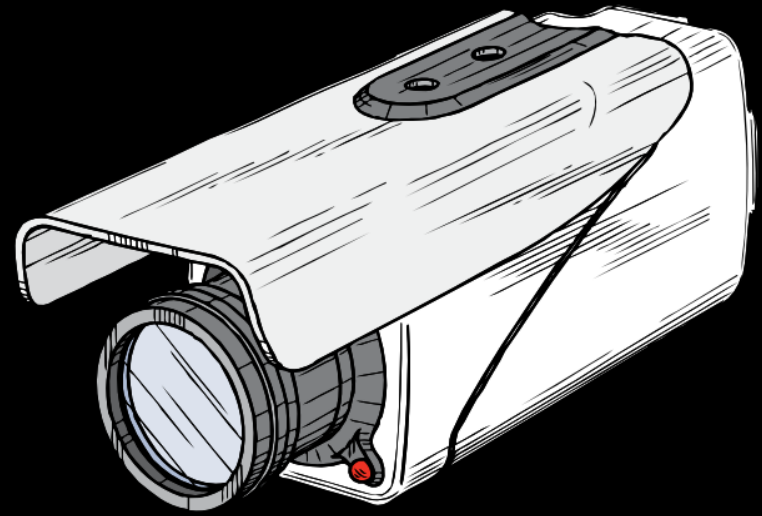


Under Surveillance



Teaching Topic Monitoring as a Research
Skill with RSS Feeds and Email Alerts

Mira Foster mira@sfsu.edu
San Francisco State University

Q: How do people seek
information?

A: There's more to it than
searching.



Consider Marcia Bates' model for information seeking and searching:

4 MODES

- Searching
- Browsing
- Monitoring
- “Being Aware”

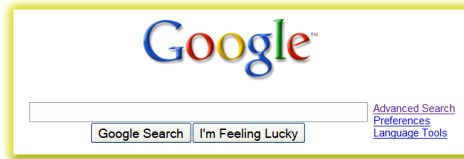
Information Seeking

Active

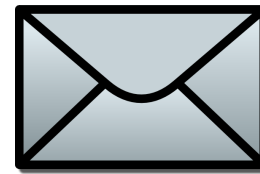
Passive

Directed

Searching



Monitoring



**Un-
directed**

Browsing

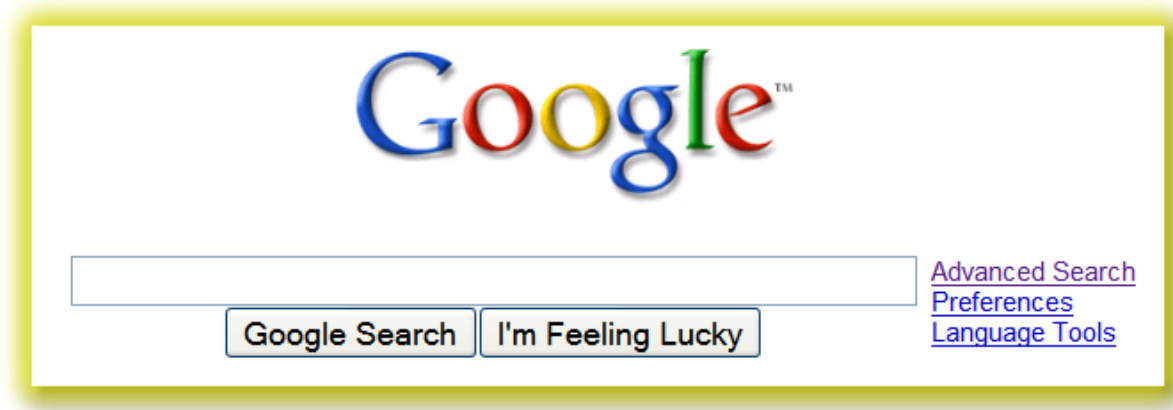
Choice...
Serendipity....
Discovery...

