

UW Colleges Instructional Technology

# RSS & D2L

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*Pat Fellows*  
*November 2, 2005*

Patricia J. Fellows

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## Objectives:

- RSS Feeds
  - What they are and how they work
  - Where to find them
  - Adding RSS to D2L

XML

RSS

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## What are RSS feeds?

- Really Simple Syndication / Rich Site Summary
- An old idea, yet a new way to surf the web
  - Push vs Pull technology
- RSS lets users read dozens of websites, all at the same time.
  - The sites can be scanned in seconds rather than having to be laboriously loaded individually
- All the feeds are chosen by the user
- The unwieldy web becomes manageable

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### How RSS works

- A short description of a web site in XML format-called a RSS feed is made available
- An RSS feed can easily be viewed in D2L when set up properly
- First a feed or feeds need to be located that will be useful in a course

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### Which websites have RSS Feeds?

- Major News sites and noteworthy CNN, NY Times, BBC...
- Most noteworthy Weblogs and Wikis
- Growing number of Instructional Resources
  - MERLOT
- Podcasting sites
- Look for this symbol on the website




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### Searching for relevant RSS Feeds

- RSS Feed Directories
  - [Feed Directory](#)
  - [Syndic8](#)
  - [CNet Simply RSS](#)
- RSS Feed Search Engines
  - [Feedster](#)
  - [Blogstreet](#)
  - [Technorati](#)
- Instructional – Higher Ed
  - [MERLOT](#)
  - [Educuase](#)
  - [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

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## Adding RSS to D2L

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## D2L Tools where RSS works!

- Content
- Discussions
- FAQ
- Journal
- News
- Quizzing
- Widgets

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## Finding RSS Feeds

- Identify a website that provides RSS feeds
- Copy the URL for the RSS feed
  - Look for the **XML** image
  - Right click on the image
  - Copy the shortcut

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## Generate Java Script

- Use the Java Script Builder available from UW-Whitewater
  - Go to [HTTP://omega1.uww.edu/feed2js/](http://omega1.uww.edu/feed2js/)
  - Enter the URL for the XML feed into the form
    - This is the shortcut copied in the previous step
  - Select options for display of the feed in D2L
  - Create the script and then copy the script

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## Create the RSS Feed in D2L

- Select a tool, such as a the **Content** page in D2L
- Add a Topic using the HTML editor
- Once the HTML editor is open there are two options:
  - paste the script in the text box and check the HTML check box , or
  - select the "HTML" view and paste the script between the <HTML> and </HTML> tags
- Insert the page and then save the page

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## The HTML View

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