

DU Learning Guide

News Online - RSS Feeds

What's it all about?

News feeds allow you to see when websites have added new content.

You can get the latest headlines and video in one place, as soon as it is published, without having to check the websites that you have a feed for.

Feeds are also known as RSS (don't worry what this stands for). The feeds themselves are just web pages, designed to be read by computers rather than people

Feeds are usually used for news and blog websites, but are also used for distributing other types of digital content, including pictures, audio files, or video. Web Browsers such as Internet Explorer 8 and Firefox can discover and display feeds as you visit websites. You can also subscribe to feeds to automatically check for and download updates that you can view later.

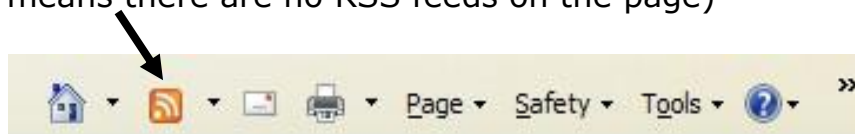
Try this

NB You'll need to have either Internet Explorer 7 or 8 or Firefox as your browser.

Go to www.bbc.co.uk and click News.

In the **Toolbar** there is an orange RSS icon.

(If the icon is grey, it means there are no RSS feeds on the page)



Click the icon to go to the BBC News feed.

To subscribe to feeds on the BBC News website, click the RSS icon and then click Subscribe to this feed.

A screenshot of the BBC News website. At the top, there is a yellow box with the text: "BBC News | News Front Page | UK Edition" and "You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. Learn more about feeds." Below this is a "Subscribe to this feed" button. Below the button, there are two news items: "Carter: Hamas will accept Israel" dated "21 April 2008, 15:11:35" and "Mugabe trying to 'steal election'". On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with "Displaying 37 / 37", "Sort by: Date, Title", and "Filter by category:" with a list of categories: Africa (2), Americas (2), Asia-Pacific (2), and Business (3).

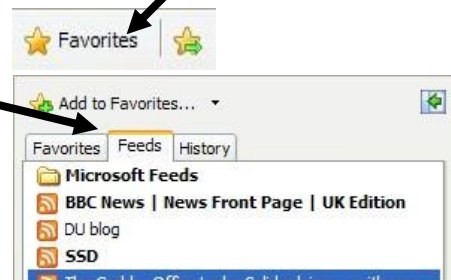
You can choose to **filter** the feeds so that you only see those on particular topics.

Your web browser will now download the feeds automatically for you. To view them in Internet Explorer 7 or 8, click the Favorites Centre.

Then click the Feeds button.

A list of the feeds you have subscribed to will now be displayed.

Click on them to read.



If you use Firefox as your web browser, click the Latest Headlines button.



Other Websites that offer RSS Feeds

Blogging sites

www.bloglines.com

Directory of UK Podcasts

www.ukpodcasts.info

Online encyclopaedia

www.wikipedia.org

Online newspapers

www.dailymail.co.uk

www.telegraph.co.uk

www.guardian.co.uk

www.independent.co.uk