Being Aware

MY **YAHOO!**

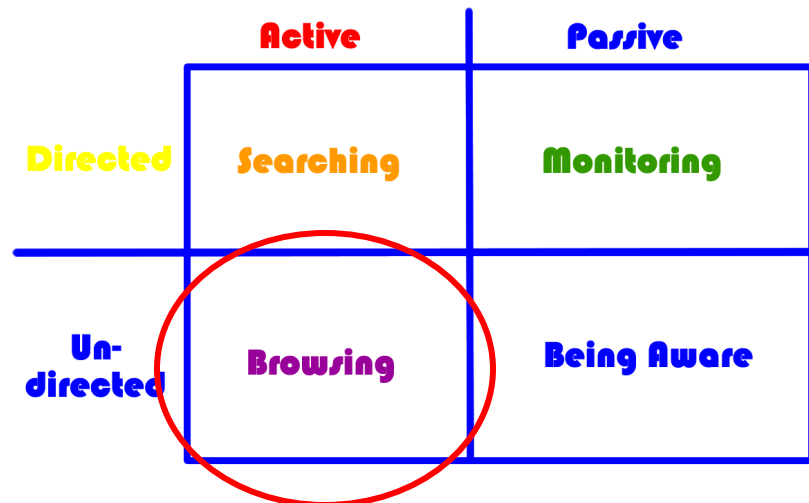
facebook

Searching = Directed + Active



Browsing = Undirected + Active

- Surfing
 - Shelf Reading
 - Following citations
 - Choosing which article to read from a list of results
 - Reading!
- Enjoy...
 - Amble...
 - Dwindle...
 - Discover....

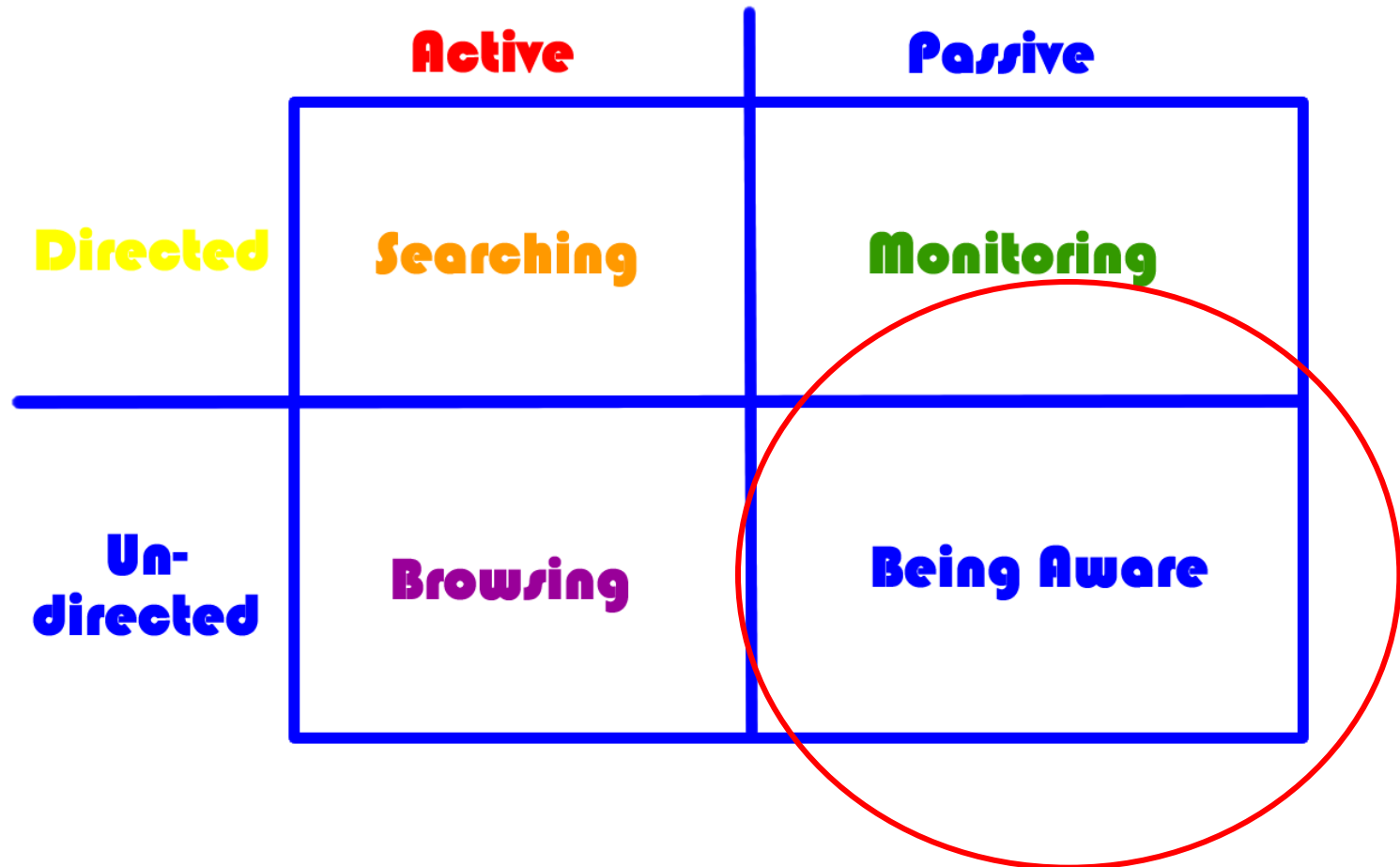


Monitoring = Directed + Passive

- Following a chosen topic or source.

