RSS: What’s in it for science libraries

Garrett Eastman
Rowland Institute at Harvard
SLC, April 5, 2004
What is RSS?

• Really Simple Syndication
• A form of XML that enables content delivery over the internet
• Examples of content:
  – News
  – Journal TOCs
  – Links to articles, web sites
  – Library new acquisitions (e.g. LPI Library)
Advantages

• Reduce e-mail traffic
• More immediate updates (don’t have to keep checking a web site)
• “automated web surfing” (Dave Winer)
How does one use RSS?

• Get a newsreader
  – NetNewsWire (Lite) (MacOSX), Amphetadesk (PC), Rocketinfo (web-based)
  – Both Desktop and browser-based applications
  – Tell newsreader to subscribe to certain “feeds”
  – Click on the “orange” button (XML)
Physics mug shots

351 physicists are represented in this picture gallery collected from multiple sources. (thanks to the NSDL Scout Report for Physical Sciences)

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 3/18/04; 6:18:39 PM - Comments [0] 
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Who syndicates via RSS?

• Newspapers
  – New York Times
  – Boston Globe

• News services
  – ScienceDaily
  – EurekAlert
  – Nature Science Update
  – Yahoo
Journal contents via RSS

– Institute of Physics (IoP)
– Science’s Next Wave (Headlines and Blog)
– AIP Physics Today
– BioMedCentral
Library-oriented

• ResourceShelf
• Peter Scott
• Shifted Librarian
• LISNews
Weblogs

• Syndicate content via XML/RSS
• Report library news, organization news, topical(discipline-related) news
• Point to new information sources, articles, papers
Weblogs, cont.

– Organization centered ([Rowland, GSU libraries](#))
– Science Libraries and Librarianship
  • [Englib](#)
  • [The (sci-tech) Library Question](#)
  • [Confessions of a Science Librarian](#)

Discipline centered, topical
  • [Psychscape](#)
  • [Kept-Up Academic Librarian](#)
  • [Open Access News](#)
Where do you find feeds

• Search utilities
  Feedster
  Technorati
  NewsisFree
  Syndic8
  myRSS
Where can we go?

- Open access, institutional repositories
- Need for descriptors, customization of feeds
- How can it work with a proxy server
- RSS is evolving
Selected webliography

- Baumgart, J. *An Introduction to RSS feeds*, News Library News (February 2004)
- Cohen, S. *RSS for non-techie librarians*, LLRX.com
- Richardson, W. *Blogging and RSS - the “What’s It?” and “How to” of Powerful New Web Tools for Educators*, Multimedia & Internet at Schools (Jan./Feb. 2004)
- *RSS 2.0 Specification*