

The idea would be that radio stations install this software and train all radio broadcasters to use it. The radio station would have to create a speech recognition file for each person. The software would be connected to the Web, so that deaf and hard-of-hearing people could read the live radio broadcasts.

So if one broadcaster was on air for three hours the voice recognition file would not need to be changed. However, this software is not able to recognise all spoken words and makes spelling and grammar mistakes. To improve the whole situation, further research on voice recognition software should be fostered and perfected so that it can be used for social inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in radio broadcasts in the future. As long as it is not perfected, radio stations should offer more transcripts and summaries on their web pages, so that people with hearing impairments can participate in their programmes anyway.

### **Conclusion**

The aim of this research was not to produce findings that could be generalised, but it is hoped that this research will be useful for further research in this new area. Hearing impaired people like using the Web and do not need a lot of assistive technologies in order to interact online. Radio web sites do not offer enough for deaf and hard-of-hearing people because of copyright. Copyright works against sharing of good practice with regard to transcripts of radio broadcasts. Radio stations consider costs and how many people actually listen to the radio.

Hearing impaired people are interested in radio and transcripts of broadcasts. This should motivate radio stations to offer more text based information for the hearing impaired population. The future will show if radio stations will take the opportunity to enlarge their listenership by a whole new audience – deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

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## **Current Awareness**

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This column contains summaries of articles (print and electronic) about online services, CD-ROMs, networked information, electronic publishing, multimedia etc. including, with permission, abstracts identified with an \* next to the author initials, drawn from Current Cites, the monthly publication distributed electronically by the Library, University of California at Berkeley: <http://sunsite.Berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/> .

The Current Cites database of citations now numbers over 1,000 and is searchable at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/bibondemand.cgi> . This service is called "Bibliography on Demand" because it can be easily used to create printable or linkable bibliographies on information technology topics. Another service offered is full-text searching of all cited articles that are freely available in full-text. You can try it out at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CurrentCites/articlesearch.html> .

### **ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING**

Alves, Rosental Calmon. **"Many Newspaper Sites Still Cling to Once-a-Day Publish Cycle"** Online Journalism Review (21 July 2004) (<http://ojr.org/ojr/workplace/1090395903.php> )

This article reports on research from the University of Texas at Austin which found that out of 30 news websites being monitored, "only 12 updated their home pages frequently, and the rest made few or no changes during the day." This, says the writer, demonstrates "the difficulty in breaking out of the print paradigm." No consensus exists in the news industry as to how often websites should be updated. The study also found that smaller papers were less likely to update their sites during the day than larger papers, and that

national news was the element most likely to be changed, followed by local/regional news. Few papers updated existing stories on their websites. – [\*SK]

Schonfeld, Roger C., Donald W. King, and Ann Okerson, et. al. **"The Nonsubscription Side of Periodicals: Changes in Library Operations and Costs between Print and Electronic Formats"** Council on Library and Information Resources (June 2004) (<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub127/pub127.pdf>).

Academic/research libraries have been confronting a major transition in the format of major parts of their collections, from print to electronic. This report, which analyzes data gathered from 11 U.S. academic libraries, examines the effects of this shift to electronic resources on library operations and costs. "The study is useful not only for its findings but also for the significant questions it raises about the cost shifts now under way between libraries, publishers, academic administrations, and third-party service providers. These shifts point to the need for staff with new skills, a new array of reader services geared to digital delivery, and a willingness to negotiate new relationships with other units on campus, from academic computing to facilities management." – [\*SK]

**"Top 10 eBooks Library Patrons Are Reading"** OverDrive.com (23 June 2004) (<http://www.overdrive.com/news/pr/06232004.asp>).

At the top of the list of ebooks borrowed from public libraries during the first half of 2004? Michael Moore's *Dude, Where's My Country*. Suspense author James Patterson has two titles in the top ten; among the how-to books which made the list are a low-carb cookbook and a guide to tech resumes. According to OverDrive.com -- which is involved in "digital publishing and eBook technologies, and Internet solutions for digital asset management and eCommerce" -- library patrons and students tend to prefer ebooks in PDF format. – [\*SK]

## GENERAL

**Council on Library and Information Resources. Access in the Future Tense** Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, April 2004. (<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub126abst.html>).

