Chapter-4
Application of RSS in Libraries
Really Simple Syndication is a recent technology. RSS is an XML-based format that allows the sharing of Web site content. RSS feeds give frequent users of Web sites a streamlined and efficient mechanism for tracking updates without making individual visits to dozens or hundreds of Web sites.

RSS is now present on many commercial Web sites, ranging from news to blogs and are also gaining presence on library Web sites as a way to keep library users informed of current information.

RSS is a convenient way to keep the library users up-to-date with new content on the library website. Instead of having to click through the various sections of the library’s site to see what is new, users can have that information pushed directly to their computer! RSS has been adopted by many news services (The New York Times, National Public Radio, The Wall Street Journal, BBC News, etc.), blogs, and other commercial sites (WebMD, ESPN, Orbitz, People, Salon, Yahoo!, eBay, etc.).

APPLICATION OF RSS FEEDS IN THE LIBRARIES

There are various RSS feed applications for libraries. Wusteman lists and describes them as:

- New Acquisitions
- Library Events
- Library Blogs
- Newsgroups (General, University, Library)
- RSS-based search engines
- Help for Cataloguing
- Reference Service
- List of New Books
- New Databases
- Library Instruction
- Announcements about Workshops and Exhibitions
- Extended Services
- Table of Contents Services
- List of E-journals
- Web Resource Announcements
- Digital Content
- Selective Dissemination of Information
- Current Awareness Service
- Bibliographic Service
- Bulletin Board Service

LISFeeds.com, maintained by Blake Carver and Steven M. Cohen, aggregates global library related content from hundreds of sites. Most of the feeds are in English, but there are also Spanish and German postings. In contrast to RSS, LISFeeds contain fewer library feeds and many more individual blogs alongside feeds from the American Library Association and OCLC. Many libraries offer an all-in-one RSS feed. The content of these feeds covers a variety of topics.

In a digital environment in which users can manipulate and design information tailored to their specific needs, this approach can be too general. Increasingly, academic libraries are offering users a menu of RSS feeds to match their interests.

The examples below illustrate the diversity of electronic resources now available to library users and the unique feeds being used to promote them:
Library of Congress provide latest RSS feeds for general news from the library, library web site update, events of the library, collection preservation, digital preservation, music division. It is give latest update for librarian, teacher and readers.
Ohio University Libraries provides RSS feeds of the latest material acquired by the University Library. The feeds are listed subject wise in an alphabetical order.

Library Blogs
Several Ohio University librarians maintain weblogs (blogs) of either a general nature or relating to areas for which they serve as Subject Librarians.

For more information about blogs and the use of RSS feeds with research databases, see the links in the left sidebar.

Library News

News Blog (RSS)

Other General Blogs

FindOUT First (RSS)
New student info from the library, and other places. And about Ohio University. Especially UC 115 stuff. Maintained by Reference Librarian Sherri Saines.

OU Libraries Go Green! (RSS)
About efforts by the Libraries' staff to promote green and sustainable practices in the libraries.

Subject-Oriented

African Studies Blog (RSS)
"A forum for African issues, encourage the use of Africana library resources, and promote an understanding of the African continent, its peoples and its language. Types of information that will be included here are new additions to the Africana collection, newly published materials on Africa, book and other reviews, news items on Africa, announcements such as library workshops, conferences." Maintained by African Studies Subject Librarian Araba Dawson-Andoh.

Art Blog (RSS)
News and information for students doing art and film research at Ohio University. Categories include: Art History, Ceramics, Film, General, Human and Consumer Sciences, Interdisciplinary Arts, Painting, Sculpture, and Textiles. Maintained by Fine Arts Librarian Gary Genthner.

Business Blog (RSS)
News and information for students doing business research at Ohio University. Categories include: Business Topics, Class Projects, Company Info, Databases, General, Industry Info, and Resources. Maintained by Business and Economics Subject Librarian Chad Boeninger.

Communications Blog (RSS)
News and information for students doing communications research at Ohio University. Categories include: Communication Studies, Information and Telecommunication Systems, Journalism, Telecommunications, and Visual Communication. Maintained by Jessica Hagman and Dana Nichols.

Psychology Blog (RSS)
News and information for students doing psychology research at Ohio University. Categories include: Library News, Library How-To's, Research & Assignment Help, Psychology General Interest, and For Faculty. Maintained by Psychology Subject Librarian Anita Grant.

