



Curate Your Own Supplemental Texts with RSS

UPDATED: 10/15/14

RSS (Rich Site Summary or Real Simple Syndication) allows you to curate your own supplemental textbook that updates in real-time. With RSS you can generate a list of subscriptions to newspapers, periodicals, journals, blogs, and other online sources all in one place. Rather than telling your students to “stay up-to-date on current events,” RSS gives you the ability to direct the entire class’s supplemental reading to a specific collection of sources. Students can also add additional subscriptions to their individual feeds in order to receive information tailored to their own research topics. This workshop presents a number of free RSS platforms and sample collections.

Look for this symbol:



Anywhere you see the above symbol, you can create an RSS feed. Just click on it and then past the URL into your preferred reader (I recommend Feedly).

Setting Up Feedly

1. Go to <http://www.feedly.com>
2. Click **Login** in the upper-right corner.
3. Select which external application you would like to sign in from.
4. Either type a keyword or paste a URL into the search box in the middle of the page.
5. Press **enter**.
6. Click the green **+feedly** at the top of the page to the right of the title.
7. Click **Add** at the bottom-left corner.
8. Click **Add Content** at the top left.
9. Repeat steps 4 through 8 to add as many feeds as you want.

Sample Feeds to Try

- <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/>
- <http://www.edudemic.com/feed/>
- <http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/>
- Try just entering “Washington Post” into the search box and click on the **Discover Sources** option
- Go to a website you like and find a feed to add (look for the orange RSS symbol)

Using Feedly

Unread vs. Read Articles

Once you read an article its headline turns grey. You can also choose to display all read stories, or hide them until you have read all stories in a section.

Saved for later

Click on the first icon under the headline to save an article to the **Saved for Later** folder at the top left of your feedly. Feedly also offers you the ability to share the article across multiple platforms.

Click-through to external sites

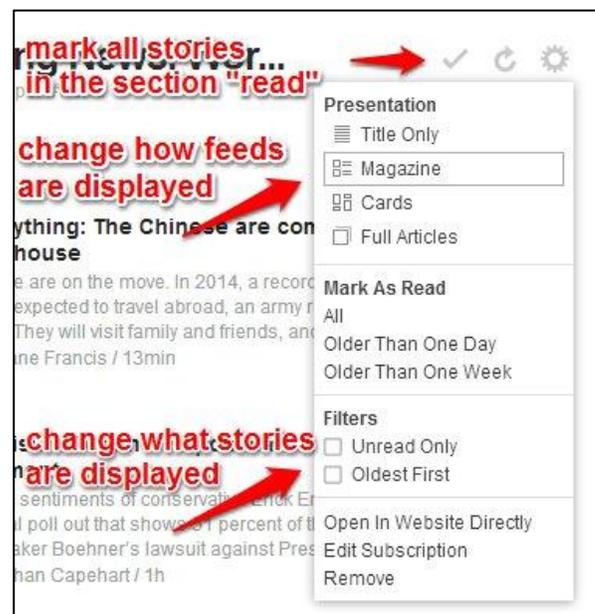
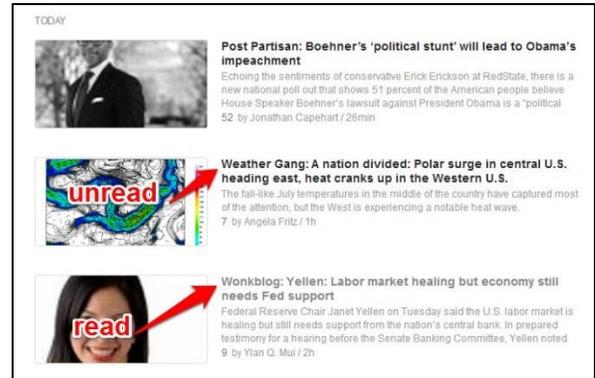
The bottom of each article has an option to **Visit Website** in order to read the complete article. Individual sources are able to determine how much of their content is available in feedly versus on their own site.

Mark all as read

Use the checkmark at the top of a section to mark all of the stories in the section "read" or use the options under the gear icon to mark stories older than a day/week as "read"

