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Quick Takes—  
Content Curation Using  
LiveBinders




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Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators both nationally and internationally on various aspects of technology use in schools. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provides a brief overview of an emerging technology along with examples of how educators are using this tool and further information available in the TICAL Resources Database.

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This Quick Take Asks...

- What is content curation?
- Why use LiveBinders?
- Where can I learn more?



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The Internet offers a boundless supply of digital resources, but what to do with links once found so they can easily be accessed later? This Quick Take focuses on a simple tool that educators can use to make digital resource management easy to do. This Quick Take addresses three questions: “What is a content curation?,” “Why use LiveBinders?” and, “Where can I learn more?”

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What is content curation?



Card Catalog by a trying youth. Available: <http://gen.gi/50V7X>

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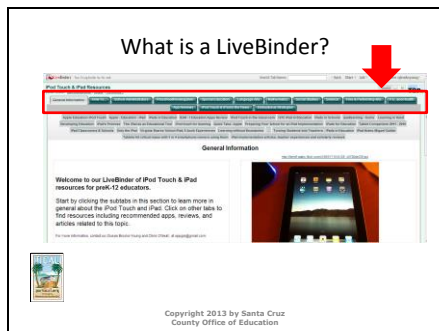
Not all that long ago, most people managed web-based and other digital resources using the Favorites or Bookmark feature of their Internet browser. More advanced users also used social bookmarking tools like delicious and Diigo, but sharing links with others wasn't necessarily seamless. With the advent of Web 2.0 tools, where users can both consume and create content, a variety of tools are now available that make it much easier to collect and share links. Beth Kanter, a consultant who helps non-profits maximize use of social media calls this content curation, “The process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.”

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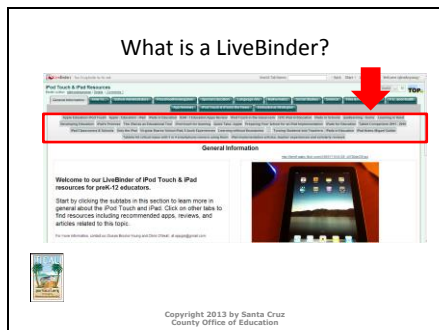
LiveBinders is a web-based tool that works well for content curation in an educational setting. A basic LiveBinder is free. LiveBinders can be created by both educators and students, and support online collaboration by allowing multiple authors to work on a single binder. Binders can be created for any audience on any topics, making them perfect for use with administrators, teachers, students, even parents. And, because they are easy to set up and maintain, even the most busy administrator can establish and update binders to share with various groups.

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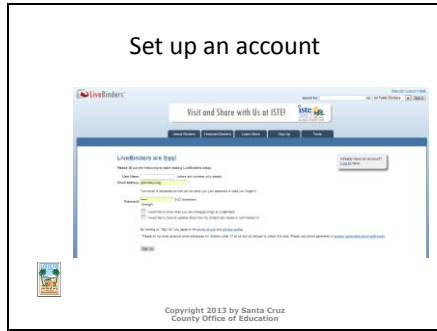
A LiveBinder is a digital 3-ring notebook. Like physical 3-ring notebooks, LiveBinders are organized using Tabs—the equivalent of dividers.

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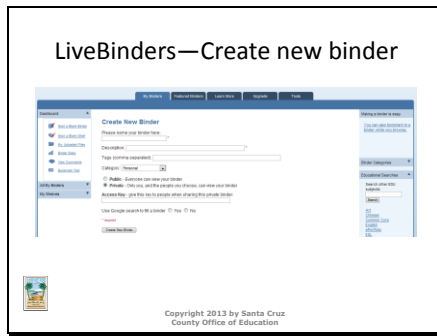
Every tab can then be home to sub-tabs, which are the equivalent of notebook paper. Anything that can be digitized can be included in a LiveBinder.

