

Using RSS to Get News About the Library World

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What Is RSS?

- RSS is an easy way for you to keep updated automatically on websites you like. Instead of you having to go to websites to see if they've written a new article or feature, you can use RSS (which stands for Really Simple Syndication) to be notified every time they have something new.
- RSS feeds the most recent changes on a webpage into RSS-aware programs (called aggregators or news readers) for viewing. Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com/>) is an excellent free aggregator.

Why on earth would I want to use this?

- It saves time. Instead of having to bounce from website to website, seeing what's new, you can get it all fed into one site.
- It's convenient. You can access many aggregators from any Internet-connected computer.
- Many articles of interest that show up in print (in *Library Journal*, *American Libraries*, etc.) show up online too through library weblogs (and therefore, through RSS feeds).
- It will help you stay current with what's going on, without devoting a lot of time to reading and hunting around websites.
- It's fun too! You can get daily comic strips like Dilbert & Peanuts fed through RSS.

How do I find RSS feeds?

- LibDex has a list of library feeds at: <http://www.libdex.com/weblogs.html>
- LIS feeds has yet another library list: <http://www.lisfeeds.com/>
- For general feeds, try Complete RSS at: <http://www.completerss.com/>
- You can also look at Bloglines Top 100 Sites at: <http://www.bloglines.com/topblogs> or Bloglines Complete Directory at: <http://www.bloglines.com/dir>
- On any website, you can look for buttons or links that say **RSS**, **XML**, **Atom Feed**, or **Syndicate this Site**. This means the site has a feed.
- Once you start adding feeds to your site, many aggregators will recommend related feeds to you.

What are some good library-related feeds?

- **California Library Association News Weblog**
Feed: <http://www.cla-net.org/weblog/index.xml>
- **Free Range Librarian**
<http://freerangelibrarian.com/index.xml>
- **LIS News**
Feed: <http://www.lisnews.com/lisnews.rss>
- **Librarian.net**
Feed: <http://librarian.net/wp-rss2.php>
- **Librarians Index to the Internet "New This Week"**
Feed: <http://lii.org/search/ntw>
- **Library Law Blog**
Feed: <http://blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/index.rdf>
- **Library Stuff**
Feed: <http://www.librarystuff.net/index.rdf>
- **Public Library Association's Weblog**
Feed: <http://www.plablog.org/atom.xml>
- **ResearchBuzz**
Feed: <http://www.researchbuzz.com/researchbuzz.rss>
- **Resource Shelf**
Feed: <http://www.resourceshelf.com/resourceshelf.xml>
- **The Shifted Librarian**
Feed: <http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com/index.xml>

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