

Follow that Blog!

A Guide to Keeping up with Blogs, News and Tweets
with Free Resources*

Terms**

blog = Short for "web-log"; web site on which an individual or group of users record opinions, information, observations, etc. on a regular basis.

RSS = Stands for "RDF Site Summary," but commonly referred to as "Really Simple Syndication." RSS is a way of providing online content that is frequently updated such as news or blogs.

RSS aggregator/feed reader/blog reader = Website or software used to collect RSS feeds from various blogs, news sources or other sites to be easily read in one place. RSS updates automatically so users can avoid manually checking each website.

Free Resources

Online	Resources	URLs	Special Features
	1. Google Reader and iGoogle	www.google.com/reader www.google.com/ig	Connects with other Google features and Gmail.
	2. My Yahoo	www.my.yahoo.com	Connects with other Yahoo features and Yahoo Mail.
	3. Net Vibes	www.netvibes.com	Set up to include blogs, news, tweets and more.
	4. Bloglines	www.bloglines.com	Has a "Local" feature highlighting blogs and events in your area.
	5. Feed Rinse	www.feedrinse.com	Allows you to create filters within feeds to highlight or weed out items.
	6. Page Flakes	www.pageflakes.com	Much like Net Vibes, set up to include blogs as well as news, tweets and Facebook updates.

Offline	Resources	URLs	Special features
	1. RSSOwl	www.rssowl.org	Syncs with Google Reader.
	2. Blog Bridge	www.blogbridge.com	Has lots of great features including "Smart Feeds" to create personalized feeds like "Amazon books about cooking" or "Google News articles about libraries".
Windows Offline			
	1. Feedreader	www.feedreader.com	No frills design and easy to use.
	2. RSS Bandit	www.rssbandit.org	Can sync with Google Reader. Also include Podcasts, tweets and Facebook updates.
Mac Offline			
	1. Mixtab	www.mixtab.com	Clean layout. Allows filters and topic searches of web content in addition to your blog feeds.
	2. Fresh Feed	http://freshfeedapp.com	Syncs with Google Reader in a convenient drop down menu from your Desktop.

For more information about blog readers, check out

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_feed_aggregators

<http://support.google.com/reader/bin/answer.py?answer=113517>

*All of the resources listed work for both PCs and Macs unless otherwise noted.

**Definitions from www.techterms.com, Wikipedia and Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.

This guide was made by Kel Karpinski for the Skokie Public Library.