Library RSS feeds to course blogs
- new avenues for integration?

Mike Brooks
Library T&L Coordinator

CAVAL Reference Interest Group 2004 Seminar - "The Good OIL: Online Information Literacy
What’s this all about?

- The presentation is about an Internet communication technology called **RSS** which is often associated with the use of blogs.
  - Rich Site Summary
  - Really Simple Syndication
What’s this all about?

After “investigating” this technology I propose that there are opportunities for Librarians to channel information to students who use course related blogs.
What’s the RSS bit?

- RSS … provides an open method of syndicating and aggregating Web content. Using RSS files, you can create a data feed that supplies headlines, links, and article summaries from your Web site.

RSS Reader - Firefox Web Browser
Below are the newest items from your 4 channels, ordered by channel modification date.

A "channel" (also "feed") is a website offering its headlines, news or content in a simplistic format.

### News from RMIT University Library
Last Downloaded: 2004-11-22 14:16:03.

- Information Literacy Framework
  The Framework provides the principles, standards and practice that can support information literacy education in all education sectors

- Information skills training sessions
  Check our online schedule and book in for a training session

- Link2 - Web Resources we like
  Link2 organises links to websites around areas of interest

### EdTechPost

- Next-Generation Course Management Systems: Beyond Accidental Pedagogy presentation from Educause Conference
Blogs

Blogs or Weblogs are a popular Web publishing tool.

Blog features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publishing made easy</th>
<th>Readers can post comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searchable</td>
<td>Updates can be tracked via RSS feeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catagorise information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronological entries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November 18, 2004

**IL ARTICLES**

There is a short article from my colleague, Sheila Corrall in issue 4 of *Synergy*, a new-ish publication at Glasgow Caledonian University. This issue also includes a review of the eLit 2004 conference, from Margaret McCann, and an account of the information literacy framework at Leeds Metropolitan University from Liz Waller.


Posted by Sheila Webber at 03:46 PM

November 17, 2004

**IL TUTORIAL - ARTICLE**

To continue the Irish theme, there is an article in the latest issue of *Library review* which describes an information literacy tutorial, *Olas,*

http://ciquest.shef.ac.uk/infolit/
Rowland Institute Library Blog

Google's interface to scholarly literature

Google now has a search interface for finding journal articles and books. Evidently they've indexed content from a number of contributing publishers. For some, only citations are available, but Google tells how many other references have cited a particular work. It will increasingly expose open access publications, but proprietary content will still be only partially accessible. (Source: SPARC Open Access Forum)

Update: The New York Times has an article about the service.

# Posted by Garrett Eastman on 11/18/04; 10:21:46 AM - Comments [0] Trackback [0]

http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/rihlib/

RMIT University Library
library lounge | a weblog

my adventures in first year science
at Melbourne Uni.

I'm in!

Well I can't quite believe it - I got into science at Melbourne Uni. My friends are impressed, my parents are stunned (they always reckoned I didn't work hard enough), but now the fun begins.

The next few months are going to be big - there's so much stuff I don't know. So I've decided to write it all here - maybe I can get some help from you out there in netland, maybe I can help someone. Either way I'm going to have some fun, so you might as well come along for the ride.

I'd love to hear from you, so if you have something to say, or can think of something that I should have included, drop me a line!

Here's a picture of my letter of offer, YIPEEE!

next episode >

BLOGS and RSS feeds

- Many Blog authors syndicate their entries as an RSS feed.
  - To subscribe to feed look for a symbol such as the following XML
RSS feeds – displayed in blogs

- Getting to the crux of this presentation – many blog publishing systems also allow authors to select rss feeds to be displayed on their sites.
  - Typical applications include News Headlines (BBC, New York Times)
  - Postings from related blogs
RSS feeds – displayed in blogs

- So it therefore follows that Library RSS feeds can be displayed in blogs.

- The following slide illustrates a experimental RMIT Library blog with a RSS feed displayed on the right.
RMIT University Library - BLOG test site

Welcome to the RMIT University Library Blog - currently in use for proof of concept and testing.

To the side you will see a series of links including "News from RMIT University Library".

These links are the headlines for RSS feeds from other syndicated content. The Library RSS channel is purely for testing purposes.

Blogs and e-learning

- Educators are finding Blogs a useful tool to support e-learning.
- Blogs are now being used with students from Primary to Higher education.
- At RMIT University – Blogs are at the early innovator stage.
Bachelor of Design (Multimedia Systems)

NOVEMBER 03, 2004

SEMI-PERMANENT DESIGN EVENT

Semi-Permanent Sydney 2005
- Presented by Design is Kinky & Diesel
Australia’s biggest and most inspirational design event is on again in 2005.
As with previous years, the Semi-Permanent event will be full of amazing
artwork, exciting ideas, and young creative people keen to be inspired and
have fun whilst doing it. Definitely an event not to be missed by
anyone with a passion for art or design.