Southeast Asia Collection Blog (RSS)
The purpose of this blog is to promote and enhance public access to Ohio University Libraries' extensive holdings on Southeast Asia by making full use of all the latest available tools and technologies. Special emphasis will be given to informing students and faculty about new acquisitions on Southeast Asia. In addition to posting a monthly accessions list (citations only), every effort will be made to provide a brief description, and perhaps some analysis, of a few of the more important titles housed in the Southeast Asia Collection. Maintained by Southeast Asia Studies Subject Librarian Jeff Shane.
University of Alberta provides RSS feeds for library news, new ejournals, new books by library and subject, education news, law library news, news for engineering library. It provides many ejournals to RSS feeds.
National library of New Zealand provide RSS feeds for latest information of library news and library blog it also provide feeds for new list of books and electronic resources.
The University of Tennessee Libraries offers an "Electronic Resources News" feed for current information about databases, electronic journals, eBooks, and digital images. The Web page created for e-resource news also includes links to feeds on more general library topics, such as SciTech and Music and scholarly communication.

What's New at the Libraries

For the Latest News
- University Libraries News

New in the Library
- New items added to the catalog
- New & trial databases

Current and Upcoming
- Current exhibits
- Film Movement Series
- Studio short courses
- Writers in the Library

More News
- AgVetMed Library News
- Alpha Channel: The Studio
- Electronic Resources News
- Library Friends News
- Music Library News
- Scholarly Communication News
- SciTech News
- SciTech News - Chemistry Edition

What is RSS?
RSS, also known as Really Simple Syndication, is a file format used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. read more...

(http://www.lib.utk.edu/whatsnew)
The University of Oklahoma Libraries makes their LORA (Library Online Resources Access) news available via an RSS feed. As new databases and electronic content are added, subscribers to the feed will be notified. The entries for new electronic resources that are published for RSS readers are concise and brief so the users can quickly scan the entries.

To use these feeds, just click on the desired "RSS" links below and paste the resulting page's URL into your RSS reader.

New Electronic Resources
- New Ebook Titles

New Titles in Selected Collections
- New Children's Titles
- New Government Documents
- New History of Science Titles

New Titles Shelved by LC Call Number
(Click on a category name for more feed options)
- A - General Works
- B - Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
- C - Auxiliary Sciences of History
- D - History (General) and History of Europe
- E - History: America
- F - History: America
- G - Geography, Anthropology, Recreation
- H - Social Sciences
- J - Political Science
- K - Law
- L - Education
- M - Music
- N - Fine Arts
- P - Language and Literature
- Q - Science, Mathematics, Computer Science
- R - Medicine
- S - Agriculture
- T - Technology
- U - Military Science
- V - Naval Science
- Z - Bibliography, Library Science, Information Resources

(http://libraries.ou.edu/rss/)
The Australian National University provides new title lists of items recently catalogued in their Innovative Library system. Not all of the materials, though, are print resources. Subscribers to the “New Serial Titles” feed will find many individual electronic journals that are being catalogued and added to the library collection.

RSS is a way of making the Web come to you. A "feed" is a category of data. You need an RSS reader (also called an "aggregator") to subscribe to RSS feeds and to read them.

• Help with RSS readers / aggregators
• Background information about RSS

(http://anulib.anu.edu.au/epubs/innopacnewbooksrss.html)
The Concordia University library provides RSS feeds of the latest material acquired by the University Library. The feeds are listed subject wise in an alphabetical order.
Thomson Rivers University Library lists RSS feeds provided by online databases subscribed by the Library-EBSCO RSS Feeds, PROQUEST RSS Feeds and so forth.
The Lincoln University Library provided RSS feeds for General news/University news, library news and announcements. These libraries provided the feeds for latest additions to their institutional repositories.
An RSS feed will notify individuals when a new paper has been placed into the “e-scholarship” institutional repository hosted by the California Digital Library. The repository is a free, open access tool that allows the public the opportunity to read the scholarly output of the departments, centres, and research units throughout the University of California System.
The University of Maryland, Baltimore County extends the traditional notion of library electronic resources by offering an RSS feed for their streaming media collection.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill highlights its digital collection, "Documenting the American South," through a unique RSS feed. Subscribers will learn about additions to the southern history collection, which includes primary sources such as diaries, letters, oral history interviews, and books.
IIT Delhi (Central Library) provides RSS feeds for Library Announcements, and e-resources for INDEST/AICTE consortium users.