	Active	Passive
Directed	Searching	Monitoring
Un-directed	Browsing	Being Aware

Being aware =
Undirected + Passive

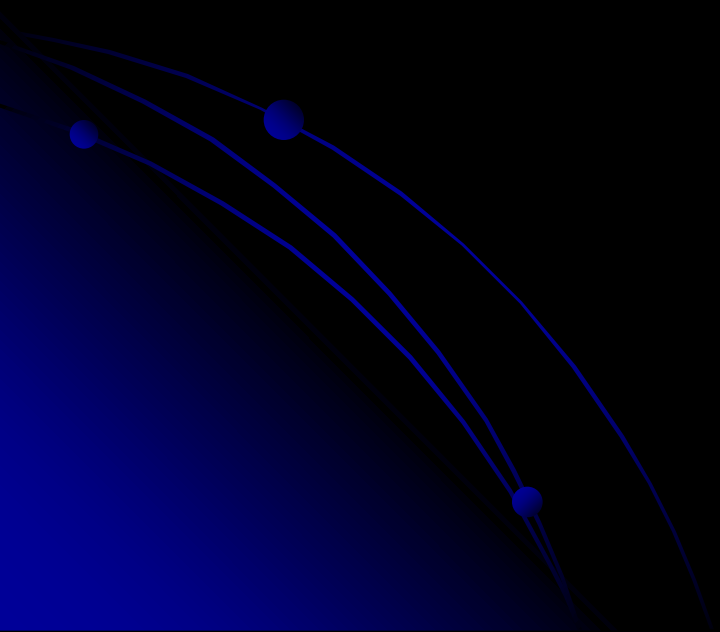


Your awareness depends on

- Your friends...
- Your colleagues...
- Your world of information...



You can decide.

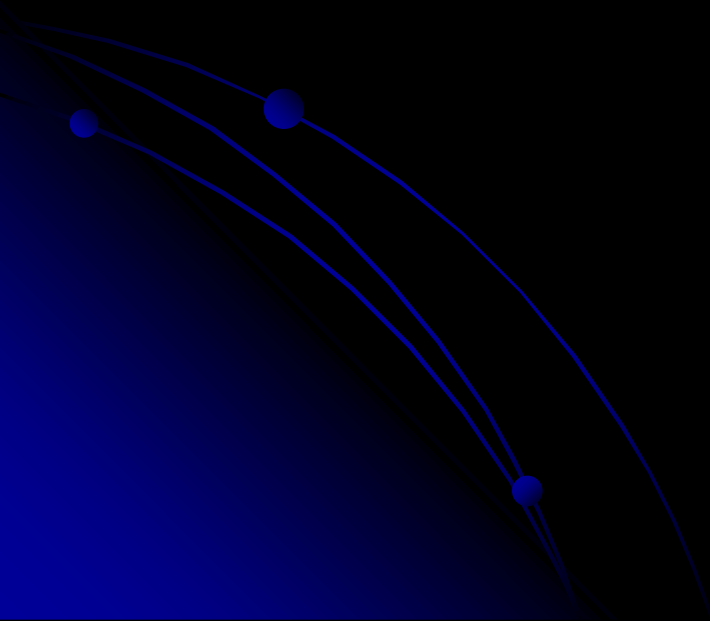


Monitoring = Directed + Passive

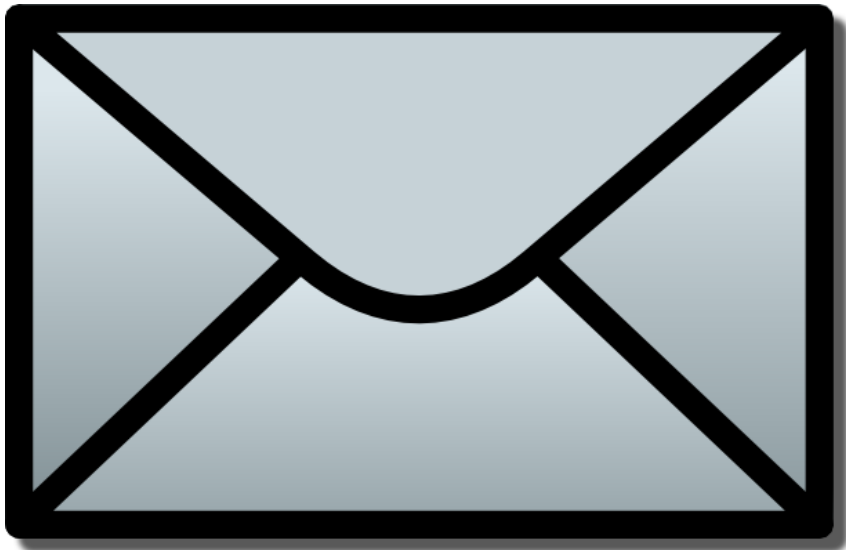
CHOSEN SOURCES

Q: How do you choose?