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) hosted a conference in May 2003 to "examine key factors shaping the information environment in which libraries operate and how these factors will affect stewardship of the cultural and intellectual resources vital to education and research." This volume consists of papers commissioned from four experts to address key features of the changing landscape, along with a brief overview at the beginning and a concluding essay. Contributors include Abby Smith, Daniel Greenstein, Anne R. Kenney, Bill Ivey, and Brian Lavoie. – [\*RT]

Huffaker, David. **"The Educated Blogger: Using Weblogs to Promote Literacy in the Classroom"** *First Monday* 9(6) (7 June 2004) ([http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9\\_6/huffaker/index.html](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_6/huffaker/index.html)).

Huffaker explores the emerging potential of Weblogs as teaching tools for youth. Over 50 percent of all Bloggers are teens, yet Blogs as hands-on classroom teaching tools are still in the theoretical stage. He identifies several key value points of Blogging for classroom instruction, including instant publishing, journal (or diary) keeping, and two way communication -- all by means of a very simple interface. In some ways, Huffaker's analysis of Blogs casts them as a simpler version of 'ePortfolios' -- persistent, Web-based domains at colleges and universities that follow students through their entire academic career. His principal argument is based on the long-accepted fact that young students respond favorably to learning environments that emphasize storytelling, collaborative learning, and personal expression. He concludes by suggesting that more research into this area is needed, particularly in exploring how students develop language and vocabulary skills within the domain of the Blogosphere. – [\*TH]

McCarthy K. **Sharing lightens the download.** *New Scientist* 182, 2453, 26-29 (26 June 2004)

The article discusses P2P technology, highlighting the BBC's new Interactive Media Player (iMP) software which allows downloading of TV programmes. The downloading is distributed using a technique known as swarming. - [DJH]

McHugo, Ann, and Carol Magenau. **"Reinventing Acquisitions with a 'Forget-to-Do' List"** *Serials Librarian* 46(3/4) (2004): 269-273

Not your mother or father's Acquisitions. That's what I thought when I went over this presentation originally given at last year's North American Serials Interest Group Conference in Portland. The first job I ever had in a library was in Serials -- Check-in, thank you -- so it was particularly interesting to see how the Acquisitions Department at Dartmouth was meeting the challenge of managing new digital services and formats while

maintaining a tight lid on budgets and staff. Their solution was to drop (or otherwise modify) many procedures and processes long familiar to the acquisition function. This included such hallowed things as serials claims and TOC current awareness services. The Q&A section at the end of the report is also helpful in understanding how these changes were made. – [\*LRK]

McLean, Neal, and Clifford Lynch. **Interoperability between Library Information Services and Learning Environments -- Bridging the Gaps** Burlington, MA: IMS Global Learning Consortium and the Coalition for Networked Information, 10 May 2004. ([http://www.imsglobal.org/digitalrepositories/CNlandIMS\\_2004.pdf](http://www.imsglobal.org/digitalrepositories/CNlandIMS_2004.pdf) ). The introduction to this paper states its primary purpose "is to explore potential interactions between information environments and learning environments, with emphasis on work that needs to be done involving standards, architectural modelling or interfaces (as opposed to cultural, organizational or practice questions) in order to permit these two worlds to co-exist and co-evolve more productively." This is biting off the easier portion to chew, as the report itself acknowledges, since the toughest problems typically are the social/political ones, not the technical. So although this paper is an excellent start, we also need a strong and sustained effort to work together collaboratively to overcome the very real organizational and political obstacles that may prevent the technical solution from ever being implemented. Also, although this fifteen-page paper is an excellent overview of the issues, don't look to it for technical details. – [\*RT]

Nicole, Lindsay **Patients is a virtue**. Information World Review, Issue 204, July/August 2004. Pages 12-13 Report on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) which is transforming its information services for staff and patients. Following the amalgamation of 3 hospitals, there is a 9 year project to dispense with the duplication of everything UHL has inherited and establish a singularity of information management and technology operations, systems, technologies and medical records. The article discusses progress so far, which has reached the second phase of the strategy. – [LR]

