Choosing a Content Curation Tool

There is a wide variety of content curation tools available and before you choose one it is important to think carefully about the purpose of your project, who is involved and exactly what you hope to accomplish.

Focus Questions:

1. Who is my target audience?

2. What is my content scope? Where is this content found?

3. Who will be responsible for curation and upkeep?

4. How long will this project continue? Is it for a specific time/unit or open-ended?

5. Where will this project be displayed? How do I want others to access it?

If you will be using this tool with students you may also want to consider:

1. Is it easy (and free) for students to set up their own accounts?

2. Can students add content/comments/notes on other students' projects?

3. Do I want students to use it individually or in groups?

4. How much time will students be required to spend curating their projects? Will I give them time in class or expect them to do this at home?

Checklist to Evaluate a Tool

	Yes	No	Comment/Notes
Is it free? If not, does it fit my budget?			
Is it hosted online?			
Are the instructions provided clear, organised and easy to access?			
Is it easy to use and not intimidating to new users (including students)?			

	Yes	No	Comment/Notes
Does it allow multiple formats of information (images, WebPages, videos, etc.)?			
Can I easily embed it into other platforms?			
Is it searchable?			
Can I organise information into folders/tabs/sub-tabs etc.?			
Can I curate more than one topic with my account? How many?			
Can it be shared easily with others? How?			
Does it allow collaboration?			
Can I automatically alert others when I add new content (e.g. through RSS feeds)?			
Does it allow me to add comments and/or annotate content?			
Does it allow others to leave comments and/or annotate content?			

	Yes	No	Comment/Notes
Does it suggest and bring in content for me to sort through and evaluate?			
Am I able to bring in content that I find myself?			
How much 'maintenance' is required? How often will I (or my students) need to commit in order to use this tool effectively?			
Does it create an attractive end-product that is clear and easy to negotiate (e.g. not a lot of scrolling)?			
Does it show advertising?			