**List of Feeds Available**

- **What's new at IIT Delhi**
  http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/iitdfeeds_new.xml

- **Short Term Courses**
  http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/iitdfeeds_scourses.xml

- **Conference/Workshops, Symposiums**
  http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/iitdfeeds_conf.xml

- **Situation Vacant**
  http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/iitdfeeds_vacancy.xml

- **Central Library**
  http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/iitdfeeds_library.xml

**To view the IIT Delhi feed in your RSS FeedReader:**

- Copy the URL specified for each feed available.
- Paste the URL into your reader.

(http://www.iitd.ac.in/rss/)
IIT Bombay (Central Library) provides RSS feeds for new arrivals, subscription list, and exhibition of the library for all users of the library.

Central Library occupies a place of pride in IIT Bombay and is an essential component of the institute's outstanding research and education mission. It is a most lively place on the campus providing a safe, comfortable and friendly environment that enables learning and advancement of knowledge, and promotes discovery and scholarship. The mission of the Central Library is to facilitate creation of new knowledge through acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge resources and providing for value added services.

Library Catalogue - Search Books
Books Renewal

E-Resources: Usage Policy & Users Undertaking

Library Video

(http://www.library.iitb.ac.in)
IIT Kharagpur (Central Library) provide RSS feeds for theses and dissertation, digital repository, new publication for the users.
Vikram Sarabhai Library (IIM Ahmadabad) provide RSS feeds for new arrival, library events, exhibition, list of new books, news update and eresources.
CAEPHT Library (College of Agriculture Engineering & Post Harvest Technology) provides RSS feeds for all latest updates in the library latest news, new acquisition, and library events.

CAEPHT Library, one of the important central facilities of the College, currently has 4500 volumes, including textbooks, reference books, encyclopaedias and non-book material such as CD-ROMs, audio tapes. The Library also subscribes to about 24 current periodicals. All operations of the Library are automated with the help of an integrated library software package (LibSys). The database for the entire collection has been created and available through On-Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) to the users via campus network.

The mission of CAEPHT Library is to facilitate creation of new knowledge through acquisition, organization and dissemination of knowledge resources and providing for value added services.

CAEPHT Library being a member of DELNET (Developing Library Network), provides online access to Union Catalogue of Books, Union List of Current Periodicals, Database of Theses and Dissertations, MEDLINE & other databases of NLM, U.S. Patents: Full Text and Engineering & Technology E-Journals.

(http://www.caepht.ernet.in/library.htm)
Here are some other libraries who offer RSS feeds:

1. Georgia State University Library
2. Lunar and Planetary Institute, Centre for Information and Research Services
3. Minneapolis Public Library
4. Northwestern University Library
5. Rowland Institute at Harvard Library
6. Suburban Library System
7. University of Windsor, Leddy Library
8. National Diet Library, Japan
9. Russian State Library
10. Hamline Law Library
11. University of Virginia Libraries
12. Caltech Library Services
13. University of Technology, Sydney
14. RMIT University, Australia
15. Stanford University
16. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
17. Helsinki City Library
18. Alabama University Library
19. UM Health Sciences Library
20. Hennepin Country Library
21. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
22. National Library Board, Singapore
23. Harvard University
24. The New York Public Library
25. University of Nevada, Reno
26. Lloyed Minister Public Library
27. HKUST Library
28. Loudon Country Public Library
29. LANL Research Library
30. Primary Care Electronic Library
31. University of Arizona Library
32. UNBF Libraries
33. Minneapolis Public Library
34. University of Toronto Libraries
35. Northwestern University
36. University of Michigan
37. Flinders University Library
Many libraries and other units on campus, particularly those involved in
distance or online learning, are beginning to build collections of commercially
available streaming content to replace physical videocassettes and DVDs. Users
will also discover a wealth of locally created lectures, films, and music
performances that can be linked through the RSS feed and viewed freely when the
university holds the permissions.