Weber, Steven. **The Success of Open Source** Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004. The Success of Open Source is a clearly-written scholarly book about a subject relevant to anyone who uses a computer. While the history and development of the open source movement is given here, the value of the book lies in this political scientist's exploration of the larger issues arising from the phenomenon of self-governing groups which evolve very complex software programs outside of the commercial proprietary realm. From the preface: "By experimenting with fundamental notions of what constitutes property, this community has reframed and recast some of the most basic problems of governance. At the same time, it is remaking the politics and economics of the software world." After describing in detail the people and processes behind projects such as Linux, Weber seems to account for every ripple in the large ripple effect which they create. Among the many examples he gives to illustrate open source's impact, a representative one is his point that Apache, the popular open source Web server software, performs the unintended purpose of keeping the server side from being hijacked to favour a particular dominant proprietary Web browser. Even people who've never given a moment's thought to where software comes from are, as end-users, affected by technology-enhanced openness efforts such as open access scholarly publishing, and Weber's analysis informs those developments too. – [\*JR]

## INFORMATION ACCESS/RETRIEVAL

Alimohammadi, Dariush. **Are webliographies still in use?** Electronic Library 22(2) 2004 154-157 The author aimed to establish whether webliographies – browsable specialist directories of hyperlinks focusing on a specific topic, produced by subject experts or information professionals – are still in extensive use, hence meriting study as an object of information science research. Several hundred webliographies were retrieved via Google, and their level of use estimated from the date of last updating of content. The date spread among the retrieved webliographies carrying a last date of updating (85% after August 1999) was taken to indicate a high level of usage. One may question whether the most appropriate retrieval strategy was used here (why not include 'links' or 'resources' or (in an U.S. context) 'pathfinder'?) and whether the criterion for current use/usability was anything like rigorous enough. In the reviewer's experience, lists of web resources need to be updated several times a year if currency is to be maintained and 'link rot' avoided. – [CE]

Betts, Aled. **The gateway to Wales on the Web**. The New Review of Information Networking Vol 9 (2003): 96-100. The article describes the aims and objectives of the portal Wales on the Web (Cymru ar y We <http://www.walesontheweb.org/>) . The site is an online guide to quality, validated websites relating to Wales

and Welsh life. The project is based at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth with partners across Wales and the UK. Wales on the Web was originated as a response of a call for bids by JISC in 1998. The website went live in November 2002 and, following initial success, further support was secured from Cymru Ar-lein of the Welsh Assembly Government. The resource was intended to assist research into Welsh studies and to promote the online resources of Welsh professional and government bodies. At the time of writing, the resource provides access to 2000 validated web resources. Each record contains: a resource description, site author and subject headings. Wales on the Web has a number of search options: a search engine, searching using Dewey, A-Z listing and main subjects. As well as using Dewey, the resource has metadata to Dublin Core standard. It is planned that Wales on the Web will become a major component in the National Assembly's new online "All Wales Portal". – [JW]

Goodman, Andrew. **"The Future of Search"** SearchEngineWatch (22 July 2004) (<http://searchenginewatch.com/searchday/article.php/3384481>). - In this report from the Search Engine Strategies 2004 Conference, held in March of this year, personalization is identified as "a key driver of change" in the search engine industry. It will affect both how search results are displayed to users and the content of those results -- e.g., a "self-learning" technology will be able to determine whether a user who types "eagles" into the search box is looking for information about the national bird or the NFL team. Keyword advertising will increasingly be targeted geographically, by IP address or by country. Several of the panel pundits at this conference agreed that "the concept of a single set of rankings on a given phrase (what search marketers often call 'the algorithm') may soon be obsolete." Also discussed was "paid inclusion" -- where advertisers ante up to have their links included in search results. Different companies have tried different methods of doing this, but as the writer pointed out, most of them "seem to understand that search engines lose their credibility when they turn into glorified referral services." – [\*SK]

