Curation for Educators

“A content curator is a person who finds, collects, organizes and shares the most relevant and the best items for a particular collection. With this, digital content curation is basically archiving and curating within the digital world.”

There are so many sites for students to use in research that sometimes searching for the best information can take over from the important task of analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating information. By collating and curating relevant sites in advance, we can make this task more effective and efficient for students in your classroom.

Curation can include the following objectives:

1. Aggregation
   - filtering sites for a specific topic to support student research.

2. Distillation
   - find the most relevant sites for a topic to stop students losing track of the intended learning.

3. Elevation
   - bring hard to find information together.

4. Mashup
   - bring together information from places others won’t look to ensure new concepts are considered or learnt.

5. Chronology
   - make a flow of learning, or historical fact to guide student understanding around a specific topic.

There are many curation sites that we may use in our personal world. Pinterest is a great example of this, however often Pinterest is not available in schools due to filtering or concern for inappropriate content. Below are some sites that have been developed for educational settings.

Step 1

Explore the sites and example curation collections below. Watch the videos and read some information on the sites to understand how it might suit your skills, needs and outcomes. Consider which might be best for your classroom situation.
Microsoft in Education

Educator Tutorial

| Tool          | Link                                | Example                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|                                                  |
| EduClipper    | https://educlipper.net              | Mr W's Musical Theatre Clipboard                |
| SymbalooEDU   | http://www.symbalooedu.com          | Stage 4 History                                 |
| Blendspace    | https://www.blendspace.com          | Salvador Dali – Madman or Genius?                |
| Pearltrees    | http://www.pearltrees.com           | 30 years of Space Shuttle History                |
| Learn.ist     | http://learni.st                    | The Dred Scott Decision and Education Category   |
| Microsoft OneNote | Create a Section or Page dedicated to links. Use a Table to collate. |

Step 2

Decide on a unit of work where you could use a curated collection of sites to your best advantage to focus and direct student research and learning. Follow the three steps below to begin your first curation.

1. Create a login at your favorite site

2. Watch a tutorial or two on your chosen tool. Most curation tools will have a tutorial on their site or you can always search YouTube for ‘How to use XXXXX’

3. Start curating sites

4. Consider how you will share the link your curation collection has created.