



The Best from the Web Toolkit

Kelly Watson, Debra Kakuk, and Ameet Doshi

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Love it or hate it, the Internet is often a librarian's best friend – assisting us in serving our patrons and many times helping us do our jobs better. However, as the World Wide Web continues to grow at an exponential rate (blogs and wikis and RSS feeds – oh my!), many of us feel overwhelmed. Have you ever wished that everything could be simpler? Do you sometimes long for a list of web sites that would get you through the most challenging of workdays? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then this **The Best from the Web Toolkit** is for you!

Program Overview

- How does this all relate to "Library 2.0?"
- Should librarians get on the Wikipedia bandwagon?
- Basic sources from three different perspectives: blogs, wikis, and open source software

Speaker Biographies

Kelly Watson

Kelly Watson received her Masters of Library Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has been an Adult Services Librarian for the Bensenville Community Public Library in Bensenville, Illinois since 1999. There she serves as both reference librarian and web developer. For the past five years she has also been an instructor for the Library Technical Assistant program at College of DuPage. Recently Kelly taught a class for the staff at the Library of Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt.

Debra Kakuk

Debra earned a M.A. in English from the University of Minnesota in 1996, and her M.L.I.S. degree from Wayne State University in 1998. Employed by the College of DuPage Library since 2003, she is currently an Associate Professor and supports the Health Sciences Division as well as the ESL, ABE and GED programs. A skilled medical and consumer health information professional and a proactive patient advocate, she specializes in supporting the information needs of health professionals, students and consumers. Debra has worked at the Mayo Clinic and taught consumer health classes across the United States. She has served as a Column Editor for Haworth Press's Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet (JCHI). Prior to her Library career, Debra taught developmental reading and academic writing at several universities. Her English background serves her well in her work with Adult Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) faculty and students. Experience, gained while working as a public, special and academic librarian, led her to community college librarianship because, "it combines the best of each field."



Ameet Doshi

Ameet Doshi is a Public Services Librarian at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, where his duties include instruction, outreach and reference. He has presented at the Popular Culture Association national conference in 2006 and 2007, the 2007 Teaching and Learning with Technology conference at UNC Chapel Hill, and also hosted a roundtable discussion at this year's ACRL national conference. His professional interests include: technology trends in academic libraries, open source products, library services for ESL students, library as place, and strategies for library instruction and information literacy. Prior to his appointment at UNC Wilmington, he served for two years as the Resident Librarian at the College of DuPage. He holds an MLS from the University of Tennessee, a Certificate in Linux systems from the College of DuPage, and is presently working towards a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) at UNC Wilmington.

Questions

1. How often do you use the web during an average work day? Do you feel that you use it too much or too little?
2. Has the web made your job easier or more difficult? In what way?
3. What do you see your library's role being in the Internet's continual growth?
4. Content user, content contributor/provider, or maybe both?
5. Based on your own experiences, what do you think are some of the best places on the web?

Print Resources

The Librarian's Internet Survival Guide: Strategies for the High-Tech Reference Desk by Irene E. McDermott (2nd ed.), Information Today, Inc., 2005.

Find It Online: the Complete Guide to Online Research by Alan M. Schlein (4th ed.), Facts on Demand Press, 2004.

The Web Library: Building a World Class Personal Library with Free Web Resources by Nicholas G. Tomaiuolo, Information Today, Inc., 2004.



Kelly Watson's Bloglines 101

These instructions will walk you through setting up your own Bloglines account.

- Step 1: Sign up
- Step 2: Create an account
- Step 3: Go to the Bloglines Feeds page
- Step 4: Sign up for RSS feeds
- Step 5: Check the Bloglines directory of new and popular RSS Feeds

STEP ONE: Visit the Bloglines website at www.bloglines.com and click on the **Sign Up Now** link:





STEP TWO: Fill out the **Create an Account** form. You will be asked for your email address (which will serve as your login name), and you will also be asked to create a password. Using the drop down menu, switch the Time Zone so that it reads:

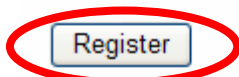
-0600 Central.

Create an Account

Your email address is your Bloglines login. We will send you a verification message to confirm that you own this address. Your password must be at least 6 characters in length, and should not be easily guessed by others.

