Investigation into new technologies

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Introduction

Investigation at Monash University Library
Why investigate new technologies?
What can they help us achieve?
Brief overview – RSS/Blogs/Wikis
What are others doing?
Reality check
Summary
Links
Investigation at Monash University Library

- RSS/Blogs/Wikis
- Library strategic objectives
- Feedback from key stakeholders
- What is being done elsewhere?
- Make recommendations
Why new technologies?

Library is the one stop shop, information portal
Harness the technologies used by the users

Automate information discovery process
Push information out to users
Raise profile of library with users
What can they help us achieve?

1. Increased utilization and visibility of resources and services
2. More effective promotion of the Library’s resources and services
3. Improved communication & information delivery
4. Increased awareness and understanding of new technologies
RSS Readers

- Also called Aggregators
- Resemble email clients
- Stand-alone or web based
- Designed to send you feeds
- Feeds indicated by
  - Bloglines
  - FeedDemon
  - My Yahoo
  - News Gator
  - Pluck
  - Sage (Mozilla add on)
  - SharpReader
  - Google Desktop
Weblogs/Blogs

- Website diary in reverse chronological format.
- Usually subject specific.
- Editable, commentable, syndicateable, collaborative
- Great for librarian to librarian communication, news, conference interaction.
  - Bloglines
  - Blogger
  - B2Evolution
  - WordPress
Wikis

- Very similar to Blogs, except content (not format) driven.
- Usually subject specific
- Editable, commentable, syndicateable, collaborative
- Great for documentation, procedures, reference manual, training materials.
  
  – Mediawiki
  – Wikipedia
  – Seedwiki
Stakeholder feedback

- **Wide range of responses:**
  - New electronic resources feed**
  - New resources feed**
  - Library News feed
  - Reference Manual wiki
  - Internal library blog (Information Digest)**
  - Postgraduate information blog/wiki
  - Third party feeds on web site (from news & broadcasting services, law sites, government sites, journal publishers,)**
  - Library feedback blog
  - Research blog hosted by library
What are university libraries doing?

- JC surveyed 39 university libraries
- 9 have adopted RSS/Blogs/Wikis

- ANU
- Bond
- CSU
- Curtin
- Flinders
- JCU
- USQ
- UWS
- VUT
Applications

- Library News blog (8)
- New Titles feed (6)
- Podcasts (1)
## University Library snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Who and how?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Library News blog, New Books feed</td>
<td>Home grown</td>
<td>Library staff users. Low key promotion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond University</td>
<td>New titles feed.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Sturt University</td>
<td>Library Blog “YourLibrary@CSU”, New Library Titles.</td>
<td>Feedburner</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flinders University Library</td>
<td>Library News, New Books feed.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cook University Library</td>
<td>Library and Computing News.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>Library News blog, New Books feed.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Item on web site. Info lit classes. Info in FAQ. Some promotion to academics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria University of Technology</td>
<td>Library News feed, and WAP access to catalogue via mobile phone.</td>
<td>AirPAC</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examples of Library Blog & Podcasts

- Library Blog @ Curtin University

- Library Podcasts @ Curtin University
Examples of clear links to RSS

- University of Southern Queensland Library

- USQ Library blog
  - http://library.usq.edu.au/wordpress/?page_id=2

- Flinders University RSS feeds
Examples of clear links to RSS

- University of Western Sydney catalogue

- UWS Catalogue

- UWS New Books feed
Library & Information Service

- Catalogue Tools
- Databases & Electronic Research Tools
- Web Searching Resources
- Guides & Training
- Borrower Information
- Teaching Support
- Information & Services
- Referencing Resources
- Exam & Course/Subject Specific Student Resources
- Study Skills
- Handy Reference Resources
- Research Support

**single search @ your library**

For quick searches of library resources including the library catalogue, library websites, research repositories, digital theses, and selected library databases. For more complex searches we suggest you search the resources directly.

**blog @your library**

*news, resources, events...*

Guild Day Semester 2. Last Wednesday on Guild Day (2 August) your Library staff were on hand to answer your enquiries and to give away another 500 boxes of Smarties, frisbees, pens, notepads, bookmarks and more. The Library also ran a competition on the day to give away $50 cash. This was won by accounting student Izumi Hino.

