RSS Feeds and Aggregators

Welcome!

Please print this Participant Guide and bring it to class to refer to during class exercises.

What you need before the session

- A headset with a microphone
- A computer
- A high speed Internet connection
- Wizard set up completed
- Your profile (with photo) completed—see page 7

Class Date: ________________

☐ Send email to your coworkers and let them know you are in class

☐ Display a note or sign to alert your coworkers you are in class

☐ Have this Participant’s Guide

☐ Log on 15 minutes early

☐ If you haven’t used Wimba before, log in 30 minutes early

Classroom URL

You’ll receive an email invitation to the class with the following link:

Note: close all Explorer tabs before clicking on the URL in the email.

Name: ID Conference Room 1

Room ID: id_room1
Choose: Participant Login
Name: your first name, last initial

It will take a minute or so to connect to the classroom.

Wimba Quick & Dirty

If you have not used Wimba before, please come to the classroom 30 minutes ahead of schedule. We’ll show you how to use it — covering the white board, chat, interaction tools, and rescue tools.

Course Syllabus

Purpose: To learn how to use RSS feeds and aggregators such as Outlook and iGoogle to connect with ICFL and WebJunction Idaho websites.

- Demonstrate RSS Feeds
- Demonstrate Aggregators

Agenda

5 minutes: Introductions
20 minutes: RSS Feeds
20 minutes: Aggregators
15 minutes: Questions & Answers
Defining the Terms: RSS Feeds

1. View the following web-based video Common Craft: RSS in Plain English http://www.commoncraft.com/rss_plain_english

2. Review the information from Microsoft: the benefit of RSS is the aggregation of all content from multiple Web sources in one place. You no longer have to visit different Web sites to get the latest information on your topics of interest... summaries of content are delivered to you” either by email or on your aggregator (reader) page.

Aggregators
Examples of aggregators are:
1. Outlook
2. iGoogle.

Aggregators
Also known as Feed Readers or News Readers... a web application that pulls together syndicated web content such as blogs, news headlines, and podcasts in a single location for easy viewing.

Check out this list of feed aggregators.
Setting up your iGoogle account for RSS feeds

Go to: http://www.google.com/ig

1. Click on “Get Started”

2. Fill out the form. Once submitted, you’ll get an email from “accounts-noreply@google.com” to validate your account. Click the link and you’ll get the message “Email Address Verified.”

3. Select any preset feeds you are interested in, and then click on “See your page.”

4. To add gadgets, click on “add stuff.” To get rid of gadgets select the menu arrow and the delete.

To make iGoogle your homepage from Internet Explorer:
1. Click on Internet Options.
2. Cut and paste iGoogle URL into window under home page.
3. Click on “Add Stuff” under iGoogle.
4. Place URL in window and click Add. Go back to home page to view result.

To make iGoogle your homepage from Foxfire:
1. Click on Tools->Options
2. Cut and paste iGoogle URL into window under home page.
RSS Feeds and Aggregators

RSS Feeds on ICFL
http://libraries.idaho.gov

1. Home page RSS Feeds — the Fire Hose!

2. Or click on a content page for a topic-specific feed.

3. Click on the RSS button

4. Click on Add to Google homepage

5. And the setup is done! To keep track of your feeds, sign in to your iGoogle account.

How do you know when the website has an RSS Feed?

Look for this symbol:
RSS Feeds and Aggregators

Idaho Commission for Libraries

RSS Feeds on WebJunction Idaho

http://id.webjunction.org

1. Choose a topic you want to follow and click on the RSS button.
2. You’ll automatically be linked to a screen. Click on “Subscribe to this feed.”
3. A popup window will appear, change the name if you wish, and then click on “Subscribe”
4. You will receive a message: “You have successfully subscribed to this feed!”
5. Check you Microsoft Outlook in box under RSS Feeds and find the feed there.

What is RSS?

From SPLAT 101 .... “Usually, it’s known as ‘Rich Site Summary’ [other terms include Real Simple Syndication].... At its core, RSS provides a way for web site content ... to be syndicated, or published as a continued stream as it happens.”

From Microsoft .... “The benefit of RSS is the aggregation of all content from multiple Web sources.”

For more information see:

Common Craft Video on RSS feeds
SPLAT 101 Module on RSS Feeds