I have taken a very literal approach with my learning environment, showing my laptop cradled in a pile of books. This represents the combination of physical and digital resources going into all my research processes and learning experiences. The icons for all my favorite digital learning tools are positioned on the laptop screen as well as the logos for my two institutions- Bryn Mawr College (the lantern) and the University of Oregon. From left to right, the logos fade from programs I use to create my school work to organizational tools to research tools and non-academic sources. Many of these tools overlap between work and play for me, so having them all mixed together in the computer made the most sense. I included Bryn Mawr and Oregon on the screen because, while they are both physical parts of my learning environment, they are also digital. Both institutions provide access to a variety of online databases and library catalogues. UO even has a chat system for connecting with a librarian. I’ve also employed all of these other digital tools in working through my education at these esteemed institutions, so it seemed silly not to include them in that realm.

I primarily use Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite/Cloud, and Scrivener to make my school work. Scrivener is obviously the least known of these- it’s a great word processor with tons of organizational features allow you to compile multiple documents into one, meaning you can separate sections as you write and keep all of your notes on hand. I became acquainted with this program last fall while writing my undergraduate thesis and never looked back. Wordpress has also been a big part of my academic experience, whether its maintaining my own site for various classes or referring to sites maintained by the instructor. This transitioned me organizational tools.

Ever since I started using computers regularly, I have been a Mac user so I primarily use those organizational tools- Mail, iCal, Reminders, etc. Mail also keeps me informed of everything from school work to sales to newsletters from my favorite organizations. Kindle is also central to this, as I use digital textbooks whenever possible and the annotation tools offered in the app are excellent. I included Firefox in the organizational section because this is my access point for a lot of my resources and I also use many of the organizational features such as bookmarks and tabs. Firefox is also the hub for my research tools, which is the next chunk of icons. Obviously Google and was first on the list. In an academic context, this of course includes Google Scholar and access to all the other major databases such as JStor and Encyclopedia Brittancia. On a day-to-day level, this includes random searches for news (also denoted by the new Apple News app, one of my favorites), answers to spontaneous questions, and “how to’s.”

I also included various social media sites as resources for learning my favorite theatre blog, Howl Round (the red and white H). Included in this group would be iTunes because of iTunesU and Podcasts, both of which have featured heavily in my learning experience. I’ve also included Pinterest and Kitchen Stories specifically my primary resources on lifestyle learning- cooking, crafts, beauty, etc. YouTube applies here as well, though the site also hosts many academic tutorials as well (Kahn Academy was a personal favorite getting through my math classes in undergrad). Lastly, I included my favorite quote from Aristotle’s poetics both as a nod to the theory supporting all of my work and as a representation of the little notebook of quotes I keep with me at all times. Of course, this image ultimately does not include every learning resource at my disposal or even that I have used. But these are definitely my most frequented tools and I often go here first when trying to tackle an assignment or just appease my curiosity.