

TECH TALK

Southwest Iowa Library Service Area



What is it?

“Really Simple Syndication,” allows content (news, blog posts, etc.) to be delivered to users on their desktops to read at their convenience.

“A family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated pages, such as blogs or news feeds. Consumers of RSS content use special browsers called aggregators to watch for new content in dozens or even hundreds of web feeds.”

—*Wikipedia*

How might libraries use it?

- Keep up with current trends in libraries and other fields
- Provide information to patrons at their convenience
- Keep website fresh and current

Tools

Bloglines (Aggregator)

<http://www.bloglines.com>

Feed2JS (to republish feed)

<http://feed2js.org>

Examples

SWILSA website

<http://www.swilsa.lib.ia.us>

Corning Public Library

<http://www.corning.swilsa.lib.ia.us>

Shenandoah Public Library Teen page

<http://www.shenandoah.lib.ia.us/Teens.htm>

Hennepin County Library

<http://www.hclib.org/pub/search/RSS.cfm>

U.S. Government RSS Library

http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Reference_Shelf/Libraries/RSS_Library.shtml

Try it out!

A narrated tutorial on using RSS in libraries:

<http://www.swilsa.lib.ia.us/tutorials/RSSforLibraries/launcher.html>

Find out more:

RSS: Your Gateway to News and Blog Content (Search Engine Watch)

<http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2175281>

RSS (file format) from Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS_%28file_format%29