RSS and weblogs: tools for managing information flow

Garrett Eastman
Rowland Annual Review
April 8, 2005
What is RSS?

• Really Simple Syndication
• A variety of XML that enables content distribution over the web
• Examples of content:
  – News
  – Journal TOCs
  – Links to articles, web sites
  – Data
  – Audio and video
How does one use RSS?

• Get a newsreader
  – NetNewsWire (Lite) (MacOSX), Amphetadesk (PC), Rocketinfo (web-based), Bloglines
  – Both Desktop and browser-based applications
  – Tell newsreader to subscribe to certain “feeds”
  – Click on the “orange” button (XML)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscriptions</th>
<th>Wired News headlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boing Boing</td>
<td>Missouri Home to Seismic Hot Spot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slashdot</td>
<td>Phone Choices May Affect Polls</td>
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<td>Boomboxes Are Hip Again</td>
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<td>FOS News</td>
<td>Voter Polls Don't Count for Much</td>
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<td>Wired News</td>
<td>The Remix Masters</td>
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<td>Library Stuff</td>
<td>Advent of the Robotic Monkeys</td>
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No selection.
RSS Feeds

APS is now providing content using RSS feeds as a convenience to our readers. A list of all available feeds is provided on this page. If you need an RSS reader please see this link.

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The feeds below contain the recently published articles in each journal, they are updated as new articles are published.

To subscribe click on the XML icon next to the name of the feed (or 'right click' and copy the link into your RSS reader).

- Physical Review Letters [XML](#)
- Physical Review A [XML](#)
- Physical Review B [XML](#)
- Physical Review C [XML](#)
- Physical Review D [XML](#)
- Physical Review E [XML](#)
- Physical Review ST Accel. and Beams [XML](#)
<rdf:RDF
  - <channel rdf:about="http://feeds.aps.org/rss/recent/prl.xml">
    <title>Recent articles in Phys. Rev. Lett.</title>
    <link>http://prl.aps.org/</link>
    <description>Recently published articles in Phys. Rev. Lett.</description>
  - <items>
    - <rdf:Seq>
    </rdf:Seq>
Advantages

• Reduce e-mail traffic
• browse and filter headlines
• More immediate updates (don’t have to keep checking a web site)
• “automated web surfing” (Dave Winer)
Finding feeds

– Feed collections
  http://www.syndic8.com
  http://www.newsisfree.com

– Search engines
  http://www.technorati.com
  http://www.feedster.com
Finding feeds, cont.

• Social bookmarking
  – Del.icio.us
  – Connotea
Eide Neurolearning Blog and Learning Styles
to neurology learning science blog by jackd ... on 2005-03-15

Brain Waves
to neurology biology pharmacology science blog by jackd ... and 15 other people ... on 2005-03-15

Optical Illusions and Visual Phenomena
to flash fun interesting science by jyke ... and 92 other people ... on 2005-03-15

W. Zhang
to edboard NANO science Springer work by igpmul ... on 2005-03-15

Slashdot | Google 302 Exploit Knocks Sites Out
to internet science hack by haslo ... on 2005-03-15

Dr. Robert D. Shull
to work edboard science Springer NANO by igpmul ... on 2005-03-15

New Scientist Features - It's written all over your face
to Science by negativebase ... and 6 other people ... on 2005-03-15

Biomedical Engineering
to NANO edboard Springer science work by igpmul ... on 2005-03-15

PM: Debunking The 9/11 Myths - Mar. 2005 Cover Story
to politics science world by jyke ... and 10 other people ... on 2005-03-15

MIT ChemE Faculty: Jackie Y. Ying
to work NANO edboard Springer science by igpmul ... on 2005-03-15

An RSS feed for this page is available at http://del.icio.us/rss/tag/science.
View recently popular items with this tag.
News feeds

• Science News
  – NewYork Times--Science
  – ScienceDaily http://www.sciencedaily.com
  – news@nature.com
    http://www.nature.com/news/index.html
  – Wired News http://www.wired.com
    Slashdot http://www.slashdot.com
Science journals and feeds

- Institute of Physics [www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)
- American Physical Society feeds.aps.org
- Nature
  [http://npg.nature.com/npg/servlet/Content?data=xml/02_newsfeed.xml&style=xml/02_newsfeed.xsl](http://npg.nature.com/npg/servlet/Content?data=xml/02_newsfeed.xml&style=xml/02_newsfeed.xsl)
- BioMed Central [www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)
Receiving content from BioMed Central and The Scientist as an RSS headline feed

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a well-established web standard for the delivery of news headlines and other frequently updated content summaries.