RSS TECHNOLOGY AND TOOLS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT FEEDS
FROM LIBRARY WEB SITES

There are many fine Web sites, guides, and articles available that describe
the technical processes for libraries to create and publish RSS feeds. Gerry
McKiernan's RSS site has an extensive bibliography available that includes
primers and tutorials for content publishers (libraries) and Web or technology staff.
A library's first step in implementing an RSS feed is to decide on the version of
RSS that is to be used for publishing content. Currently, there is no standard for
RSS, and there are several versions that are widely used. Most RSS readers will
accommodate and support feeds from all of the available versions (RSS 0.91, RSS
1.0, and RSS 2.0). Then the library creates a description of the content it wants to
publicize or distribute in an XML-based format. Many content providers register
their RSS with a directory such as Syndic8 (http://www.syndic8.com/). Most
libraries will find it sufficient to provide a link or multiple links on their Web sites
that users can click on to add to their selected aggregator for collecting and reading
feeds.

For additional help to create a usable and effective RSS feed, Paul Miller's
article in Ariadne, "Syndicated content, it's more than just some file formats,"
presents a wonderful list of guidelines for good practice in the use of RSS. Ken
Varnum, a librarian at Tufts University, is the author of RSS4Lib. It is a weblog of innovative ways libraries use RSS.

Libraries that have well-organized Web sites and that already have added "What's New" or "Update" sections to their pages will be able to migrate their work quite easily over to an RSS feed. The technologies are already in place and widely used, and there are many good examples to draw upon. The tutorials, manuals, and books available on the topic should help any staff member familiar enough with technology to participate in Web site development and to take the next step to market the library's resources.

LIBRARIES CAN USE RSS FEEDS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS AS LISTED BELOW:

1. **Announce the availability of new books and materials in a given subject area:**

   New books in Wireless communication, mobile computing, computer security and computer networks in this example, Drexel's Engineering Resources blog announces availability of books in certain subject areas. Faculty and students subscribing to the feed can keep current with new book arrivals in the library. Australian National University provides RSS feeds of new books catalogued through its Innopac cataloguing system. It is envisioned that online cataloguing systems such as Innovative Interfaces will soon provide feeds of new titles catalogued based on user search queries. This is currently under discussion on the Innovative Users Group discussion list.

2. **Announce the availability of new electronic resources:**

   The Lupton Library of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga provides feeds of new electronic databases added to its collection. RSS feeds URL Automated Updates of New Databases to receive updates of new databases in any feedreader or in bloglines. Drexel's Engineering Resource blog announces new databases and electronic journals as they are added in the collection. Two New IEEE journals activated and TPSX Materials Properties Database from NASA for example. Since Engineering Resources blog provides RSS feeds of new items, faculty and students can keep up to date with availability of new resources. Drexel's Physics, Math and Bioscience blogs provide news, events and resources from the Drexel University Libraries relating to these important science subject areas. MIT Libraries News provides subject/topic based feeds for areas such as
DSpace, Engineering, Science and Scholarly Communication. Telford Science Library’s Science Library Updates provides useful informational updates in areas such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

3. **Promote events organized in the library to faculty and students**

Academic library blogs and their feeds can play an important role in promoting various library related events to faculty and students. RSS feeds can enhance any academic library’s outreach mission to make their users aware of new resources, events and other important announcements. The Engineering Resources blog timely announced the speaker events at Scholarly Communication Speaker Series: “Scholarly Publishing and Open Access: Players and Payers” and at Scholarly Communications Speaker Series: Is There a Need for Resource Sharing in an Age of Open Access. The University Libraries also conducted several workshops on teaching Refworks (a citation management tool) for faculty and students. The workshops were also promoted on the blog through a special announcement, Refworks Introduction and Training. In summary, a variety of information related to events can be easily promoted through a library’s weblog. Binghamton University Libraries RSS feed ‘Funding our digital future: budgeting for libraries and scholarly communication’ is another example of event promotion on campus.

4. **Enhance Library Instruction for different courses by integrating appropriate resources**

Engineering Resources blog provided instructional tips for some classes in engineering during the fall and winter quarter. Related books and databases for BMES212 Body Synthetic Course, Knovel K-News - Tips on using scientific and engineering related handbooks, and Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Research for some examples of resources used in the blog.

