

Glossary

- **Aggregator** – sometimes called News Aggregator or RSS Reader... it is the software that allows you to read RSS feeds. They can be downloadable software or available on the web.
- **Atom** – a new type of RSS.
- **Feed** – also known as a RSS Feed or RSS File, this is the actual source you want to receive information from.
- **OPML** – Outline Processor Markup Language is an XML format for outlines.
- **Reader** – also called *aggregator*.
- **RDF** – Resource Description Framework – describes a website's metadata.
- **RSS** – Rich Site Summary; RDF Site Summary; or Really Simple Syndication.
- **Syndicate** – when your site is syndicated, it has a RSS feed.
- **XML** – eXtensible Markup Language This is what RSS feeds are written in and a way to capture metadata.

Five resources for further investigation

- **News on Demand**
— Bob Stepno (July 2004)
<http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,116018,00.asp>
- **Using RSS: An Explanation and Guide** – Steven M. Cohen (December 2002) *Information Outlook*, Vol. 6, No. 12.
- **RSS for Non-Techie Librarians**
– Steven M. Cohen
<http://www.llrx.com/features/rssforlibrarians.htm>
- **Tutorial from Free Range Librarian**
– Karen G. Schneider (November 18, 2003)
http://freerangelibrarian.com/archives/111803/getting_started_with.php
- **Feed Your Head: Keeping Up by Using RSS**
– Roy Tennant (May 15, 2003) *Library Journal*
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/index.asp?layout=article&articleId=CA296443>

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RSS

What it means and how you can use it.



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RSS: What's All the Fuss?



RSS: Bringing content to you

RSS in a nutshell

How many times have you had to go out to your favorite websites to check on new content? Wouldn't it be so much easier if you could have that content come to you?

That's the basic concept behind RSS.

RSS allows you to find *feeds* of content that you can subscribe to.

Using a *news aggregator*, the *XML* file is converted into readable language, allowing you to scan through the headlines that have been delivered to you.

If you are interested in a headline or abstract of a feed, you can click on the link to go to that website and see it in full text.

While RSS is involved in blogs, we're focusing on receiving news headlines and content in this brochure, and RSS basics.



RSS News Aggregators

There are a number of choices for news aggregators (readers) out there; it's really a matter of personal choice. There are two types:

- downloadable software that will reside on your desktop; and
- those that are available through the Internet.

Many aggregators are free, but others charge a fee to use them. However, these fee-based readers often have trial versions to allow you to test them before buying.

The following are some of the more popular resources:

- **AmphetaDesk**
<http://www.disobey.com/amphetadesk/>
- **Bloglines**
<http://www.bloglines.com/>
- **FeedDemon**
<http://www.bradsoft.com/feeddemon/>
- **NewsGator**
<http://www.newsgator.com/ngs/default.aspx>
- **NewzCrawler**
<http://www.newzcrawler.com/>

Finding Resources for Feeds

There are several useful websites that can help you find RSS feeds to subscribe to.

- **LISFeeds** –
<http://www.lisfeeds.com/>
- **Moreover** –
http://www.moreover.com/categories/category_list_rss.html
- **NewsIsFree** –
<http://www.newsisfree.com/>
- **Syndic8** –
<http://www.syndic8.com/>

Follow these steps to get content delivered to you!

1. Go to a news aggregator's website and download the free or trial version.
2. Go out to your favorite websites or to the sites listed above and look for the RSS or XML logos, or for "syndicate this site."
3. Click on the logo and receive XML text. Copy that URL.
4. Return to your news aggregator and add the URL to your feeds.
5. Sit back and scan the feeds!