

### ■ What are alerting services?

Many databases now offer an alerting service which allows the user to keep up to date with new research in a particular field of study. When you register for such a service, you will receive the alerts via email straight to your inbox or via an RSS feed

RSS, or “Really Simple Syndication” is a family of formats used to publish frequently updated digital content, such as blogs, news feeds, journal alerts or podcasts. With an RSS reader (or aggregator) you can subscribe to many feeds and read the new entries all in one place, without having to visit individual Web sites to find them and without cluttering your inbox.

Many publishers are using RSS feeds to provide an alerting service to advise on new information as it becomes available. Three types of journal alert are available:

- ★ Table of Contents (TOC) alerts – these provide a list of articles from forthcoming issues of a particular journal;
- ★ Keyword search alert – an alert is generated for all new articles matching a string of keywords; &
- ★ Citation alert – an alert is generated whenever a nominated article is cited by another author

There are different kinds of RSS readers to fit your particular needs. Some are programs you download and install on your computer, for example FeedReader; others are web-based services which you access with a browser, for example, Google Reader; and others are email based which deliver the material direct to your e-mail inbox, for example, FeedBlitz.

### ■ Examples of Alerts via RSS & Email

Database Package	Subject Coverage	RSS Alerts	Email Alerts	Online Help
<a href="#">CSA Illumina</a>	multidisciplinary	✓	✗	<a href="#">link</a> (Click on Help and Support)
<a href="#">SCOPUS</a>	multidisciplinary	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">ISI Web of Knowledge</a>	multidisciplinary	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">EbscoHost</a>	multidisciplinary	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">Proquest</a>	multidisciplinary	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">EI Engineering Village</a>	Engineering, Information Technology, Earth Sciences	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">PubMed</a>	Nursing; Medicine; Health Sciences	✓	✗	<a href="#">link</a>
<a href="#">IEEE Xplore</a>	Electrical & electronics engineering; Information Technology	✓	✓	<a href="#">link</a>

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## ■ Useful websites

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Google Reader – create your own account	<a href="http://reader.google.com">http://reader.google.com</a>
Google Alerts (email alerts)	<a href="http://www.google.com.au/alerts?hl=en">http://www.google.com.au/alerts?hl=en</a>
Obtain details of other RSS readers	<a href="http://allrss.com/index.html">http://allrss.com/index.html</a> <a href="http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Software/Internet/Clients/WWW/Feed_Readers/">http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Software/Internet/Clients/WWW/Feed_Readers/</a>
Subscribe to the FeedMyInbox Service from here:	<a href="https://www.feedmyinbox.com/">https://www.feedmyinbox.com/</a>
TicTOCs – Journal Table of Contents Service: find scholarly journal TOC's and export the RSS feeds straight to your reader	<a href="http://www.tictocs.ac.uk">http://www.tictocs.ac.uk</a>

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## ■ Further Information

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<a href="#">UQ Liaison Librarians Page</a>	Contact your liaison librarian in your subject for assistance.
<a href="#">RSS in Plain English</a>	A YouTube video on RSS Feeds.
<a href="#">Page 2 RSS</a>	This is a service that helps you monitor web sites that do not publish feeds. It will check any web page for updates and deliver them to your favorite RSS aggregator.



Ask at the **Information Desk** in any Branch Library