5. **Announce availability of new research and learning opportunities in academic departments’ blogs**

Drexel University’s Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Department’s blog provides information on the new research experience for undergraduates (REU) site focusing on Engineering Cities. Drexel’s CoAS E-learning blog keeps faculty and students up to date with new developments in podcasting and RSS feeds. The Information Ethicist is a newly introduced blog for
the INFO679: Information Ethics course taught in the Information Science and Technology Department at Drexel. The highlight of this blog is the integrated collection of student projects consisting of blogs created as part of the course requirement.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIES

More and more libraries have now begun to provide RSS feeds of new books catalogued as they arrive in the libraries. They also subscribe to a number of electronic databases and electronic journals that provide RSS feeds. In order to keep up-to-date with new books or new research, faculty and students will need to get familiar with this technology. This will help them to integrate new knowledge learned from other sources into their coursework or in the research project that they are working on.

There are major electronic resources that provide RSS feeds:

1. Example of Electronic databases with RSS feeds:

   - AccessScience

   AccessScience provides online full text access to science reference material from the latest edition of the McGraw-Hill Encyclopaedia of Science & Technology. It also now provides RSS feeds, however the full articles are only available through subscribing libraries.

   - Community of Science (CoS) News

   Faculty members, graduate students and advanced undergraduate students in academic institutions with research focus in various disciplines such as science, business and engineering, need timely updates on funding opportunities from various agencies such as National Science Foundation (NSF). Community of Science database is a comprehensive resource that provides access to this crucial information. COS Funding News is published each week and includes a sampling of new and updated award information from COS Funding Opportunities. COS Funding Opportunities is the most comprehensive source of funding information available on the Web, with more than 22,000 awards from around the world. COS Funding News is now available as an RSS feed.
• **Ei Compendex/INSPEC on Engineering Village 2 platform**

There are many electronic databases and electronic journals now provide RSS feeds. Databases such as Ei Compendex and INSPEC provide RSS feeds of the search queries used when searching. Engineering Village2 RSS feed illustrates how it was announced on the Engineering Resource blog for faculty and students at Drexel. In Bloglines, an individual account needs to be created so that the RSS feeds based on the search query can be added. After searching in the Ei Compendex or INSPEC or in both databases, by clicking on the orange RSS icon, the corresponding URL can be copied and pasted into Bloglines or in any feed reader. While using Bloglines, a separate feedreader is not required. Each week when the database is updated any new results matching the search query are delivered to the bloglines account.

• **Highwire Press Journals**

All Highwire Press Journals now provide RSS feeds. It requires free registration and the list of journal titles with RSS feeds is available under the ‘Alerts’ section.

• **HubMed (PubMed rewired)**

RSS Feeds including HubMed (pubmed rewired) announced the availability of RSS feeds of literature searches in PubMed databases using the search tool called HubMed. HubMed is an alternative interface to the PubMed medical literature database. Having RSS feeds of searches conducted on PubMed is crucial for researchers to keep informed about new information on their research areas and does not require them to receive email alerts. Engineering Resources blog announced the availability of RSS feeds from PubMed as well.

• **IEEE Xplore**

RSS feeds for new issues of all IEEE journals are now available. Each journal title listed in IEEE Journals and Magazines has an RSS button that provides the feed URL. Each feed will contain the publication’s title and table of contents with a link to IEEE Xplore.
• **Knovel**

Knovel is a database of some of the leading engineering reference handbooks, databases, and conference proceedings. It provides aggregated engineering and applied science data that can be accessed globally utilizing proprietary tabular analysis tools. Knovel K-News provides RSS feeds of new content added in its collection.

• **Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe**

RSS News feeds from Lexis/Nexis provide updates from various categories such as All News, Legal News, Business News, Risk News and General News. Engineering students need to keep up-to-date with new products as they become available in the market and RSS feeds can be very useful for them.

• **NASA Astrophysics Data System**

NASA Astrophysics Data System, a NASA-funded project which maintains three bibliographic databases containing more than 4.6 million records: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Physics, and ArXiv e-prints, provide RSS feeds.

• **OSTI (Office of the Scientific and Technical information of the U.S. Department of Energy)**

OSTI provides access to DOE research databases such as Information Bridge, Energy Science and Technology Software and Science. It also provides tools to explore significant DOE discoveries, learn about DOE Nobel Prize Winners, access and search e-prints, sign up for alerts, find science conference papers and proceedings, and connect with national laboratory education sites. OSTI’s available RSS feeds provide information on how to get news, announcements, and product or service updates.