A: Ask a librarian.



There are online tools for monitoring.



Have you ever seen
one of these?




RSS is ubiquitous.



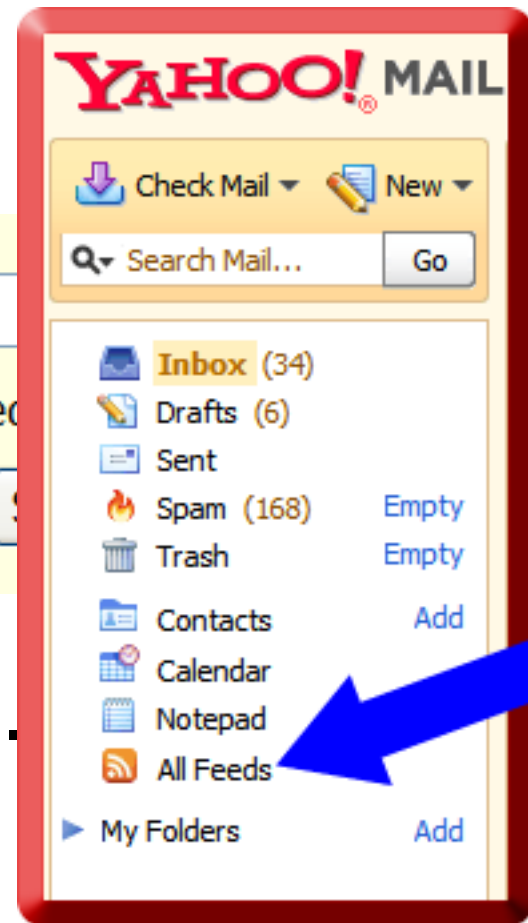
Easy to use...



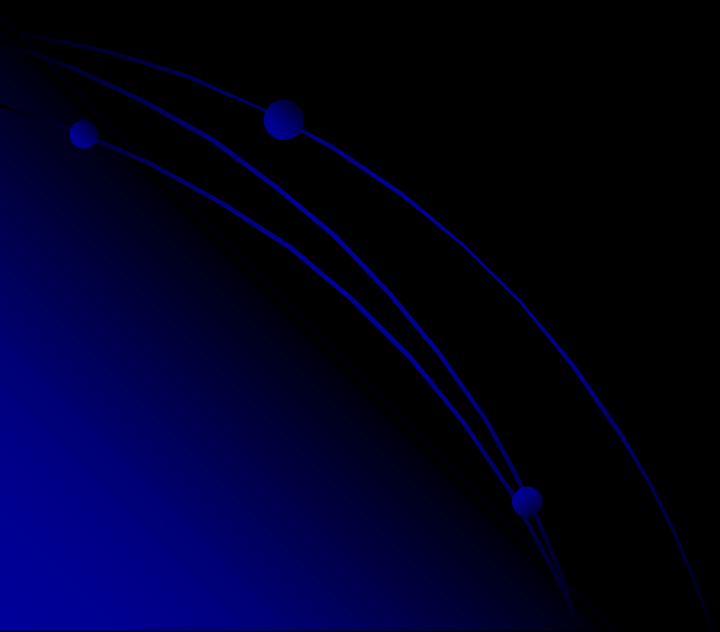
Subscribe to this feed using  Google

☐ Always use Google to subscribe to feed

- If you know how to use it.



Setting up RSS feeds in EBSCOHost databases...



Academic Search Premier | Choose Databases »

Search | Clear

Select a Field (optional) in

Select a Field (optional) in

Select a Field (optional) in


Add Row

Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History/Alerts | Preferences »

Results: Add (1-20)

Result: Share »

Create Alert ?

 **Search Alert: "healthcare reform on 2010-04-01 02:40 PM"**


E-mail (You must sign in to send e-mail alerts. [Sign In](#))

General Settings


Frequency: Once a day

Articles published within the last: One Year

Results format: Brief

RSS Feed:  <http://0-rss.ebscohost.com.opac.sfsu.edu/AlertSyndicationService/Syndication.aspx/GetFeed?guid=2436606>

