



RSS Really Simple Syndication

SPRING 2012

A quick reference guide to using RSS to get current information.

How It Works

Really Simple Syndication is a web format used by websites, blogs, and other online services to syndicate or "broadcast" information through RSS feeds.

Subscribing to RSS Feeds

You can easily stay informed by subscribing to RSS feeds. **RSS feeds** are special web links. Using a RSS reader or news aggregator you can "subscribe" to the RSS feed by entering or clicking on the link. An **RSS reader or news aggregator** is software designed to receive/collect and display the RSS feeds. There are many types of RSS readers. Some of the most popular text-based readers are described below. There are also audio/video readers, the most well-known is iTunes. Many sites display a small icon with the acronyms RSS, XML, or RDF to let you know a feed is available.

RSS Readers

Desktop Reader

Software that you download to your computer and open on your computer to read your RSS feeds. Most people don't use this type of software because the RSS Feeds you subscribe to with the software installed on that computer would only be accessible on that computer.

Microsoft Outlook

Outlook is the most well-known example of a desktop reader. The Microsoft Outlook program has a built in RSS reader, which can be used to collect and organize your RSS feeds. The RSS feeds are connected to your email account, so, you will also be able to access these RSS feeds in the web mail version of your email account.

Web-based (online) Reader

There are many RSS reader websites that offer a free account, you can set up on their website and use to collect RSS feeds. The most popular is Google reader. Google reader is one of many tools available in the free Google account.

Mobile Reader Application

There are many applications to view and manage your RSS feeds on a mobile phone or tablet. Several of the Web-based (online) accounts that you set up on a website offer a mobile application that can be downloaded to your phone or tablet.

ICC RSS Feeds

Here are a few ICC RSS feeds you might want to subscribe to. These will keep you up to date with notifications from eNews, TLC events and more.

ICC eNews

<http://enews.icc.edu/rss/>

TLC Events Calendar

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/icctlcevents/>

Arts at ICC

<http://www.artsaticc.com/news/>



How To Set-up RSS Feeds

Setting up RSS feeds in MS Outlook

Outlook 2010 has an RSS feeds folder built-in. To add feeds to this folder:

1. Open Outlook.
2. Right click on the RSS Feeds Folder.
3. Type the URL: <http://enews.icc.edu/feed/>
4. Select "**Add.**"
5. When you're asked if you want to add the RSS feed, select "**Yes.**"
6. The RSS feed will be added.

Another option with Outlook is to have updates to a specific RSS feed come directly into your inbox as a new email message.

1. Open Outlook.
2. Select the "**File**" tab.
3. Select "**Account Settings,**" then select "**Account Settings**" in the drop-down menu.
4. Select the "**RSS Feeds**" tab.
5. Select "**New.**" A dialog box will open to enter the RSS feed address.
6. Enter <http://enews.icc.edu/rss/> in the dialog box. Select "**Add.**"
7. A dialog box will appear. Select "**Change Folder**" and then select your inbox folder.
8. Select the Update Limit box to limit the information you receive to no more than once an hour. This means that no matter how frequently we update eNews, you will only receive updates once an hour.
9. Select "**OK**" and "**Close.**" Now when eNews is updated, an email with a link will be sent to you. You can choose to read the article or delete it from your email account.

Setting up Google Reader

To use Google Reader, you need a free Google account. Once you have a Google account and you are signed in, you can go to reader.google.com

The first time you use Google Reader, it will be empty and you will see a welcome message and introduction video clip or tour.

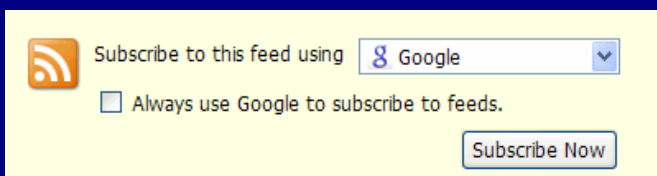
You can click the Subscribe button, paste in the RSS feed url and click "**Add.**"

To organize your RSS feeds in Google reader:

1. Put your cursor over the **Subscriptions** header in the menu and click the drop-down arrow.
2. Choose "**Manage subscriptions.**"
3. From this screen you can create new folders and move your RSS Feeds into folders.

Subscribing to Feeds

An RSS feed can often be identified by the orange universal icon, below You may also see a link that says something similar to "Subscribe to..." or "Site RSS Feed..." When you see it on a website, clicking it will usually direct you to that site's feed. You can either copy and paste the link into your reader software to subscribe or in the case of many browsers, click a button to subscribe directly.



If you are logged into your RSS reader account (Google for example), you will often be able to choose your preferred RSS reader from a drop-down menu and click the Subscribe button.

Resources Used to Create this Guide:

<http://enews.icc.edu/about-enews/>
[Microsoft Office Outlook Subscribe to an RSS Feed Tutorial](#)
[Getting Started with Google Reader](#)