• **Proquest**

According to the site Proquest RSS feeds, “Proquest is one of the first aggregators to utilize RSS feeds. It is an easy way for customers to create valuable, in-context links to their Proquest subscription content. This enables customers to enhance services to their users by integrating the latest articles in a particular field into the corresponding e-resources page on their library website.”
RSS feeds from Proquest’s Dissertations & Theses database RSS feeds are available based on Proquest’s predetermined search queries based on certain categories listed in the web site ‘Dissertations & Theses’. Some of the categories are: Education, Engineering, Physics, and Sociology. Once the URL corresponding to a particular search, for example, ‘Electronics & Electrical’ within the ‘Engineering’ category, is added to the feedreader or bloglines account, anytime a dissertation or thesis is added to the Proquest Dissertations & Theses database that matches that particular subject term, a feed with the new dissertation information will be received in the feedreader or the bloglines account.

• Refworks

Refworks has incorporated a RSS feedreader to allow linking to desired RSS feeds and import data from those feeds directly into Refworks. The RSS Feeds page can be accessed from the Search area of Refworks. Users can create their own personal database by importing references from online databases. They can use these references in writing their papers and automatically format the paper and the bibliography in styles such as APA, IEEE or MLA. As a web-based product, Refworks is available to users across various platforms including Windows, Mac, Unix, etc. There is an online tutorial available at Refworks Tutorial.

• USGS (U.S. Geological Survey)

USGS provides reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth, minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters, manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources, and enhance and protect our quality of life. Many academic libraries supporting programs in Geology and Earth Sciences can direct several useful RSS feeds from USGS to their students. Available feeds include: USGS Newsroom, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes.

2. Example of electronic journal with RSS feeds:

Tables of contents from variety of journals such as Nature, Nature Biotechnology, Nature Materials and those from the Institute of Physics can be tracked using this new technology. A complete listing of all RSS feeds from Nature titles is available at Nature Newsfeed. Science Online RSS feeds provides Table of Contents of the current issue, News Summary, This week in Science, ScienceNOW, and NetWatchThe Best of the Web in Science. The use of RSS feeds
alleviates the need for researchers to subscribe to email alerts since they are able to view new information from their choice of RSS feeds as one portal. A proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences provides different RSS feeds for the early edition, current issue and for the recent issues. Springer RSS feeds provides links to the complete Springer collection of available RSS feeds by various subject areas. IngentaConnect, which specializes in online journals in a wide variety of subject areas, provides RSS feeds from several journal titles. Users can sign up for feeds of the new journal issues of their choice, which on receiving shows the latest issue numbers and dates with a link to the full table of contents. BMJ Journals provides RSS feed icons on their journal home pages. IEEE Xplore now provides RSS feeds of all new journal issues as they become available. Each feed will contain the publication’s title, brief description, and link to the table of contents in IEEE Xplore. IEEE Computer Society offers the availability of the latest magazines and transactions content through RSS feeds which automatically deliver new abstracts. The American Chemical Society (ACS) offers feeds in RSS format for the Articles ASAP and the complete Tables of Contents of all of its journals. Journal of applied Physics provides RSS feeds by different topics covered in the journal. University of Wisconsin – Madison’s Ebling library has compiled a list of biomedical and health sciences electronic journals with available RSS Feeds. University of Saskatchewan Library also has created a list of electronic journals with RSS feeds. University of Chicago Press Journals provides RSS feeds of several journals covering different subject areas such as business, philosophy, religion, art, science and several others. Royal Society of Chemistry now provides advance article feeds of 22 journals such as Lab on a Chip, Annual Reports, A: Inorganic Chemistry and Annual Reports, B: Organic Chemistry. Various medical journals such as JAMA, Archives of Plastic Surgery, Archives of Internal Medicine, and many other archival journals provide RSS feeds of the latest tables of contents of their new journal issues as they become available. JAMA&Archives provides a listing of each journal title that provides RSS feeds. Other journals such as Chemical Informatics, the Economist, Oxford Art Journal, and the American Art also provide RSS feeds of new articles.