Free Saturday Library Workshop. Free Saturday Library Workshop - 10am 26th August.
blog@your library

14 August 06


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Here are some photographs from the day.

![Photograph 1](image1.png)

![Photograph 2](image2.png)
What RSS feeds are available?

The USQ Library Blog makes a variety of different feeds available. Copy the URL for the feed that is of interest into your aggregator to start monitoring it:

- **Main USQ Library Blog Feed.**
  Contains all posts in all of the below categories.

- **Electronic Resources.**
  Information about Electronic Resources including: outages, new subscriptions and trials.

- **Library Systems.**
  Information about Library Systems including: scheduled outages, maintenance and enhancements.

- **General Announcements.**
  General Information about the Library.

- **Faculty Information.**
  All of the posts in the faculty specific categories.

- **Arts Faculty.**
  Information of specific interest to the Arts faculty posted by our Arts Faculty Librarian.

- **Business Faculty.**
UWS Library Catalogue - VOYAGER

- Title/Author/Subject
- Guided Keyword
- Course Reserve
- Your Library Record
- New Books [RSS]
- Search other Libraries
- Catalogue downtime
  A full backup occurs every Monday night/Tuesday morning between 10:45pm and 3:15am. During this time, the Library Catalogue may be unavailable.
- Timeout Problems? Please check your browser settings.
- Use the Exit button to end your session
New Books List

DATABASE LAST UPDATED ON: 31-JUL-2006

Search For Title: 

- ANY
  - Approval Plan
  - Barr Collection
- Schools:
  - College of Arts
  - General
  - Graduate Business
  - Accounting
- ANY
  - Benk Stefan
  - Blacktown
  - Campbelltown
  - Hawkesbury
- Locations:

Date: Last 1 month
UWS Library New Books List (2006-08-16)

- New books list for August 2006 - Approval Plan (15 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - Barr Collection (5 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - Graduate School of Business (8 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - School of Accounting (30 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - School of Biomedical and Health Sciences (30 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - School of Communication Arts (62 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - School of Computing and Mathematics (84 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006

- New books list for August 2006 - School of Economics and Finance (96 new books added) (2006-08-16)
  List of UWS Library new books for the month of August 2006
Feed me updates

Flinders University Library RSS Feeds

Selected content is now available through RSS feeds.

To use these feeds, just click on the feed buttons below and paste the resulting page's URL into your RSS reader.

For information on RSS feeds visit the Library [Keeping up-to-date with RSS] webpage.

News & announcements

- News and events
- Library events
- Featured database
- Trial databases

New items in the collections

- 000 General Works
- 100 Philosophy and Psychology
- 200 Religion
- 300 Social Sciences
- 400 Language
- 500 Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- 600 Technology and Applied Sciences
- 700 Arts and Recreation
- 800 Literature
- 900 Geography and History
- Law Library

Library information

- Today's opening hours

For customised feeds please contact your [Liaison Librarian].
Promotion, usage and support

- Low key promotion, mainly to staff, info lit classes, direct to academics
- Library News items
- Visible RSS links
- Usage - the great unknown
- High hits, low usage!
- Few support issues
Reality check

- **Blogs/Wikis**
  - Someone has to be responsible = time
  - Constant updating to be useful
- **RSS**
  - Users still have to subscribe (once)
  - You have to remember to read it!
  - Information overload?
  - Potential systems issues (firewall)
Summary

• Huge amount of interest
• Little understanding
• Information sessions essential
• Easy things first: eg, New titles lists, Library News, in house Blog
• Very few support problems
• User base is largely unknown, and generally anecdotal
• No one is analysing hits
• Feedback has been 100% positive

• Observations:
• Visible RSS feeds ↑ awareness and acceptance
• Single RSS page with all information
Links

- What is RSS and why should you care? Chris Sherman
- Choosing an RSS Reader. Chris Sherman
- Exploring the application of RSS for Library Staff Professional Development and SDI Services. Sandra Jeffries, Corey Wallis.
- More About RSS Feeds & Podcasting (SLV)
- Antioch University New England Library Staff Training and Support Wiki
- University of Saskatchewan electronic journals with an RSS feed
  - http://library.usask.ca/ejournals/rss_vendors.php