Presentation

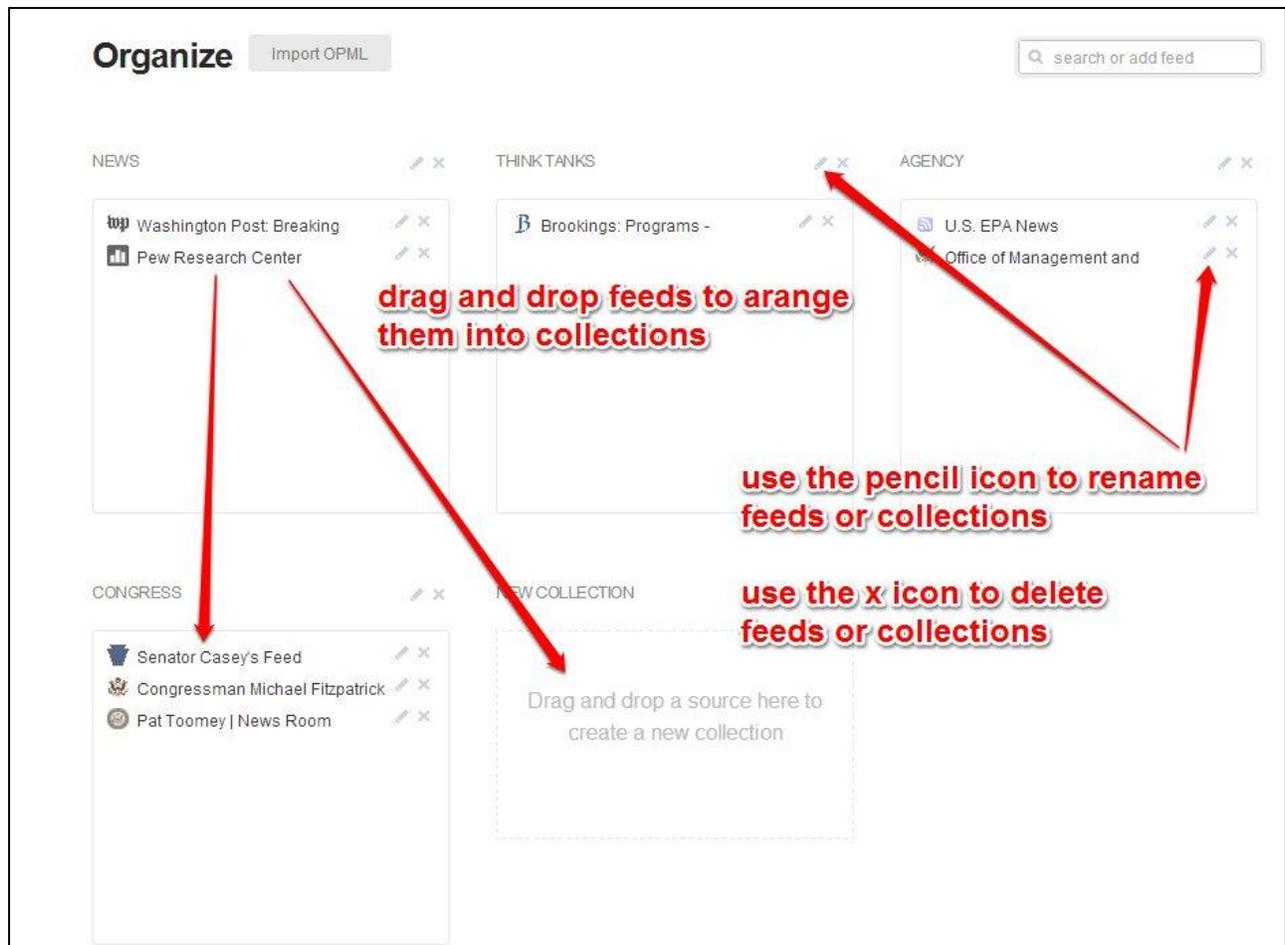
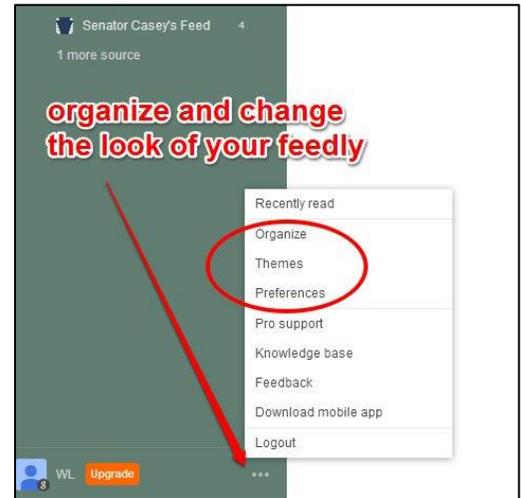
Use the presentation options under the gear icon to change how each individual feed is displayed.



Organizing Feedly

Click on the ellipsis at the bottom left of the page to organize and alter the overall look of your feedly

- Use the **Organize** option to create collections and arrange your feeds by categories
- Use **Themes** to change the overall look of Feedly
- Use **Preferences** to change how the stories are displayed for all feeds.



Alternatives to Feedly

- **Pulse**

- Pros:
 - A very simple and visual reader
- Cons:
 - Unless you use the feeds specifically designed for Pulse it loses its visual appeal.
 - Some layouts may be misleading about the relative importance of articles.
 - It is difficult to find previously read articles.
 - No ability to save favorites



- **Flipboard**

- Pros:
 - A very visual end product students
 - A useful way to make a finite list of readings
- Cons:
 - Not the most intuitive setup for the professor
 - Does not automatically update



- **Netvibes**

- Pros:
 - Integrates feeds into a dashboard with customizable apps
 - Something you may want to consider for personal use
- Cons:
 - Complex setup process may be more trouble than it is worth for use in class,



For questions, comments, or concerns, contact CTRL's Teaching and Learning Resources Group
Tel: 202-885-3926 || CTRLtlr@american.edu