What is RSS?
Stay informed without wasting time

With so much information available online you don’t have time to visit all of the web sites you want to follow, especially if there isn’t anything new. Aggregation using RSS is an efficient way to gather all the updated news/information/content you want into one place, saving you time.

WHAT IS RSS?

RSS stands for “Really Simple Syndication” or “Rich Site Summary.” Most websites that are active and have updated news or posts will have a feed attached to them. RSS feeds make it possible for web site content writers to make their work available to be “pulled” by others with an RSS reader, whenever, wherever the read wants it. RSS feeds allow content to be portable. This means that a web site that publishes a feed can be read by your preferred RSS reader, an app on your mobile device, or by another web site. RSS allows readers flexibility when accessing content on the web. The video “Video: RSS in Plain English” explains why this is so great.

http://youtu.be/0klgLsSxGsU

HOW DO I FIND A FEED?

Subscribe to an RSS feed of a web site you want to follow to access the site content without having to go to the web site. To subscribe, look for an icon that looks like one of these (right), most commonly the orange icon.

SOME WEBSITES TO FOLLOW

- Cornerstone: uafcornerstone.net
- OIT activities: www.alaska.edu/oit/activities
- UAF eLearning Design Team: iDesign.uaf.edu
- Teaching Tips: iTeachU.uaf.edu/blog
- Rasmuson Library News: library.uaf.edu/news
- Chronicle for Higher Educaiton: chronicle.com
- Inside Higher Educaton: insidehighered.com
- Edudemic: edudemic.com

FEED READERS

Feed readers, sometimes called news aggregators, are software clients that collect the feeds you “subscribe” to. A feed reader gathers all the latest news and posts from the sites you are subscribed to and allows you to read them all in one place. This is the part that saves you time: you don’t go to each site and search to find the latest news. The reader searches for you and “pulls” the new content for you to read.

Everyone at UA has access to Google Reader through UA Google Apps. Google reader is a great RSS feed aggregator that not only lets you collect information from sites that interest you, but it also lets you share that information with colleagues, students, and others through email, Google+, Twitter and other social media of your choice. Find out how to use UA Google Apps Google Reader as an RSS feed aggregator at http://distance.uaf.edu/go/reader/