POSSIBILITY FOR OTHER RSS SITES (PUBLISHERS, JOURNAL AGGREGATORS)

Researchers will also discover that RSS feeds are now available from many publishers and content aggregators to provide customized information based on a user’s research or topical interests. Just as in the recent past when libraries
provided Table of Contents alert services (TOCs), RSS feeds can expand the research services available to the individual.

At the same time that libraries promote new electronic resources via their feeds, they can also inform users that direct feeds may be available from the publisher or aggregator site with additional customization alternatives.

RSS feeds to quickly scan contents from dozens of Web sites to select appropriate content for assignments. The point is made that “running searches on Google or Yahoo! will bring back so many irrelevant sources.” Using RSS, users can pre-select trusted content sites and add them to their aggregated sources so that they don’t have to spend more time evaluating accuracy, relevancy, or credibility of the source material. Several content providers and aggregators provide users with RSS feed options. EBSCOhost offers an RSS feed service for users who setup profiles for journal TOC alerts and for the results of saved searches. Users can control the frequency of the search to be run against the EBSCO databases (daily, weekly, monthly). The results of database searches can be refined to include only the most recent articles or articles published within specific timeframes. Project Muse offers feeds for latest journal issues, news, updates, and title additions to the Muse collections. Subscribers will have direct access to the full-text articles from the RSS feeds. Sage Publishers uses RSS feeds to provide alerting services for table of contents, keyword, author, and citation alerts.

Science publishers from the for-profit, society, and open access communities have had quick uptake of RSS feeds and are adding rich metadata to their notifications. Nature Publishing not only covers its journal content via feeds, but makes job openings and scientific news announcements available. The American Chemical Society has feeds that let users know immediately when an article is posted to the Web, which eliminates the wait traditionally tied to the publication of a journal issue.

Libraries can combine their announcements of new electronic resources with information about feeds directly available from the provider of the electronic resource. This powerful combination offers users a direct connection to quality resources without having to search through Web sites or endure static descriptions or lengthy tutorials. For example, the Engineering Resources Blog from the Drexel University Libraries offers an RSS feed to keep users informed of new print and electronic resources for engineering and biomedical engineering. The announcements of newly available resources also include information about feeds available directly from the resource provider.
RSS USES AND FUNCTION

Without RSS, users must check needed sites daily for updates. An RSS feed can check sites using an RSS aggregator. Since RSS data is small and fast-loading, it can easily be used with services like cell phones or PDAs. RSS uses XML to distribute web content from one web site to many other sites. RSS feeds are RDF-compliant, and RSS files contain metadata that describes the content.

A website that wants to allow other sites to publish some of its contents, create an RSS document and register the document with RSS publisher. Syndicated data can contain data like news, event listings, news stories, headlines, project updates etc. The special XML-format file that makes up an RSS feed is usually created in variety of ways. News sites and blogs are maintained using content management systems that often create RSS feeds as they are updated.

RSS is useful for websites that are updated frequently such as those of news sites, corporations, calendars, database producers, and libraries.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries should consider whether the information contained in a feed meets the needs of the user, and whether obtaining the information via a feed from the publisher will help to compact and provide focused information to users. Not all information is offered through a feed. It may be necessary to subscribe to the resource in order for the feed to be useful. Feeds should be updated frequently and expiration dates should be considered.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

While many campus environments have been making extensive use of computer systems for years, it is only fairly recently that data within these systems has become available for use across technical and bureaucratic boundaries. The electronic plumbing provided by the use of standard protocols (HTTP and SOAP) and syntax (XML) offers new opportunities to link data from disparate systems and offer users views of these data centered more on their common usage and less on the organizational structures behind them.

While most library systems exploit email to expand service, “mashing up” arbitrary information from the library has been considerably more difficult due to our inability to work with library data from outside the system. This limits the library’s ability to deliver its services to online spaces such as web sites and,
perhaps more importantly, campus course management systems where the possibilities for high-impact library interventions are enormous.

In the last few years, however, library systems such as the online public access catalogue (OPAC) and metasearch engines have begun to appear with useful programmatic interfaces, enabling more complex use of library data from outside the hosting systems. This opens up a wide range of opportunities to take library information directly to the users.