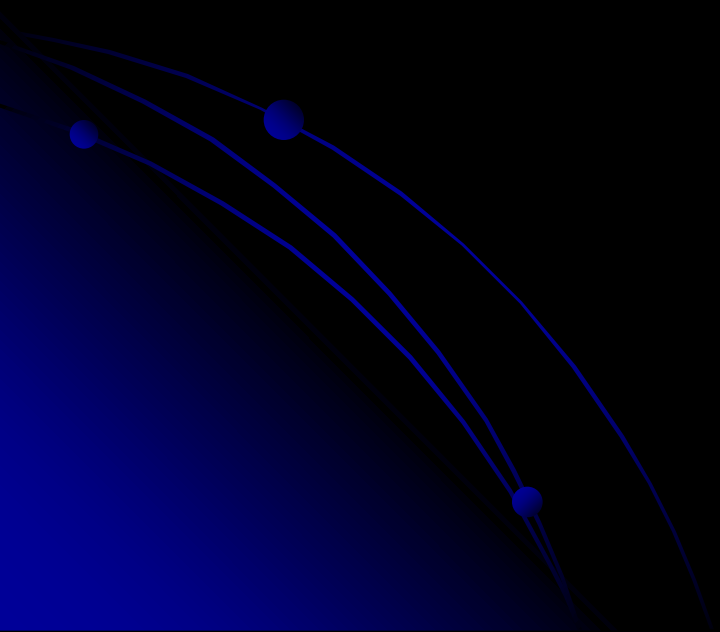
Save Alert **Cancel Alert**

 [HTML Full Text](#)

Notes: SFSU subscribes to this journal.

3. [Healthcare reform law challenged on religious grounds, too.](#)
By: Richey, Warren. Christian Science Monitor, 3/26/2010, pN.PAG, 1p; (AN 48819640)
Database: Academic Search Premier

Setting up RSS feeds in Proquest databases...



ProQuest Your RSS feed has been created

Your RSS Feed: http://0-rss.proquest.com.opac.sfsu.edu/rss?rss_id=826341

Feed Name: ProQuest: San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco, Calif.

Publication: San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco, Calif.

Expiration: Feed expires if unused for 3 months

Close

Changed your mind? [Delete this feed](#)

[SFSU Library](#) | [SFSU Library](#) | [Help](#)

Interface language:

English

Go

[Set Up Alert](#) | [Create RSS Feed](#)
[Publication Information](#)

Search

Browse

View issues from: Any month

To: Any month

Browse Issues

Clear

1-390 of 7754

< Previous | Next >

[Apr 7, 2010](#)

[Nov 28, 2009](#)

[Jul 21, 2009](#)

[Apr 6, 2010](#)

[Nov 27, 2009](#)

[Jul 20, 2009](#)

[Apr 5, 2010](#)

[Nov 26, 2009](#)

[Jul 19, 2009](#)

[Apr 4, 2010](#)

[Nov 25, 2009](#)

[Jul 18, 2009](#)

[Apr 3, 2010](#)

[Nov 24, 2009](#)

[Jul 17, 2009](#)

[Apr 2, 2010](#)

[Nov 23, 2009](#)

[Jul 16, 2009](#)



RSS Feed Readers...



- Allow users to monitor multiple sources at a glance.
- Provide easy links to full text content.
- Include tools for tagging, storing, and sharing important articles.

