

Exercise #4

Introduction to Blogs and RSS Feeds Getting Started with Bloglines as Your RSS Feed Reader

In this exercise you look at some typical blogs, learn to find more blogs using Bloglines, and see the relationship between blogs and RSS feeds. Then you will establish a personal account with Bloglines, currently the best RSS feed reader, and explore some ways to use it to subscribe and read feeds.

A. In your Bookmarks for Post-Google, locate:

Sample Blogs of Interest to Library Work

1. Click on **infoblog.infopeople.org - the Infopeople blog**
2. Spend some time looking around, clicking on some of the links in the right column.
3. Return to the Bookmarks, and click on ONE of the other two blogs, **Librarian in Black** or **Neat New Stuff**.
4. What are some things the blogs you looked at have in common?



Setting Up Your Personal Bloglines Account


B. If you already have a Bloglines account go to step D. If you do not already have a Bloglines account:

1. Go to **www.bloglines.com**
2. Click **Register** (upper right) and fill in the required information. Enter your real email address. Use an email address that you will be able to access during this class.

NOTE: You must have cookies enabled in your browser. If you get a message that you don't, in IE go to **Tools, Internet Options**. Click the **Privacy** tab. Drag the Settings bar button down to Medium or lower. Click **OK**.
3. Open another browser window with **CTRL + N**. In this window, log in to the email account you gave to Bloglines and locate the message from bloglines.com. When you acknowledge that it was indeed you that registered with Bloglines, your account will be activated.

OVER

C. Subscribing to a feed in Bloglines.

1. Open another window, so that you have Bloglines in one window and can use the second window for this part of the exercise.
2. Go to **infoblog.infopeople.org** in this second window.
3. Locate the RSS 2.0 orange/blue button  in the lower right that allows you to syndicate this feed. **Right click** on this button. Click **Copy Shortcut** or **Copy Link Location**.
4. Go to **bloglines.com homepage**.
5. Click on the yellow **Subscribe** icon in the middle of the welcome page.
6. Click in the box after **Blog or Feed URL**, and **paste** what you copied in step 2 (**CTRL+V**).
7. Click the **Subscribe** button to the right of this box.
8. On the next screen, click **Subscribe** again.

D. View, read, and manage your feeds

1. After subscribing to a feed, you should see in Bloglines a screen with **My Feeds** tab in the upper left. (If you don't see this, click on the Bloglines logo and then click on the **My Feeds** tab.)
2. Click on the feed you added. The current postings that you have not read will appear on the right. Scroll through and read what you want.
3. By default, any postings you look at will disappear from Bloglines once you look at them. To save postings, do one of the following:
 - a. Click the **Keep New** box at the bottom of the individual posting. This posting will remain in MyFeeds until you uncheck Keep New.
 - b. Click **Clip/Blog This** at the bottom of the individual posting. In the window that opens, click the **Save To** button next to where it says **Clippings Folder**. Close the window that opens when you're done. To view saved clippings, click the **Clippings** tab on the right.
4. If you want to view something that disappeared from Bloglines, go directly to the Blog or website that the RSS feed came from. You can do this by clicking on the link to it above the RSS feed postings on the right in Bloglines. (You can also find the blog or website by searching for it in Google or another search engine.)

E. Removing Feeds or Saved Clippings from Bloglines

1. Click on the tab for whichever you want to remove.
2. Click **Edit**.
3. Drag the item you wish to delete to the **Trash** icon.

BONUS

1. Click on the **Directory** tab in Bloglines.
2. Subscribe to other feeds of interest from the list of **Most Popular Feeds**.
3. To subscribe, click the **Subscribe** link after an entry.