

RSS: What does it mean for the classroom teacher?

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What does RSS stand for?

- o It depends!
- o Some call it **Rich Site Summary**
- o Others call it **Really Simple Syndication**
- o Still others call it **Read Some Stuff**



So, what is it?

- o RSS is a text-based format, a type of XML. RSS files are often labeled as XML.
- o RSS version 1.0 is also RDF (Resource Discovery Framework), which is important only because an RSS file may be labeled as RDF.
- o By using XSLT (Extensible Stylesheet Language), these XML files can be converted to a much more friendly view.



What does it look like?

Example RSS Feed in XML

```
<title>Joe's Breakfast News</title>
<link>http://www.joe.com/news/</link>
<item>
<title>Orange Juice Voted Best Fruit Juice</title>
<link>http://www.joe.com/news/orange-juice.html</link>
</item>
<item>
<title>Acme Introduces New Flakes 'n' Nuts Cereal</title>
<link>http://www.joe.com/news/flakes-n-nuts.html</link>
</item>
<item>
<title>Study Shows More are Skipping Breakfast</title>
<link>http://www.joe.com/news/skipping.html</link>
</item>
```


Example RSS Feed in English

- Joe's Breakfast News
- www.joe.com/news/
- Item
 - Orange Juice Voted Best Fruit Juice
 - www.joe.com/news/orange-juice.html
- Item
 - Acme Introduces New Flakes 'n' Nuts Cereal
 - www.joe.com/news/flakes-n-nuts.html
- Item
 - Study Shows More are Skipping Breakfast
 - www.joe.com/news/skipping.html




● ● ● | What about Atom?

- Atom is a format quite similar to RSS. It was created by people who felt that RSS could be improved upon.
- The basic difference is that while Atom is somewhat more complex (for *producers* of Atom feeds), it is also able to carry more complex information, and it is consistent across the syndication, storage, and editing of information.
- Almost everything regarding RSS applies equally well to Atom.
- You can learn more about Atom at the official website, AtomEnabled.org.




● ● ● | RSS - Two Parts

- Feeds - These are the actual content items that are produced by web authors. These could be taken from blogs, journals, news sites, etc.
- Aggregators - An aggregator is a program or site that collects the feeds for reading. Aggregators can be installed as stand-alone programs, or they can be web-based.




● ● ● | Advantages of RSS

- By using an aggregator, you can read feeds from multiple websites in one location.
- No SPAM!
- No Pop-Ups!
- Most blogs now have feeds, and more journals and news sites are adding them.
- Organization!!



● ● ● | How to find RSS feeds

- Look for a buttons like these within a site:





- <http://www.network-theory.co.uk/newtitles.html>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/>





● ● ● | Web-Based Aggregators

- Bloglines - Currently the most popular in this category.
- Newsgator - Allows for delivery of content to Outlook.
- Litefeeds - good for PDAs & Mobile Phones
- Google Reader
- Netvibes
- Personalized Google Page
- My Yahoo! Page



● ● ● | Stand-alone readers

- SharpReader - for Windows
- FeedDemon - Also for Windows
- NetNewsWire - Good choice for Macs
- Straw - Great for Linux
- RSS Toolbar - Internet Explorer & Firefox (Windows only)




● ● ● | RSS Via E-Mail

- <http://www.rssfwd.com/>



● ● ● | The Most Complete List I've Found

- <http://www.newsonfeeds.com/faq/aggregators>



● ● ● | Creating Feeds

- Most blog sites create the feeds for you.
 - <http://blogger.com>
 - <http://livejournal.com>
 - <http://typepad.com>
 - <http://wordpress.com>
- Create them in Dreamweaver
 - <http://www.rnsoft.com/products/rssdreamfeeder/>




● ● ● | Creating Feeds

- FeedForAll
 - <http://www.feedforall.com/>
- Moveable Type
 - <http://www.sixapart.com/movabletype/>
- Create your own with XML.
 - <http://www.rss-specifications.com/creating-rss-feeds.htm>
 - <http://www.make-rss-feeds.com/making-an-rss-feed.htm>




● ● ● | Educational Uses

- Find updated government stats.
 - <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Help/RSS/index.asp>
- News from the Dept. of Education
 - <http://gadoe.org>
- Keep a class calendar
 - <http://www.rsscalendar.com>
- Quote of the Day
 - <http://www.brainyquote.com>
- Updated government announcements
 - <http://firstgov.gov/rss/index.shtml>



● ● ● | Educational Uses

- Science News
 - <http://www.newscientist.com/feeds.ns>
 - Student Learning Journals
 - <http://roomtwelve.com>
- Keep track of a Wiki
 - <http://pbwiki.com>
- Current School Events
 - <http://mabryonline.org>



● ● ● | Educational Uses

- Research Journals
 - <http://www.apa.org/journals/rss.html>
 - <http://plankt.oxfordjournals.org/rss>
 - <http://library.lanl.gov/sandbox/rss-usgs.htm>
- News, Current Events
- Book, Film, and Art Reviews
- Sharing Professional Resources
- Maintaining up to date resource collections
- Generate the latest assignments



● ● ● | Thanks for coming!

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