Khoo, Christopher S G and Wan, Kwok-Kwai. **A simple relevancy-ranking strategy for an interface to Boolean OPACs.** Electronic Library 22(2) 2004 112-120 The difficulties that readers have with formulating and refining Boolean queries when searching library online public access catalogues (OPACs) are well documented. One approach to this problem is to develop a natural language search interface that acts as middleware between the user's web browser and the OPAC system. The search interface can accept a natural language query from the user and reformulate it as a series of Boolean statements that are submitted to the OPAC. The records retrieved from the OPAC are ranked by the search interface before forwarding them to the user's browser. The study describes the development of a relevance-ranking system for such an interface, and its comparison with that used in another system being developed by the authors, the E-Referencer. They provide an overview of relevance-ranking models, and describe an experiment to evaluate the effectiveness of the algorithm used. The algorithm used in the experimental interface operates via a series of steps. In step 1, all the query keywords are used in the retrieval, hence only records containing all the query keywords are retrieved. In step 2, the term with the highest frequency within the document (indicating least importance) is dropped, and a search statement formulated using the remaining query words. Step 2 is performed repeatedly, each time dropping the keyword with the highest document frequency. Within each step there are four sub-steps, each designed to broaden the search using fielded searching, term proximity and truncation. The experiment compared the relevance of records retrieved with ten sample natural language queries (formulated by undergraduate and graduate students) with those of records retrieved via a simulation by hand of the algorithm, using Boolean search statements entered into the university Web OPAC interface. The relevance was ranked in each case by the experimental subjects. The algorithm obtained good results, with a mean overall precision of 0.42 and a 41% improvement in average precision compared with the E-Referencer. It was found that word truncation was not useful if word adjacency was preserved in the query. The main limitations of the study were the small sample size of queries and the limited nature of the library OPAC system used in the study. – [CE]

McCook, Alison. **"Open Access to US Govt Work Urged"** The Scientist (21 July 2004) (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20040721/01/>). - Open access has been on the agenda of legislative committees in both the US and the UK of late. In the US, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee recommended that NIH-funded research be made freely available on PubMed Central six months after it is published. If NIH funds were used to pay for publication fees, immediate availability would be required. Meanwhile in the UK, the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee wrapped up lengthy hearings into scientific publishing and issued a report that recommended funding institutional repositories and mandating that funded research be put in them (more on this development in "UK Committee Backs Open Access"). (If this wasn't enough to delight OA advocates, the European Commission has started its own investigation into scientific publishing.) – [\*CB]

Othman, R. and Nor Sahlawaty, H. **Retrieval features for online databases: common, unique, and expected.** Online Information Review vol. 28 (3) 200-210

This article examines the retrieval options offered by a range of database providers with the aim of answering the following questions: What are the retrieval features that are common to all databases? What are the retrieval features that are unique to the databases? How are these retrieval features used in the database? What are the difficulties faced by these users in applying the features to complete their retrieval tasks? What are the retrieval features expected by these users and missed in the database? Methodology used included an examination of the retrieval facilities of 25 databases, retrieval training sessions and post training and retrieval session interviews. In addition interviews were held with a group of participants who had not undergone any retrieval training. Database providers examined include Ovid, ProQuest, Silverplatter, Gale, CSA, El Village, EbscoHost, ACM, IEEE, Emerald, Biblioline and Science Direct. The findings (albeit not unexpected) are interesting in that they provide us with a good overview of the issues end-users are facing when searching across a range of databases. This includes variations in terminology, e.g., Boolean operators being referred to as 'Boolean', 'logical' and 'set' operators, depending on the databases being accessed. Variations can also be found in the use of symbols representing truncation and wildcards, and few were found to distinguish between the two and of course not all databases provide all of the same types of retrieval options. The article moves on to provide us with an overview of the 'first impressions' of the participants in examining the retrieval options, which, perhaps again not unexpectedly, differ from their impressions once having tried to utilise the retrieval options. Unfortunately little information has been provided as to any differences found between the untrained and trained participant groups. Overall an article that further confirms much of what some end users and information professionals have been grumbling about for some time, the need for more consistency if not standardisation across products. – [SM]

Robb, Drew. **"Text Mining Tools Take on Unstructured Information"** Computerworld (21 June 2004) (<http://www.computerworld.com/databasetopics/businessintelligence/story/0,10801,93968,00.html> ).

