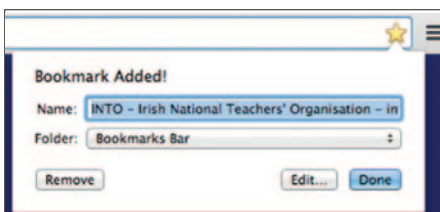


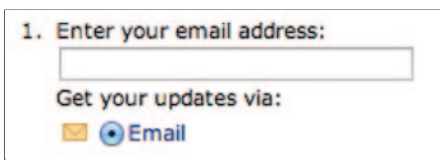
Managing professional information

The Internet is a rich source of teaching tips, tools and applications with potential for use in the classroom. As the professional in the classroom, the teacher decides what might work to enhance teaching and learning. Typically, we source this information from a limited number of websites/blogs initially and so information management is not an issue. Sites and blogs can be bookmarked in the browser you are using for reference later. Once bookmarked, you do not have to waste time engaging in that search again. Increasingly, we are accessing our information from a number of different devices so we may not have access to our bookmarks when required.



Adding a bookmark from the Chrome browser

Another option is to subscribe to blogs of interest by email. You will receive updates from the blog in question to your email account.

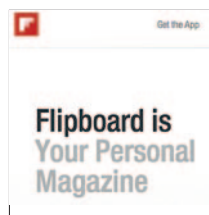


Subscribing to a blog

After subscribing to a number of blogs, the 'inbox' of your email account can be quickly populated with a deluge of postings from your blogs of interest. Many people prefer to manage this outside the email setting. In addition to blogs, online newspapers and journals are great sources of professional information. Once again, the management of updates from these sites can be a challenge. There are easier ways to do this than constantly revisiting the sites looking for updates or clogging up our email accounts.

Flipboard at www.flipboard.com (iOS, Android, Windows app) facilitates the curation of all preferred information feeds to one location for easy access on a daily basis. This can be likened to the creation of your personal magazine bringing together all your favourite sources of articles.

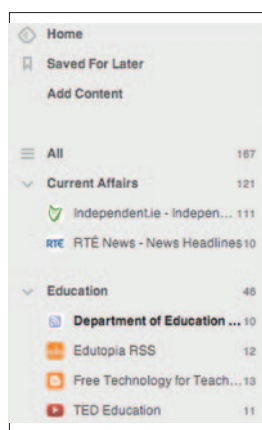
The articles are easy to read from this



*www.flipboard.com
Interface on Flipboard*

interface and associated pictures/images are included in the preview. A further advantage of Flipboard is the ability to follow twitter hashtags and accounts.

Feedly at www.feedly.com (web, iOS and Android) provides a similar service to Flipboard and also synchronises to the web thus ensuring content is accessible on all



Categories and feeds created in Feedly

'Affairs' and 'Education' have been created with a number of feeds into each category.

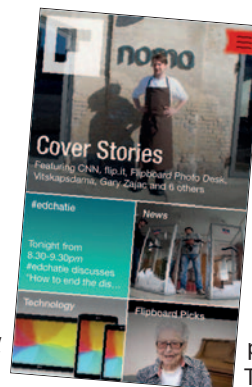


Saving and sharing options once an article is open in Feedly

Once an article is opened there are a number of options at that stage.

In this case, the feed is from the website of the Department of Education and Skills. The article can be saved for later or sent to a number of apps including Evernote, Readability and OneNote. It can also be shared using email, Facebook and Twitter links amongst others.

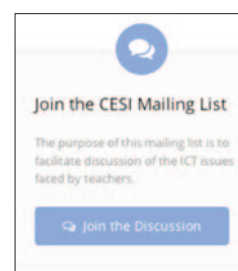
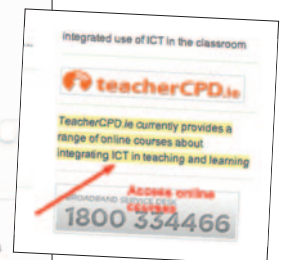
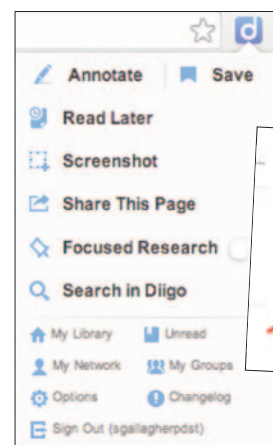
Diigo at www.diigo.com (web, iOS and



Android app) allows the bookmarking and categorising of all information feeds as mentioned previously. It also allows the highlighting and annotation of all content the reader comes across on the web. All can be saved to the online library using an array of tools accessed from the web browser.

On visiting the PDST website for example, one can highlight the fact that PDST Technology in Education offers online courses at TeacherCPD.ie and include an arrow and annotation to that effect. This annotation is saved in 'My (Diigo) Library'.

No teacher should feel they are living in professional isolation. There are ample opportunities to gather ideas from like-minded professionals. For anyone with an interest in the applications of ICT in education, the CESI mailing list at www.cesi.ie is a must.



There are also a number of subject/methodology related groups on Edmodo. Twitter is also a great way to make connections with organisations and individuals. Knowing who to follow is key otherwise you can find yourself wading through a lot of diverse information in the hope of finding the nuggets of golden information hoped for at the outset. In this era of information abundance at our disposal, we have an array of fantastic tools to assist us.

Compiled by SEÁN GALLAGHER, PDST Technology in Education.