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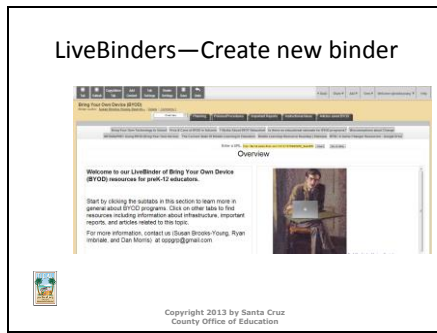
Setting up an account takes just a couple of minutes. Begin by filling out the simple registration form by adding a username, email address, and password. Then decide if you want to received notifications from LiveBinders, and click Sign Up.

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Once you have an account, it takes just one click to access the form used to begin a new binder. A LiveBinder can be public or private, but usually are public so that they are available to a wider audience than is possible with private binders.

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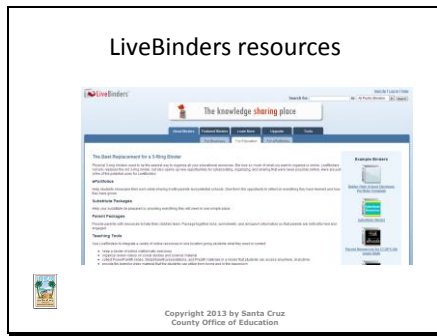
Once a new binder is created, you decide how resources will be organized, annotated, and presented. It's easy to create and maintain binders, but there are some things to think about including use of different page styles, titles for primary tabs that facilitate categorizing subtabs, use of graphics, and so on.

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LiveBinders can be shared in a variety of ways. For example, you can email the Website address, post a link via Twitter or Facebook, even embed the binder on a webpage. Any updates made to the LiveBinder after it's been shared are immediately accessible to anyone who has the link. Public binders can also be accessed via Internet searches using a browser or within LiveBinders.

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The LiveBinders site offers quick access to a variety of helpful resources. It's a good idea to start with the For Educators sub-tab on the About Binders tab. This area includes suggestions for preK-12 use of LiveBinders as well as links to sample binders.

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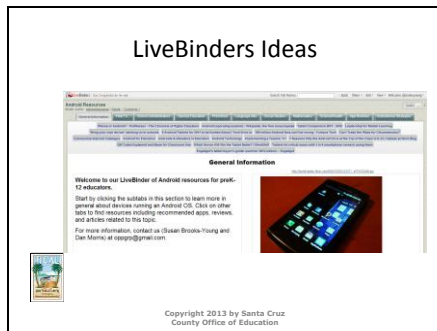
It's possible search the LiveBinders website to find public binders using several different quick search options as shown on this slide. The screenshot here depicts an example of a public shelf of LiveBinders. Public shelves for one author can be accessed by anyone who searches within LiveBinders using the creator's name.

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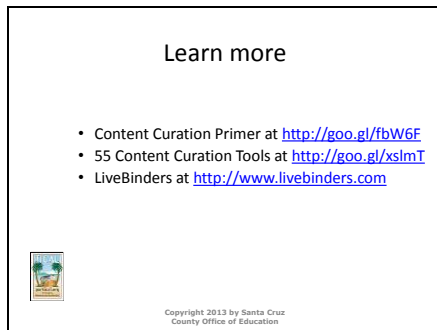
Another way to search for binders within the LiveBinders site is to look at Featured Binders as shown here.

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LiveBinders can be used for professional development, committee work, staff materials, parent information, instructional materials. For example, this is a screenshot of a LiveBinder that is a collection of links to information about Android tablets designed for use in a professional development workshop or as an on-going resource for school staff.

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This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about curating content and LiveBinders. The links provided on this slide lead to articles about content curation and the LiveBinders web site.

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Learn more—  
Sample LiveBinders

- iPod Touch and iPad Resources LiveBinder at <http://bit.ly/LBUUSb> (Instructional Strategies tab)
- Android Resources LiveBinder at <http://bit.ly/LBUJH4> (Instructional Strategies tab)
- QR Codes LiveBinder <http://bit.ly/LBUZG3>



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This slide provides links to three sample LiveBinders, designed specifically for use by educators. Each of these resources can be found in the TICAL Resource database.

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Thank you!



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LiveBinders offer exciting opportunities for educators to curate content and share information. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about this emerging technology.