There are many different news headline readers to choose from which will regularly retrieve the latest items from your favorite RSS-enabled sites and display them on your desktop:
Search feeds

• Bioinformatics Aggregated RSS Feeds (BaRF) http://barf.jcowboy.org/index.cgi/
• HubMed for PubMed searches www.hubmed.org
• Yahoo, Topix.net
Weblogs

- “website which contains periodic, reverse chronologically ordered posts …” (Wikipedia)

- Not just political rants

- Get content via RSS

- Links, stories

- Blogroll
Monday, March 28, 2005

More on DOAR

The Directory of Open Access Repositories - DOAR, Access, March 2005. An unsigned news story. Excerpt: 'A new service is being developed to support the rapidly emerging movement towards Open Access to research information. The new service, called DOAR - the Directory of Open Access Repositories - will categorise and list the wide variety of Open Access research archives that have grown up around the world. DOAR will provide a comprehensive and authoritative list of institutional and subject-based repositories, as well as archives set up by funding agencies - like the National Institutes for Health in the USA or the Wellcome Trust in the UK and Europe. Users of the service will be able to analyse repositories by location, type, the material they hold and other measures. This will be of use both to users wishing to find original research papers and for third-party service providers, like search engines or alert services, which need easy to use tools for developing tailored search services to suit specific user communities.'

Posted by Peter Suber at 10:17 AM.

More on the NIH public-access policy
Weblog software

- Manila (blogs.law.harvard.edu)
- Blogger (www.blogger.com)
- Movable Type (www.movabletype.com)
Library - Research Oriented

- ResourceShelf http://www.resourceshelf.com
- beSpacific http://www.bespacific.com
- The Virtual Chase http://www.virtualchase.com
- LISNews.com http://www.lisnews.com
- Library Stuff http://www.librarystuff.com
- Shifted Librarian http://www.shiftedlibrarian.com
- j’s scratchpad http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/jkbaumga
- Christina’s Library Rant http://christinaslibraryrant.blogspot.com
Science Libraries

• The (sci-tech) Library Question http://stlq.info
• Englib http://englib.info
• Confessions of a Science Librarian
  http://jdupuis.blogspot.com
• Rowland Institute Library Blog
  http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/rihlib
Science blogs

- SciencePORT.org
- Careers in Science
- WangBlog
  - http://synapse.princeton.edu/lab/blog/blogindex.html
- The Loom
  - http://www.corante.com/loom/
- My Lab is on Fire
  - http://www.mylabisonfire.com/

- Mass Spectrometry Blog
  - http://ch335c.chem.lsu.edu/resources/ms/

- Tangled Bank
  - http://tangledbank.net/

Real Climate
- http://www.realclimate.org/
Upcoming lab meetings:
Currently not scheduled. For now, this week Sam is on jury duty. [full schedule]

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Microelectrode techniques. A public-access book about microelectrodes can be found here. Very useful!

Network connectivity of blogs. A network analysis of political blogs.

Saturday, March 5, 2005

Degeneracy in neural systems...
03 November 2004

Tangled Bank Nr. 15

It's the day after the first Tuesday in November, and you know what that means. Countless millions -- in America and around the world -- are waiting eagerly to learn just one thing: *What will I find along the Tangled Bank today?* Fret no longer, your patience has been rewarded. It's my privilege to take a turn as host to this biweekly science and medicine-focused 'carnival of the vanities'.

As both PZ Myers (who will, I hope, find it in his atheist heart to forgive me for calling him 'The Pope of the Tangled Bank') and I are partial to invertebrates, it's appropriate that this edition of TTB kicks off with a contribution from *The Raw Prawn*. The Prawn's *Reena Ganga* tells us about India's burgeoning medical tourism industry. Sounds like a good deal to me: take in the Taj Mahal in the morning, and still have time to be on the table for your heart transplant in the afternoon.

*Chris Clarke* writes *Creek Running North* (again, an appropriate image for the Tangled Bank, *n'est-ce pas?*). Here he records his thoughts during a hike somewhere in the western United States. He achieves communion with the distant Permian past, quite literally: he is covered in its dust. Well, dust we are, and unto dust shall we return, of course. It was no different in Permian times, but the great Permian extinction made sure that lots of organisms returned to dust in very short order. Chris thinks about why this might
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Paper by Single Molecule Biophysics Lab

The Single Molecule Biophysics Lab at Rowland has a paper in Biophysical Journal describing recent observations of DNA hairpins in a nanopore. They apply voltage to the pore and observe how the molecules "unzip."