Unstructured data, according to this article, "typically accounts for 85% of an organization's knowledge stores, but it's not always easy to find, access, analyze or use." Most of this is text files, and a new generation of text-mining software "allows companies to extract key elements from large unstructured data sets, discover relationships and summarize the information." While there are separate tools available for analyzing either databases or text files, "there are also techniques that allow the two to be correlated." These applications are relatively easy to install, but require special expertise in order to be used effectively. Users must not only have analytic skills, but must also understand the subject matter of the datasets under analysis. – [\*SK]

Suber, Peter. **"The Primacy of Authors in Achieving Open Access"** Nature Web Focus: Access to the Literature: The Debate Continues (10 June 2004) (<http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/accessdebate/24.html> ).

In this article, Peter Suber, author of the SPARC Open Access Newsletter and editor of the Open Access News Web log, underscores the critical role that authors play in facilitating open access, and he suggests that open access advocates "can guide, help or nudge authors" to become active participants in the open access movement. He emphasizes the importance of peer communication in this process: scholars are most likely to be persuaded by colleagues who have experienced the personal benefits of open access, such as higher citation rates for their papers. However, librarians can also be effective change agents by assisting scholars in depositing their works in institutional repositories, providing workshops on copyright issues, and through other strategies. Suber also discusses how the "Ingelfinger Rule" continues to concern scholars, who are hesitant to put preprints online because journals may view this as prior publication and refuse to consider them. He suggests that universities and funding agencies could require scholars to make their work available through open access arrangements, and he cites a study that offers preliminary evidence that they may welcome this. He concludes by discussing the importance of journal prestige factors in scholars' choices of what journals to publish in, and he suggests ways to enhance the prestige of open access journals. – [\*CB]

Swan, Alma, and Sheridan Brown. **"Authors and Open Access Publishing"** Learned Publishing 17(3) (2004): 219-224.

In this survey research study, Swan and Brown assessed the attitudes of authors who had published in open access journals and those who had not. An interesting finding was that both groups had a relatively low awareness of e-print archives (fewer than 30% of each group), while 62% of the "non-OA" authors were aware of open access journals. Why do authors publish in OA journals? Ninety-two percent said free access, 87% said faster publication times, 71% said OA journals had larger readerships, 64% said higher citation rates, and

56% said concerns over the expense of conventional journals. The reluctance of non-OA authors to publish in OA journals was attributed to unfamiliarity with OA journals in their fields (70%), low impact or prestige of these journals (69%), smaller readerships of OA journals (64%), or an inability to find a relevant OA journal to publish in (56%). For other interesting findings, see the article (or the complete study, which is available at [http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded\\_documents/JISCOAreport1.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/JISCOAreport1.pdf)). – [\*CB]

## PRESERVATION

Gibbons, Susan. "**Establishing an Institutional Repository**" *Library Technology Reports* 40(4) (July-August 2004)

Institutional repositories are a hot topic with academic institutions, and in particular academic libraries. This 67-page report is an excellent summary of institutional repository benefits, potential uses, features, costs, and software options. The author has been involved with establishing an institutional repository at her institution, but it's also clear that she did her homework in putting this publication together. The information here is accurate and up-to-date, and can serve as a very useful overview of the state of institutional repositories currently as well as useful guidance for any institution wishing to create such a repository. Although LTR is published on a subscription basis, individual issues can be purchased at the web site ([www.techsource.ala.org](http://www.techsource.ala.org)). – [\*RT]

Lavoie, Brian, and Lorcan Dempsey. "**Thirteen Ways of Looking at...Digital Preservation**" *D-Lib Magazine* 10(7/8) (July/August 2004) (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july04/lavoie/07lavoie.html>).

It's certainly a sign of maturity in our understanding of digital preservation, that we can have a thoughtful article like this that concentrates on issues beyond the more familiar technical obstacles. Indeed, the authors make clear that the technical part cannot happen as an "isolated process" but only as part of a broader "digital information environment." The authors go into 13 different considerations with this wider context in mind. – [\*LRK]

Olsen, Florence. "**A Crisis for Web Preservation**" *Federal Computer Week* (21 June 2004) (<http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0621/pol-crisis-06-21-04.asp>).

