



Castles in the Sky: Collaboration and Organization Methods in a Digital Age

A Presentation for Faculty Development Day by Mark Zubarev

Since the appearance of the iPhone in 2007 and the iPad in 2010, smartphones and tablets have been working to completely transform the way people approach and consume information. We now live in an era where almost anyone can possess a device, in many cases small enough to fit in a pocket, capable of accessing the entirety of information known to humanity. Rather than just have it continue to be used by people to look at pictures of cats and get into arguments with strangers, this presentation will showcase a few better ways to create and share information in an always on-the-go world. We will demonstrate mobile and desktop tools to make your life better so you have constant and reliable access to your notes, citations, and heck — your entire hard drive. Stop by and learn how to make a constantly transforming information landscape better work for you and your students, courtesy of your librarians.

The following is a list of terms and available services that can be used to create, teach, and share a variety of information.

The cloud is essentially a computer network, though in everyday language it is used to refer generally to the Internet. When someone speaks about something being in “The Cloud”, they mean that the material in question is not stored and accessed locally from one computer. Instead, it is stored on a distant server on the internet where it can be retrieved, edited, and stored again.



Delicious is a free social bookmarking website. Social bookmarking is a service that allows for the creation of lists of web links that can be edited and annotated. Delicious is the oldest of those sites still in use and has an iPhone app. You can log in to access your bookmarks from any computer, as they are stored in the cloud.

Dropbox is a storage service that exists in the cloud. This service allows you to store any digital file (e.g. photos, documents, and videos) that can then be quickly accessed both from the site and via desktop and mobile apps. In addition, you can share documents and folders with others. Dropbox offers its users 2GB for free, and you can purchase additional space if needed.

Google Drive is the recently revised version of Google Docs. Google Drive allows for the creation of documents including spreadsheets and presentations that can be stored, edited, and accessed from the cloud. Collaborating on documents using Drive is easy.

Blackboard is a web-based system that allows instructors to design and organize a virtual classroom.

eReserve is a service provided by the library that allows students access to course readings submitted by a professor from any internet connected computer. Materials on eReserve could include documents like syllabi, book chapters, journal or newspaper articles, or web links. Access to eReserve is restricted to students registered for that class.

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