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 10/27/04; 9:42:49 AM - Comments [0] Trackback [0] Edit

Miniature turbines to power your PDA

Roland Piquet discusses an article on miniature turbines at his technology blog: "Today, our handheld devices are powered by batteries, which are heavy and inconvenient. Fuel cells are just arriving on the market as a replacement. But there is a new contender, micro gas turbine engines under development at the MIT. Engineers have shrunk jet engines to the size of a coin button. And their blades which span an area smaller than a dime can spin a million times per minute and produce enough electricity to power your PDA or your cell phone." (Source: Slashdot)

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 10/19/04; 3:50:52 PM - Comments [0] Trackback [0] Edit
What goes into RIH blog

- Links to and commentary about scientific resources
- Links to articles (news, reviews, special issues)
- News and info about Rowland research groups
- Harvard community news
New state of matter

Scientists at NIST and Colorado announced that they observed a new state of matter this week. From the news release: "In the current experiment, a gas of 500,000 potassium atoms was cooled to temperatures below 50 billionths of a degree Celsius above absolute zero (minus 459 degrees Fahrenheit) and then a magnetic field was applied near a special "resonance" strength. This magnetic field coaxed the fermion atoms to match up into pairs, akin to the pairs of electrons that produce superconductivity, the phenomenon in which electricity flows with no resistance. The Jin group detected this pairing and the formation of a fermionic condensate for the first time on Dec. 16, 2003."

The experiment is published in the Jan. 30th issue of Physical Review Letters.

Update: See also an excellent Physics News Update discussion that explains developments in the field that made the experiment possible.

Update (2/11/04): Dr. Deborah Jin, who made the experiments, will speak at Harvard on Wednesday, February 18, 2004, 4:30 p.m. at the Joint Atomic Physics Seminar, Jefferson Laboratory, Room 256, "Making Condensates with a Fermi Gas of Atoms."

Update (3/3/04): The research is profiled in PhysicsWorld, with speculation on future directions.
Gazette article on maverick Bogota mayor

there's an article on the front page today's Harvard University Gazette that delighted me as much as anything I've read recently. "Academic turns city into social experiment" profiles Antanas Mockus (is that his real name or was he sent to "Mock us"?), mayor of Bogota, who recently spent two weeks as a visiting fellow at Harvard. In a city racked by murder and despair, Mockus used theater to get people back into the idea of civic investment. The picture on the front page shows a "traffic mime" waving an "incorrecto" sign at a jaywalker. Other innovations included a ladies-only night in the city, during which men went home and policewomen were in charge of security. Mockus got to people to use cards ("thumbs-up" or "thumbs-down") to express approval or disapproval of their fellow citizens' public behavior and launched an anti-terrorism march, "a vaccine against violence", asking people to draw the faces of the people who had hurt them on balloons, which they then popped. the latter drew 50,000 participants. As a result, among other improvements, people are saving water, paying taxes and engaging in civic life. Extraordinary....
Rowland Institute Library Blog

ACS symposium on single molecule and single cell spectroscopy

Looks as though everybody and his postdoc from the single molecule spectroscopy community will be presenting at the ACS symposium, Biophysical Chemistry and Novel Imaging of Single Molecules and Single Cells, taking place next week in Philadelphia. This has been a big area of research at Rowland, and Amit Meller’s group will be among those presenting in Philly. The topic has gotten considerable attention recently; for a while, an entire journal was devoted to it, Wiley’s Single Molecules. Also, the Journal of Chemical Physics and Science, to name a couple, have dedicated sections of issues to single molecule studies. Meanwhile, Kwonmoo Lee has compiled a listing of single molecule biophysics research group websites.

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 8/18/04; 1:40:43 PM - Comments [0] Trackback [0]
Electronics Engineering Lab Project Highlights

The Electronics Engineering lab, under the direction of Winfield Hill, co-author of The Art of Electronics, has designed and built more than 500 instruments for the research groups at the Rowland Institute. Two are exhibited in their site's Project Highlights. Take a look at the "Tweezer Squeezer," designed by Chris Stokes for picking up very particular phenomena. The Rowland USB Response Box (RURB) was designed for brain mapping experiments once conducted at the Institute and with MGH, but has attracted considerable interest from users in other fields. More to come.

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 1/30/04; 4:35:24 PM - Comments [0] Trackback [0]
Edit
New Rowland publication

How bacterial chemoreceptors work together

Howard Berg (of Rowland's Bacterial Motor Works and Harvard's MCB) and Victor Sourjik have studied bacterial signalling networks using fluorescence resonance energy transfer. Recent papers, including their latest in Nature (Harvard affiliates enter here) demonstrate the interactions and cooperativity of the proteins that make up these networks.
Funding award announcement

Rowland lab nets NIH grant for DNA sequencing technology

Rowland's Amit Meller won a major NIH grant for his single molecule biophysics lab. A number of grants were awarded for DNA sequencing projects. The Meller group has spent several years observing the dynamics of DNA in nanopores and now plans to develop technology enabling data collection from several pores at once.

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 10/14/04; 1:19:13 PM - Comments [0] Trackback [0]
Edit
Summary

• Present complementary information in blog postings
• Build on news items and other information
• Link to related papers, web sites, other sources
RSS and weblogs

• Dynamic information sources

• Useful for keeping up-to-date

• Tools and standards continue to evolve
Thanks

- Frans
- Mike
- Jason
- Rowland members