RMIT is working closely with Semi-Permanent to organise discounted rates for
all students. The discounted rate is as follows:
2 Day ticket = $85 (discounted from $110)

This price includes a free copy of the Semi-Permanent book (retail price $70) and other assorted goodies.
Network Media

October 13, 2004

How Long Should Our Essays Be?

Dear Adrian,

How long should I essay be?

signed

CONFUSED

Dear CONFUSED,

Thanks for your question. A better question might be how big should they be, since long seems to imply a quantifiable length, which is a strange notion given you are invited to deal with ideas. (Note to self, how long is an idea?)

Or perhaps a better question should be how complex should they be?

The essay should be as large and as complex as you need it to be to describe, explore, argue or demonstrate what it is that you’re wanting to describe, explore, argue or demonstrate. I know that isn’t a helpful answer, but imagine the answer was 2000 words (it isn’t). What sort of answer is that. If you’ve got a really really brilliant idea, you might be able to express it in 1000 words. What are you going to do with the other 1000 you’ve got left over? Imagine you’ve got a really really brilliant idea, you might need 4000 words to get there. What are you going to do when you get to the 2000 mark? (Probably surrender and not worry about the really really brilliant idea.)

If you make a claim, justify it. If you make lots of claims, it follows there will

Networked Media will explore the practice and theoretical implications of the Internet and interactivity for traditional conceptions of film, television, and radio. The course will introduce a range of technical skills, including introductory Web design, networked writing, capturing, compressing and encoding media, placing this media online, and DVD design and authoring.

CATEGORIES
Recent Entries

July 23, 2004

Anime Research

This site maintained by writer and asian cultures academic Brian Ruh describes itself as: "... your starting point for academic research about anime, manga and other aspects of Japanese popular culture. In addition to original content, you will find links to articles and news reports that can be found on the web, as well as an extensive bibliography of books, journals and articles that are potential sources for academic or journalistic writing."
Why send a Library RSS feed

- Feed can be very specific for course - items selected by Liaison Librarian.
- Email overloaded with spam.
- No need to have authoring rights to courseware.
Why send a Library RSS feed

- Feed integrated into point of online teaching and learning. No need to happen into the Library’s web presence.
What would we send?

- News
- Table of Contents – A number of journals now provide RSS feeds.
- Information Literacy (skills) guidance.
- Other subject/discipline related information.
How would we send a Library RSS feed to these blogs.

- RSS feeds are XML files that have a web address.
- New items can be added to a feed using a simple web form.
<item>
  <title>Crig Information Literacy Seminar - 24th November</title>
  <link>http://www.anzil.org/events/meetings/cavl.htm</link>
  <description>Get the good oil on online information literacy</description>
</item>
A few more interesting RSS resources

- Google alert
  - http://www.googlealert.com

- Electronic Journals with a RSS Feed
  - http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/rss_feeds.php

- Feed to Javascript (Feed2JS)
Google Alert

A daily update of results from a saved search

Google Alert results for: 'learning object' repository

A Google Alert feed

**** Spoken Word Matters: IntraLibrary: Learning Object Repository (Google)

**** Learning Object Repository Database Software - Software, Hardware
... All SolutionCenter Topics. Your search for Keyword: Learning Object Repositories returned a total of 100 results. ...

**** Learning Object Repository Interoperability (Google rank 22)
Page 1. Learning Object Repository Interoperability Dr. Bernd Simon New Media Information Systems Vienna University of Economics and Business ...

**** Blackboard Launches Enterprise Learning Object Repository (Google)
... Blackboard Launches Enterprise Learning Object Repository, ...
E-journals with RSS feeds

Electronic Journals Beginning with A

There are 9 journals beginning with A with an RSS feed

1. Abacus
3. Acta crystallographica. Section B, Structural science
4. Acta crystallographica. Section C, Crystal structure communications
5. Acta crystallographica. Section D, Biological crystallography
6. AJNR, American journal of neuroradiology
7. Annals of clinical microbiology and antimicrobials
8. Annals of general hospital psychiatry
9. Ariadne
Feed to Javascript

Feed2JS
Using RSS feeds in your web pages is just a cut ‘n paste away!

About | Examples | Find | Build | Style | Download | More

Feed Preview
Below is a preview of how this feed will appear. If the information looks like what you want, next you can find out how to format it with your own style sheets.

- Crig Information Literacy Seminar
  - 24th November
- Information Literacy Framework
- Information skills training sessions
- Link2 - Web Resources we like
Thankyou

Mike Brooks

mike.brooks@rmit.edu.au