According to this article, the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is lagging to such a great extent in "cataloging and preserving access to government documents published only on the Web," that access to such material is growing spottier and spottier. The GPO, which runs the FDLP, is wrangling with this "fugitive document" issue; "fugitive documents" are "electronic publications that remain outside the federal depository collections in 1,300 libraries nationwide." The agency is considering Web harvesting software, but this technology is not particularly good at unearthing information from the so-called "deep web." The author notes that a recent study by the California Digital Library "found that about 85 percent of the Deep Web is in the .gov domain." There are more government documents published online each year than in print, and the agencies which publish them often fail to notify the GPO that they are available. Also, the copyright issue can be muddled, as it sometimes can be hard to determine whether a report was produced by the government and is in the public domain, or whether the rights belong to a contractor who produced it. Up to this point, the GPO has established an electronic archive which currently contains more than 100,000 documents, and the agency is seeking help from experts, notably university libraries. For example, it entered into a partnership with the University of North Texas Libraries to maintain a collection of documents from defunct public agencies, known as the CyberCemetery. But everyone concerned recognizes that the problem is far from being resolved at this point. – [\*SK]

## WEB DESIGN

Chillingworth, Mark **Identity check**. *Information World Review*, Issue 204 July/August 2004. Pages 14-15  
Article about "digital object identifiers" (DOI) and their use by the government. The e-Government Unit (part of the Cabinet Office) is preparing a public consultation report on the possible adoption of DOIs for government information. The aim is to adopt persistent identifiers for data and rid official resources of dead links, ensuring that digital resources carry a dog tag of identity information. Central to this is the need for information to be delivered to an increasingly wide variety of devices and ensure that it is always reliable. – [LR]

Entlich, Richard. "Flash in the Pan or Around for the Long Haul? Assessing Macromedia's Flash Technology" RLG DigiNews 8(3) (15 June 2004)

([http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page\\_ID=17661#article3](http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=17661#article3)).

Those who create web sites who wish to provide advanced multimedia capabilities frequently use Macromedia's Flash technology to provide such functionality. This informative and interesting piece reviews issues relating to its usability, access, and preservation. The format is also compared to Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), the closest open standard competitor to the mostly proprietary Flash technology. Readers wishing for advice on a clear victor will be disappointed, however, since the issues are many and complex, with mitigating factors on both sides of the issue. Highly recommended for anyone wishing to create highly interactive web sites, or those wishing to archive same. – [\*RT]

Hillmann, Diane I., and Elaine L. Westbrook. **Metadata in Practice** Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 2004.

This volume is a set of reports from the field on how metadata is being used today in libraries. Written by leaders in the field about their mostly cutting-edge experiences with metadata in creating new services or enhancing existing ones, this is a book not to be missed by almost any library professional. And if you're a cataloging librarian, run -- don't walk. After all, like it or not, your future lies in retooling your skills to encompass much more than MARC, which the editors of this book epitomize. – [RT \*]

Moffat, Malcolm. **RSS – a primer for publishers and content providers**. The New Review of Information Networking Vol. 9, 2003, pp. 123-144

The article provides an introduction to RSS (Rich Site Summary, RDF Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication). An RSS file (also known as an RSS feed or channel) feeds a list of updated items on a website (e.g. jobs, news or events) with links to the items themselves, and can be reused on other websites to provide quick access to your content. RSS is based on XML. An RSS file consists of a channel with its own attributes and a number of items with their own attributes. The BBC provides RSS feeds to link to content, for download and via RSS aggregator services. Moffat gives examples of web-based RSS services and of desktop readers; he also provides some FAQ's and a list of example RSS feeds (including: Industry News, General News, Jobs, Press Releases, Conference announcements, ToC's and Tenders). The article continues by describing the methods of producing RSS files, including: coding by hand, online editors and automatic RSS production (from HTML, CMS's and databases). The specifications of RSS are described. The author gives a list of Technical Pointers, web resources, tutorials and tools. Some straightforward good practice recommendations are given: RSS specification 1.0 should be used, RSS feeds should be validated, persistent locations of RSS feeds should be ensured, feeds for external use should be restricted to 6 items, item descriptions should be concise, content should be kept timely, visibility of feeds should be ensured by registering with appropriate sites, language should be kept inclusive (with jargon avoided) and HTML mark-up should not be used. The article discusses the promotion and discovery of RSS feeds and gives a list of RSS directories and aggregators. Ways of including RSS feeds into your own website finish the discussion. – [JW]

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