why it's great: Easy to install Firefox add-on. Search the Library Catalog, Google Scholar, and more using the LibX toolbar. Conduct a search of the Catalog by highlighting and right-clicking on words on any website. Use cues displayed in websites (Amazon, Wikipedia, etc.) to see if the Libraries have related resources.

Similar tools: CD/DVD Search Plug-in, OpenURL Referrer, Library Catalog Search Plug-in, all found on the Library Widgets page at www.lib.utexas.edu > Research Tools > Library Widgets

[Google Books, books.google.com](http://books.google.com)

Purpose: Search full scanned texts of out-of-copyright books, as well as partial text of magazines and copyrighted works.

Why it's great: Search inside a book to see if it has the content you're looking for and save yourself a trip to the library. Also search decades of fully scanned magazines, great for finding advertisements.

Similar tools: Amazon's "Search Inside this Book" feature, Project Gutenberg, Archive.org texts

[Google Scholar, scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)

Purpose: Discover scholarly information (peer-reviewed papers, theses, preprints, etc.) on the Web

Why it's great: Multidisciplinary. When used through the Libraries website, allows full-text access to articles and other information found in our database and journal subscriptions.

Similar tools: Library databases, accessible through Research Tools > Find Articles Using Databases

Tools for Organizing Information

[Delicious, delicious.com](http://delicious.com) (Demo account: utsocialsoftware Password: utexas07)

Purpose: Save and organize your bookmarks

Why it's great: Social bookmarking moves your bookmarks out of your browser and to the Web where they can be accessed remotely and shared with a larger audience. Once tagged, bookmarks can be sorted, searched, and shared.

Similar tools: Diigo, Simpy, CiteULike (scholarly references), Connotea (aimed at scientists)

[Diigo, diigo.com](http://diigo.com) (Demo account: utdemo Password: library)

Purpose: Save and organize your bookmarks through groups and communities

Why it's great: In addition to leading bookmarking sites, allows for group book marking and creating lists and slideshows of your bookmarks. Other, simple features include being able to preview your bookmarks within Diigo as well as to highlight and annotate your bookmarks.

Similar tools: Delicious, Simpy, CiteULike (scholarly references), Connotea (aimed at scientists)

[Zotero, zotero.org](http://zotero.org)

Purpose: Organize all of your citations in one place, no matter what format, no matter where you are.

Why it's great: Zotero captures all of the citation information for you, with a click of a button. Import book information from the library catalog or Amazon.com, article information from a database, or even video information from YouTube. Choose your citation format, and your bibliography is done.

Similar tools: Other citation managers, such as NoodleBib, accessible at lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib/

[Remember the Milk, rememberthemilk.com](http://rememberthemilk.com)

Purpose: Create categorized to-do lists, either for yourself or a group.

Why it's great: Prioritize, manage, and organize your to-do lists by topic, subject, or location. Create email, text, or chat reminders about tasks. You can even export your tasks to a common calendar or RSS feed.

Similar tools: Todoist, Zoho Planner, Gmail Tasks

Tools for Collaborating

URL Shorteners (See similar tools for options)

Purpose: Shorten long URLs

Why it's great: Makes it easier to share website addresses via email and chat without the link breaking across lines. Choose the alias you want to use with tinyurl.com. Get fewer characters with is.gd. Install the Firefox add-on or bookmarklet that the service offers for easy use.

Similar tools: tinyurl.com, is.gd, bit.ly, j.mp, cli.gs

[Meebo, meebo.com](http://meebo.com)

Purpose: Chat with your collaborators from any browser.

Why it's great: Provides a web platform your MSN, Yahoo, AOL/AIM, MySpace, Facebook, Google Talk accounts. Allows you access to multiple chat accounts through one Meebo account. Allows you to create a chat widget that can be embedded on any website. Create chat rooms for conversation between more than two collaborators.

Similar tools: Trillian and Digsby support multiple chat accounts, but aren't web-based and require the installation of a chat client.

[Digsby, digsby.com](http://digsby.com) (Windows only, requires a free download)

Purpose: Chat with your collaborators using any instant messaging service (like Meebo) plus receive notifications and previews of new emails from multiple accounts.

Why it's great: Facilitates multi-tasking and email access without taking up valuable desktop space.

Similar tools: Trillian, Meebo, Pidgin, Adium (Mac)

[Bubbl.us](http://bubbl.us) (Demo account: utdemo Password: library)

Purpose: Brainstorm ideas and plans, using a visual interface

Why it's great: Moves list-making and task organization to a collaborative, visual platform. Add links to your brainstorm bubbles to keep all of your information in one place. Try 2.0 Beta version to get more functionality. Create an account to store and share mind maps.

Similar tools: Mindmeister, Freemind

[Google Docs, docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com) (Demo account: utdemo Password: library)

Purpose: Create and store documents, spreadsheets, and presentations and invite others to collaborate

Why it's great: Edit documents online with whomever you choose. Chat while collaborating in spreadsheets and while viewing presentations.

Publish documents to the web. Create online forms that can populate spreadsheets. Embed a spreadsheet into your blog or website. Embed video and images into your presentation.

Similar tools: Zoho, ThinkFree

[Google SideWiki, http://www.google.com/sidewiki](http://www.google.com/sidewiki) (Install Google Toolbar with SideWiki)

Purpose: Discuss the content of any website, even if there isn't a place to provide comments.

Why it's great: Engage and rank the usefulness of other's comments in the context of specific web content. Add feedback to confusing pages to help others or point out not-to-miss features.

Similar tools: Disqus comments

[Readability, http://lab.arc90.com/experiments/readability/](http://lab.arc90.com/experiments/readability/)

Purpose: Removes clutter (formatting, ads, images, sidebars, etc) around text online to make it easier to read.

Why it's great: Easy to install bookmarklet with one-click functionality. Makes it easier to read long texts online. Specify your preferred style, size, and margins and then store those preferences in the bookmarklet.

Additional Resources

- [Lifehacker, lifehacker.com](http://lifehacker.com) - A blog featuring tips for getting things done smarter and more efficiently.
- [Library Widgets, lib.utexas.edu/tools](http://lib.utexas.edu/tools) - Other tools to help you find, organize, and collaborate.
- [Ask a Librarian, lib.utexas.edu/ask](http://lib.utexas.edu/ask) - Need help? Chat, call, or email a librarian.

