

RSS

What it is

RSS stands for “really simple syndication” (or sometimes “rich site summary”) and is a handy way to keep track of content changes on sites that use it. A site will make an RSS feed available, and you (the reader) can use it via a news reader like Google Reader. Luther Seminary’s tech folk have made a useful introduction available via the Free Range Learning blog (<http://blog.luthersem.edu/freerangelearning/2008/04/subscribe-throu.html>).

Why should you care?

1. Because you feel overwhelmed by all the postings to our course site, and wonder if you’re even seeing most of them.
2. Because you’re looking for an easy way to check on whether anything new has been added to our course site.
3. Because you want to develop a reasonable practice of blog reading, choosing when you’ll read blogs and for how long (a practice which a news reader supports).

How do I get started?

1. Choose a news reader (most people will start with Google Reader, which is free).
2. Create an account for yourself at your news reader site.
3. Go to the site whose content you would like to follow.
4. Copy the URL from that site’s RSS feed (usually there’s a tiny icon that looks like this that you can simply click on).
5. Paste the URL into the “add subscription” box in your reader.
6. Bookmark your reader, and look under the subscriptions list to see if anything is new at the site to which you’re subscribed.
7. Things to keep in mind:
 - if you subscribe to the “latest activity box” feed on our course website, your reader will keep a copy of everything that appears in that box (all the blog feeds, all the comments people make, etc.)
 - if you’d rather not be alerted to everything that happens on the site, you might try subscribing to the blogs alone (in that case, click on the “blogs” tab, then scroll all the way to the bottom of the page and click on the RSS feed icon)

