

Teaching the Internet to Surf Itself - RSS and You.

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The slide presentation which preceded this section of the workshop is available online at <http://slideshare.net/elizabethperry>.

Step 1:

Establish (or log in to your existing) Google account.

You will need to use an email address which you can access from this computer.

<https://www.google.com/accounts>

Write down the details, so that you remember them later!

Email address used for signup: _____

Google Account Password: _____

Required information for Google account

Your current email address:
e.g. myname@example.com. This will be used to sign-in to your account.

Choose a password: [Password strength](#). Too short
Minimum of 8 characters in length.

Re-enter password:


Remember me on this computer.


Creating a Google Account will enable Web History. Web History is a feature that will provide you with a more personalized experience on Google that includes more relevant search results and recommendations. [Learn More](#)

Enable Web History.

Location:

Word Verification: Type the characters you see in the picture below.



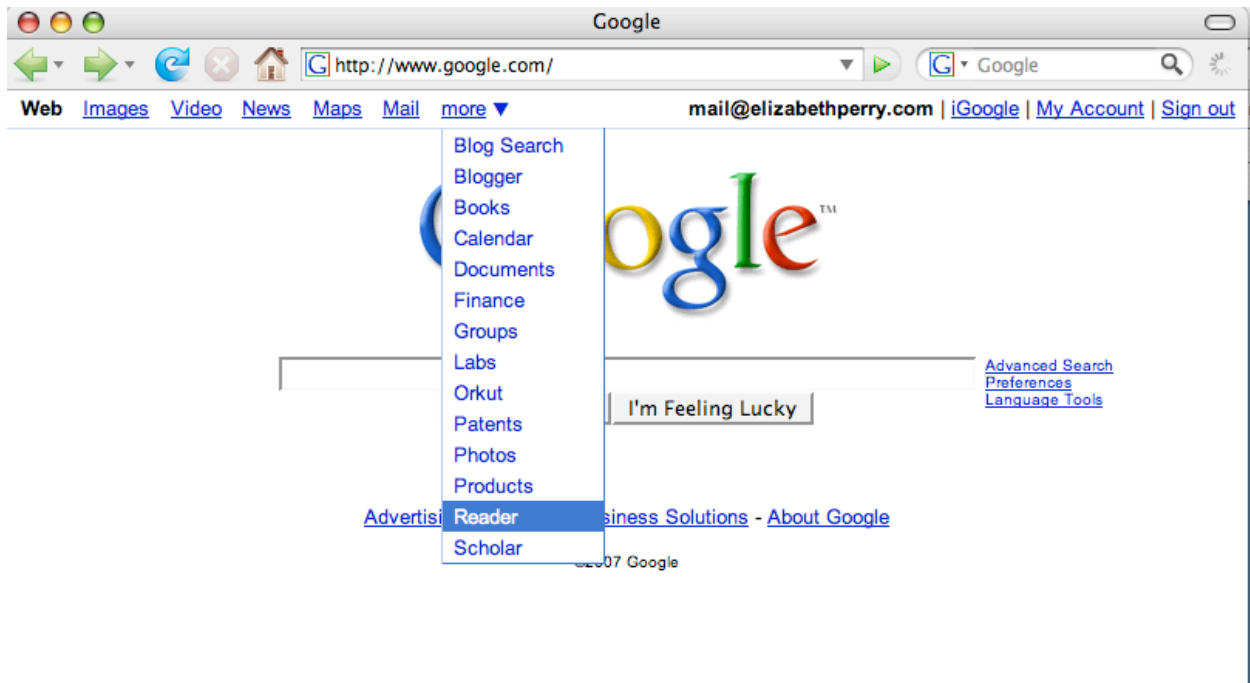

Letters are not case-sensitive

Terms of Service: Please check the Google Account information you've entered above (feel free to change anything you like), and review the Terms of Service below. [Printable Version](#)

Google Terms of Service
Welcome to Google!
1. Your relationship with Google

By clicking on 'I accept' below you are agreeing to the [Terms of Service](#) above and the [Privacy Policy](#).

Accept. Then go to Google and log in. <http://www.google.com>




In the pull down menu from "more," select "Reader."

Step 2:

Begin subscribing.

Go to a blog

<http://www.elizabethperry.com/woolgathering>, for example,

and click on the orange icon  or look for a button labelled RSS or XML or syndicate, or subscribe, and then click there. Either it will launch a page from which you can simply subscribe at the click of another button,



or the button will launch a page of scary-looking code. Breathe deeply. Copy and paste the URL (something like: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/Woolgathering?format=xml>) in the address bar into the add subscription form in Google Reader.



Congratulations. You've subscribed to a blog! Now, whenever the blog is updated, your feed in Google Reader will update automatically.

You can subscribe to other kinds of RSS feeds as well. We'll walk through subscribing to the feeds from some searches, and then you can play with some of the other possibilities listed below.

Here are some other subscription ideas:

google blog search	http://blogsearch.google.com
google news search	http://news.google.com
yahoo image search	http://images.search.yahoo.com
yahoo search	http://search.yahoo.com

the New York Times has RSS feeds for headlines and for each section:
<http://www.newyorktimes.com>

your hometown paper may have RSS feeds available, as well

flickr tag search	http://www.flickr.com	flickr is a photo-sharing site, with lots of features
del.icio.us tag search	http://del.icio.us.com	del.icio.us is a social bookmarking site
technorati tag search	http://technorati.com	technorati is a blog index and blog search engine

(what's a tag? a label or key word to describe something - one object can have many tags, and different users will often tag something differently...)

weather alerts	http://www.nws.noaa.gov/alerts
weather forecasts	http://www.accuweather.com/rss-center.asp
sports scores	http://www.totallyscored.com
youtube	http://youtube.com/rssls
blip.tv	http://blip.tv
google video search	http://video.google.com
facebook updates	http://www.facebook.com/help.php?page=23
twitter updates	http://twitter.com (scroll down for RSS on the page)
package tracking	http://isnoop.net/tracking/

Beyond today:

You may want to try out other online RSS readers - each has fans:

Bloglines	http://bloglines.com
Newsgator	http://newsgator.com
My Yahoo	http://my.yahoo.com

In this workshop we've focussed on online RSS readers. Offline RSS reading applications exist as well. Popular ones include Net News Wire, and NewsFire (for the Mac). They can be faster, but you have to install them on your computer, so you don't have access to them here.

We have also not talked about the way your institution or you as an individual can provide RSS feeds of your own content to others. Two easy ways to do that:

Feedburner	http://www.feedburner.com	makes it easy to create (and track) feeds
Feedblitz	http://www.feedblitz.com	lets people receive your blog updates via email

More information:

"RSS in Plain English," *The Common Craft Show* video, is online: <http://blip.tv/file/205570#15172>

Steve Rubel's blog, *Micropersuasion*, had an article, "35 Ways You Can Use RSS Today"
http://www.micropersuasion.com/2006/06/35_ways_you_can.html

Beth Kanter writes *Beth's Blog: How Nonprofits can Use Social Media*, and provides a steady source of up-to-date information of interest to nonprofits:
http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/

my website and email:
www.elizabethperry.com
mail@elizabethperry.com

Thank you.