RSS PROVIDE CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES IN THE LIBRARIES

Current awareness services alert scholars, researchers, and health care practitioners to recently published literature in their fields of specialization. Librarians who provide these services use various methods to keep current with academic and professional literature. Traditional methods include routing print journals, distributing photocopied journal tables of contents, and simply browsing professional publications. Newer methods include conducting saved searches in preferred databases and creating email table of contents alerts. Each of these methods has disadvantages: Routed print material moves slowly, distributing photocopies is labour intensive, and browsing material requires extra time and active participation. Saved searches involve expert users and continual search amendments. Email alerts flood inboxes already brimming with unread items. The increasing availability of publisher and vendor supplied really simple syndication (RSS) feeds provides another option for current awareness services, one that addresses many of the problems of traditional means. While RSS is not a new technology and feeds have been commonly available for news and blogs for many years, journal content providers were slow to follow suit. Moreover, the benefit of RSS for journal content in the dispersed digital environment is limited, as the identification, location, and management of new journal articles from multiple feeds can frustrate and overwhelm even the savviest user.

While library literature on RSS feeds has been plentiful in recent years, few articles discuss services that fully leverage the "push technology" power of RSS. The idea of providing a convenient and timesaving service to library users by collecting journal feeds and then bundling them into outline processor mark-up language (OPML) files categorized by subject has not been developed in the literature.

Librarians at the Ebling Library recognized the challenges patrons face in keeping current with the literature, as well as the potential of new services utilizing RSS. While the volume of tables of contents feeds supplied by publishers and
vendors have increased markedly, feeds were still not readily recognized by, or easily accessible to, Ebling Library’s patrons, few of whom reported using RSS as a means of staying current with the literature. The use of OPML was well outside the mainstream of librarianship, and, even among colleagues who were aware of OPML; few had considered how it could be used to easily share groups of feeds between users and readers. The value of identifying, collecting, and categorizing new journal articles as a service to Ebling Library’s clientele became apparent.

THE RANGE OF CURRENT AWARENESS SERVICES INCLUDES:

- Journal Table of Contents Alerting
- Updating Bibliographic Database Searches
- Citation Alerts
- News Alerting
- News of Forthcoming Conferences
- Blogs
- New Publications
- Monitoring Web Page Changes
- Discussion Lists and Newsgroups

USE OF RSS FOR LIS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH:

RSS is also very useful to library and information science education and research purpose in the following way:

1. **Resource Sharing:** Library and information schools can use social bookmarking websites to share quality websites that relate to their area of expertise with LIS students. Such as Delicious - http://del.icio.us social book marking system can be setup to use as shared bookmarks.

2. **Class Blogs:** From elementary schools to university blogs, online journals have flourished. Instructors have used blogging as a teaching tool. Helping students learn writing and reporting skills while understanding how to use technology. Many educational bloggers use RSS as a means to syndicate blog posts.
3. **Podcast Lectures:** Podcasts can be used as study guides or even as class preview for LIS students contemplating their course selections or choice of professors.

4. **Monitor Research:** Students involved in cutting edge research projects can use RSS to monitor news and search engines for specific keywords by creating search feeds.

5. **Professional Development:** RSS can be used for remote LIS education. Teachers can lose less class time while still staying current on the latest techniques, trends and information in their field of expertise.

6. **Job Searches:** Professors and teachers can create job search feeds. The RSS feed will update each time a position that meets their criteria becomes available.

7. **Collaboration (writey/wiki):** Universities in particular actively participate in collaborative projects and research. New tools have never made collaboration easier. RSS can be used in conjunction with many of the online collaboration tools to notify other contributors of changes.

8. **Search Feeds:** Students’ writing papers or working on research papers on specific topics can create search feeds, so that each time that topic is mentioned they receive notification in their custom search feed.

9. **Study Guides:** Many web sites that are focused on studying. There are feeds for “word of the day” or “problem of the day”. Students can subscribe to the feed and integrate long term studying into their daily routines.

10. **Scholarships:** Library science students can monitor high school and college scholarship opportunities using RSS feeds.

11. **School News:** Library and information science department can use RSS to communicate departmental news with their students, announcing staff changes, new courses or any other news that is relevant and of interest to the student population.
12. **Student Financial Aid News:** Students and parents can listen to podcasts that assist with financial aid, student loans and financial podcasts that tackle difficult topics like how to make college more affordable.

13. **Grants:** Researchers can monitor funding and grant opportunities RSS feeds.
REFERENCES


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