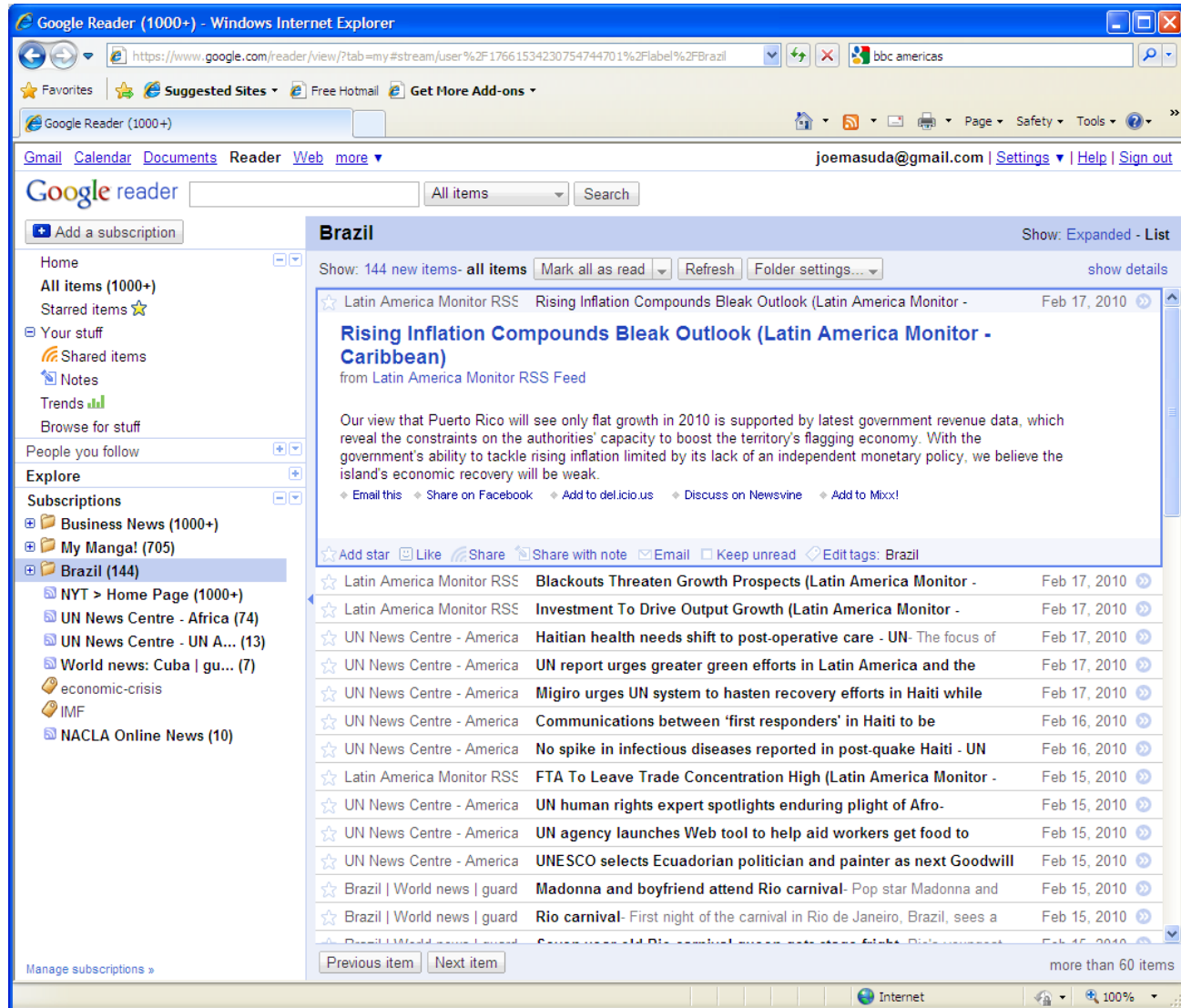


Why Teach RSS?



- Many do not know how to use it.
- Others do not know how to use it with library resources.
- It can be used in informal learning.
- RSS helps harness and organize exposure to information.

Ex: RSS feed in Google Reader





Email Alerts...



- Use a technology everybody knows.
- Can be limited to one source.
- Can include updated results of a continuous database search.
- Can clog your email inbox.

