INTRODUCING RSS

You can keep track of the latest content from your favorite websites with Rich Site Summary (RSS), often dubbed Really Simple Syndication.

RSS allows you to receive notifications of new web content upon publication, without having to visit individual websites.

You can use RSS to receive:

- Tables of contents and abstracts of the most recent articles from journals
- Updates from your literature searches
- Clinical alerts
- The latest medical headlines
- News and announcements from websites

GETTING STARTED WITH RSS

The first step in using RSS is to sign up for an RSS reader.

A reader allows you to receive and view RSS files or “feeds.” RSS feeds contain headlines and brief summaries that indicate what is new on a website, as well as links to the complete articles on the site when available.

NetVibes is an example of a free RSS reader. Other popular alternatives include Feedly, TheOldReader, and NewsBlur.

To create a NetVibes account:

2. Click on the Sign Up link to create an account.
3. Complete the online form.
4. Check the I Agree with the terms of Service option.
5. Click on Sign Up.

SUBSCRIBING TO RSS FEEDS

The second step in using RSS is to establish a connection between your RSS reader and the feeds on your favourite websites, which will enable updates from these websites to appear in your reader. To establish this connection or “subscribe” to RSS feeds:

1. Go to your favorite website (e.g., [http://www.bmj.com/](http://www.bmj.com/)). A website that offers RSS feeds will display an RSS link, which may appear as linkable text (e.g., Article Feeds, RSS, XML) or as an icon.

2. Click on the RSS link.
3. Select the desired RSS feed.
4. Highlight the web address of the RSS feed with your mouse and press Ctrl + C to copy. Go to NetVibes
5. Click on the +Add button at the top, left hand side of the page.

There are different types of RSS icons. The standard icon is an orange square.
6. Paste (press Ctrl + V) the feed’s web address in the URL box then click press Enter.
7. A preview of the feed will appear. Click on the Widget Preview to add the feed to your page.

**NetVibes** users can personalize their layout in widget or reader format. The reader format lists the RSS feeds you subscribe to on the left hand side of the page. Clicking on a feed link will show you the individual items from the feed on the right. New posts will appear as feeds are updated.

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### CREATING RSS FEEDS FOR PUBMED SEARCHES

PubMed allows you to save a search as an RSS feed so that you will be notified whenever a new article on your topic appears in PubMed. To create an RSS feed for your PubMed search:

1. Search your topic in PubMed.
2. Click **RSS** located below the **Search** box.
3. Select the maximum number of new results you wish to receive at one time, name your search and click on the **Create RSS** button.
4. Click on the **XML** icon.
5. A new window will appear. Copy the address of this ensuing web page and paste it into your **NetVibes** account.

You can also use PubMed to create an RSS feed for a biomedical journal that does not have a feed on its website. Click on the **Advanced Search** link in PubMed, select **Journal** from the “Search Builder” drop down menu, enter the journal title, click on the **Search** button at the top of the page, and follow steps 2-5 above.

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### CREATING RSS FEEDS FOR FEEDLESS WEBSITES

Some websites may not offer RSS feeds. There are free services that monitor feedless websites and send updates to your RSS reader (e.g., Page2RSS). To create an RSS feed for a feedless website:


2. Type the address of the feedless website into the **Page URL** box.
3. Click on the **to RSS** button.
4. Click on the **NetVibes** link on the right hand side of the page.
5. Sign in to **NetVibes**.
6. Click the **Add to my Dashboard** button.

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### FIND OUT MORE

Your **hospital librarian** can provide training and advice on keeping current with health content on the web using RSS.

**Montreal Children’s Hospital Medical Library**
MCH Room C-420, ext. 22054
Librarian: Alex Amar, ext. 22554

**Montreal General Hospital Medical Library**
MGH Room E6-157, ext. 43058
Librarian: Tara Landry, ext. 43057
Librarian: Vanessa Gatien, ext. 43056

**Royal Victoria Hospital Main Medical Library**, RVH Room H4.01, ext. 35290
Librarian: Bénédicte Nauche, ext. 35292

**Montreal Chest Institute Library**
MCI Room J5.26, ext. 32593
Librarian: Ibtsam Mahmoud

**Women’s Pavilion Library**
RVH Room F4.24, ext. 34738
Librarian: Irina Iavorskaia