

What is RSS?

RSS stands for **Really Simple Syndication** and is a format for publishing frequently updated web content such as news or blogs. A site with RSS feeds will usually display a logo similar to this one on the left.



What are the benefits?

The benefit of RSS for users is that a number of feeds and updates can be aggregated into one place using free software, enabling you to check just one source for updates rather than having to bookmark all the sites and keep looking at each one to see if there have been any updates.

What software do I need?

There are a number of free RSS Feed Readers but two of the most popular are [Google Reader](#) and [Bloglines](#). When you have created an account with a Reader you will need to find some feeds to populate it. You can also use the feed readers that are incorporated within your browser.

Where do I find RSS feeds?

Sites with RSS feeds will usually have an icon as above or some other orange button or bar. Often this button may also be called XML or Subscribe. Clicking on the feed will usually provide you with a link which you can cut and paste from the address bar into your feed reader. Alternatively, sometimes there is a link to click to subscribe.

You can also see pages which have RSS feeds via your browser. Both Internet Explorer and Firefox display the orange icon if a page contains a feed. This might be in the address bar or on the toolbar. Click on the icon to get the page address to add to your feed reader.

Using your feed reader

Once you have subscribed to a number of feeds you will see them appear in your subscriptions list. When there are new items these are listed in bold. Simply click on the title of the feed to read the new items. A feed which is not listed in bold does not have any updated items.

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