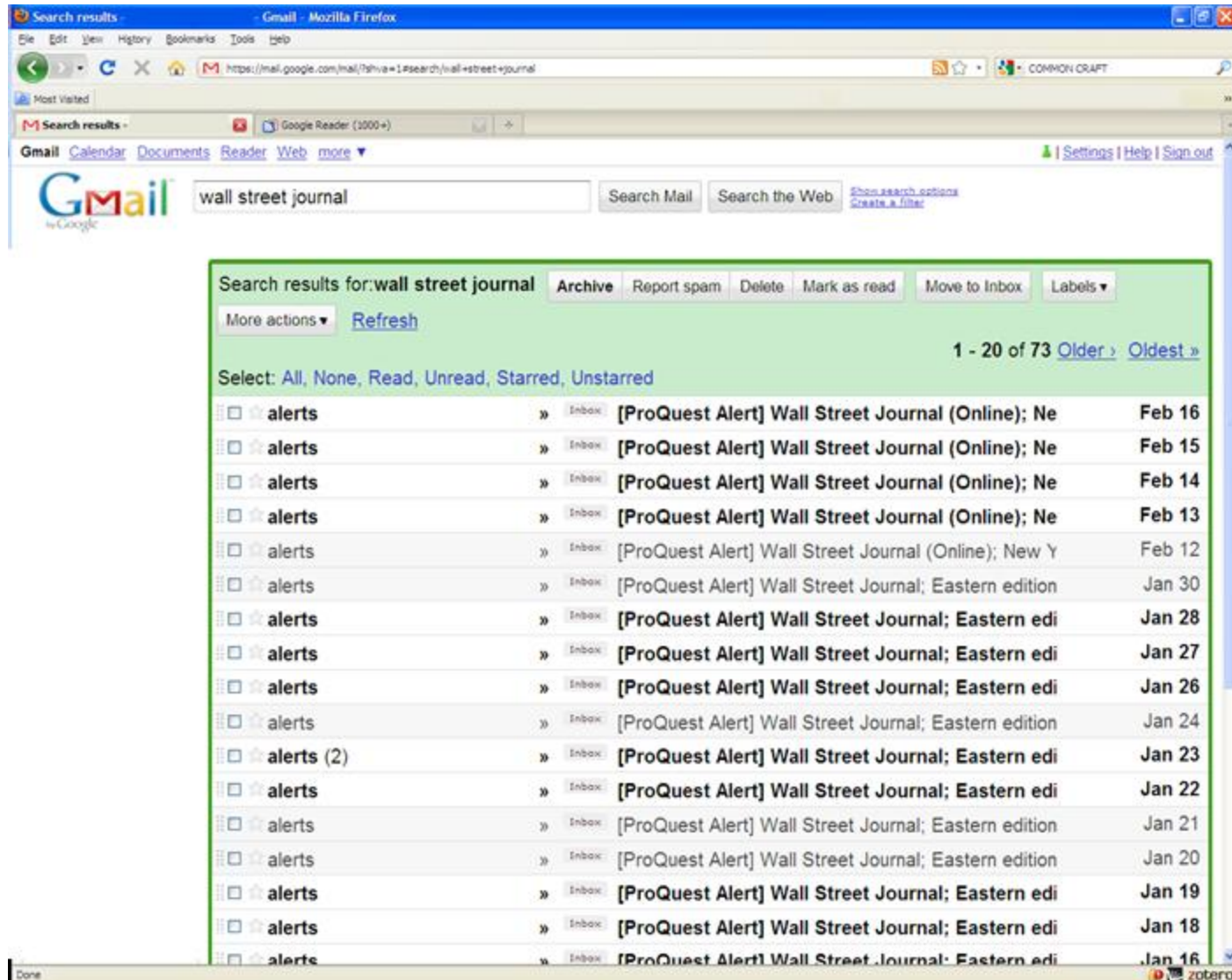


Why Teach Email Alerts?

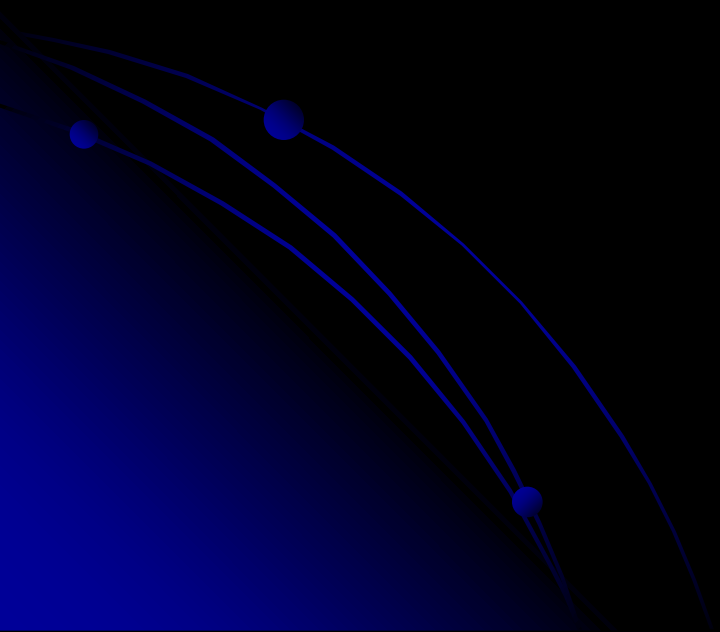


- Save users money on online subscriptions.
- Easy continuous access to library resources.
- Easy to overlook in database interfaces.
- Easy to mention, and students will thank you for showing them.

Ex: Wall Street Journal Email Alert



How do you teach students
the benefits of online
monitoring tools?



Professors can...

- Assign online periodicals for course readings.
- Refer to the news in class discussions.
- Assess students on their knowledge of recent news stories.
- Create assignments that apply timely developments.

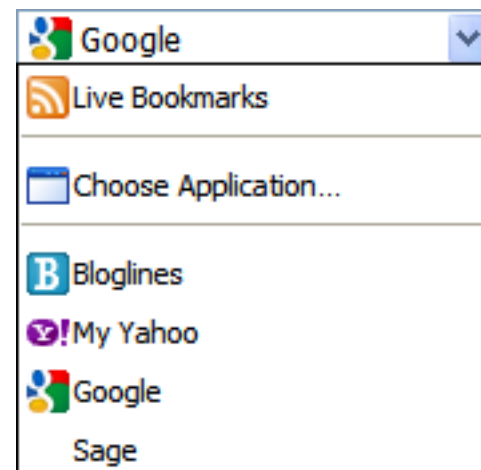
Current Events in the Classroom

- In the good ol' days teachers forced students to get newspapers subscriptions.
- It felt like a chore.
- RSS feeds and Email alerts can be accessed anywhere.
- Students like to learn about technological tools.



Librarians can...

1. Teach users how to set up RSS feed readers.
2. Show users how to find and create alerts and RSS feeds. [Alert / Save / Share »](#)
3. Suggest useful feeds and sources for specific courses and topics.





Create an RSS Starter Pack!



- Here is one created using Libguides:

The screenshot shows a Libguides page titled "RSS Starter Pack" with a navigation bar including "Workshop Information", "About RSS Feeds", "RSS Starter Pack" (selected), "Library Resources", "Related Guides", and "About Policy Briefs". Below the navigation bar, there is a "Print Page" link and a search box. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- OAS: Latest News**
 - Latest news from the Organization of American States
 - OAS Group of Friends of Haiti met in Washington to promote Donors Conference
 - OAS opens review process of Anti-Drug strategy in the Americas
 - The OAS supports the Government of Guatemala and welcomes its commitment to investigate and clarify recent events
 - CONCLUDES THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
 - Declarations & Resolutions Adopted by the 39 Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly - Honduras 2009

View Website | View RSS Feed | Comments (0)
- Latin America Monitor: Central America Monitor**
 - This feed and RSS results are limited to SFSU users.
 - Zelaya's Return Raises Heat On Micheletti.
 - Creditworthiness To Remain Stable.
 - REGIONAL FORECASTS.
 - Central America: All Roads Lead To The IMF.
 - Food Crisis Strains Economy.

View Website | View RSS Feed | Comments (0)
- UN News Centre- Americas**
 - UN rushes aid to flood victims in El Salvador
 - Millions in the United States lack access to affordable, adequate housing - UN
 - Top UN human rights official to embark on first official visit to Brazil
 - Latin America making important progress towards development, UN official says
 - John Lennon's sons and Yoko Ono revive 'Give Peace a Chance' to help UN

View Website | View RSS Feed
- Human Rights Watch: The Americas**
 - Cuba: Prominent Blogger Abducted, Beaten

A dropdown menu is visible over the "Latin America Monitor" section, listing countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Each country has a corresponding link to a specific RSS feed (e.g., "Guatemala public (Latin America Monitor - Caribbean)").

[Background and Links](#) [About RSS Feeds](#) [RSS Starter Pack](#) [Library Resources](#) [Related Guides](#)

RSS Starter Pack [Print This Page](#) [This Guide](#) [Go](#)

OAS: Latest News

Latest news from the Organization of American States

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- [Declarations & Resolutions Adopted by the 39 Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly - Honduras 2009](#)
- OAS SUSPENDS MEMBERSHIP OF HONDURAS (July 5th, 2009)
- Insulza: "If you want to have Democratic Rule and Improve the Quality of Democracy, don't try to justify its Rape"

[View Website](#)
 [View RSS Feed](#)
[Comments \(0\)](#)

Journal of Latin American Studies (JLAS)

[View Website](#)
 [View RSS Feed](#)
[Comments \(0\)](#)

Premier Results for "Summit of the Americas" (SFSU)

This RSS feed comes from the library's subscription through Ebscohost. The articles themselves are restricted to SF State users.

- MESOAMERICAN WOMEN'S INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY.
- FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS.
- Commonwealth Update.
- Temperate Zone.
- Breaking the Ice.

[View Website](#)
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[Comments \(0\)](#)

UN News Centre- Americas

- Haiti issues UNICEF-backed call for kids to resume schooling
- UN mobile teams register 26,000 Colombian refugees in northern Ecuador
- Five journalists killed in Honduras in March, UNESCO reports
- Ban names new top UN envoy for Haiti as it seeks to rebuild following quake
- World descends upon UN Headquarters to show support for Haiti

[View Website](#)
 [View RSS Feed](#)
[Comments \(0\)](#)

Latin America Monitor

- US-Mexican Fallout Over Drug War (Latin America Monitor - Mexico)
- No Tax Hikes According To Government (Latin America Monitor - Andean Group)
- Peso Moves From Stability To Strength (Latin America Monitor - Mexico)
- Inflationary Pressures Unlikely To Last (Latin America Monitor - Mexico)
- Piñera Nominates General (Latin America Monitor - Southern Cone)

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[Comments \(0\)](#)

Human Rights Watch: The Americas

- Peru: Investigate Killings in Chala
- Venezuela: End

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 [View RSS Feed](#)
[Comments \(0\)](#)

FREE source

[Background and Links](#) [About RSS Feeds](#) [RSS Starter Pack](#) [Library Resources](#) [Related Guides](#)

RSS Starter Pack [Print/Mobile Page](#) [This Guide](#) [Go](#)

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Latin America Monitor

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Journal of Latin American



Library Database custom search