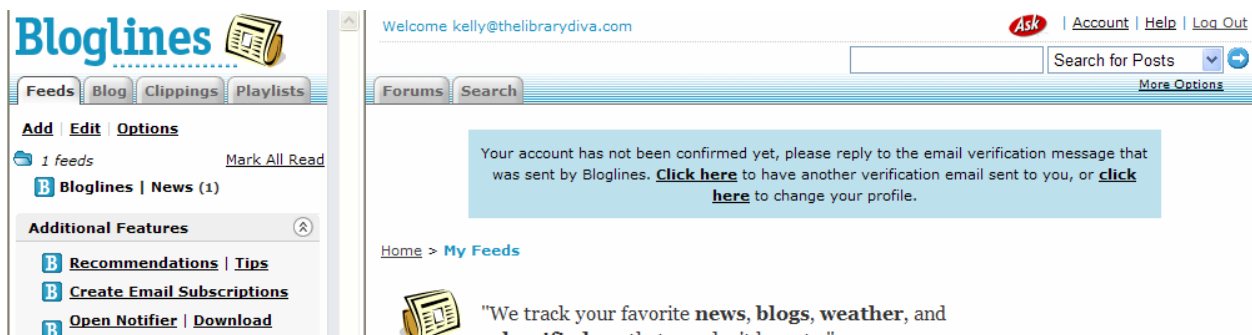
Email Address	<input type="text" value="kellyw@gmail.com"/>
Password	<input type="password" value="••••••"/> Must be at least 6 characters in length.
Re-type Password	<input type="password" value="••••••"/>
Time Zone	<input type="text" value="-0600 Central"/> ▼ We will adjust the dates of posting to your local time zone.
Language	<input type="text" value="English"/> ▼ Where possible, we will provide translation links for posting in other languages.

By submitting your registration information, you indicate that you accept the [Terms of Service](#) and have read and understand the [Bloglines Privacy Policy](#), and agree to be bound by both.



Once you have completed your form simply click on the **Register** button. Congratulations! You now have your very own Bloglines account. At this point your account has not been confirmed. Bloglines will send you an email to confirm your account. Please reply to the email verification message that was sent to you by Bloglines.

STEP THREE: Once your account is setup, you will be taken to your Bloglines Feeds page:





The Feeds page allows you to read every RSS Feed you subscribe to. Since your account is new, you are currently only subscribed to the Bloglines News Feed. To read the latest Bloglines news, click on the Feed link now:



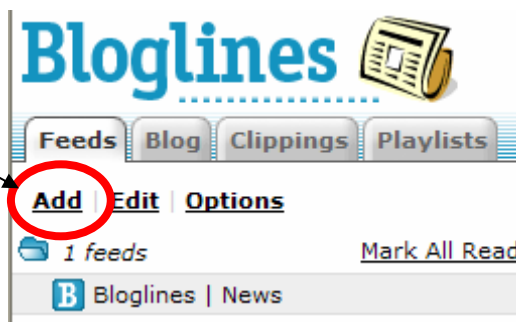
Click on this link to read the latest Blogline News.

Once you click on the link the latest Bloglines News article will be displayed on the right hand side of your screen:



STEP FOUR: To make your Bloglines account fully functional, you now need to subscribe to some RSS Feeds. To subscribe to a feed, click on the **Add** link:

Click here to subscribe to a RSS Feed.





Clicking on this link will take you to a page where you can type in the URL of the blog or feed you wish to subscribe to:

[Home](#) > [Subscribe](#)

[Blogs](#) | [Communities](#) **New!** | [Email Groups](#) | [News](#) | [Search](#) | [Jobs](#)
[Package Tracking](#) | [Weather](#) | [Astrology](#) | [Lottery](#) | [Quick Pick Subscriptions](#)

Subscribe

Enter the URL of the blog you wish to subscribe to, and Bloglines will attempt to locate the appropriate feed. An easier way to subscribe to blogs and newsfeeds is to use the [Easy Subscribe Button](#), which makes subscribing to a blog you're viewing just one click away.

Type the blog or feed URL in this box.

Blog or Feed URL:

To see how this works, try subscribing to the Bensenville Library's 52 Books, 52 Weeks blog feed. Type in the blog's URL (<http://52books.wordpress.com>) and click on the **Subscribe** button.

Subscribe

Enter the URL of the blog you wish to subscribe to, and Bloglines will attempt to locate the appropriate feed. An easier way to subscribe to blogs and newsfeeds is to use the [Easy Subscribe Button](#), which makes subscribing to a blog you're viewing just one click away.

Click on Subscribe to add the feed.

Blog or Feed URL:

You will be taken to a page where you can customize how the RSS feed is displayed/organized

Available Feeds

52 Books, 52 Weeks

Tue, Jan 30 2007 9:48 AM (2 subscribers)

The official blog from the Bensenville Community Public Library.

<http://52books.wordpress.com/feed/>

[Preview This Feed](#)

Options

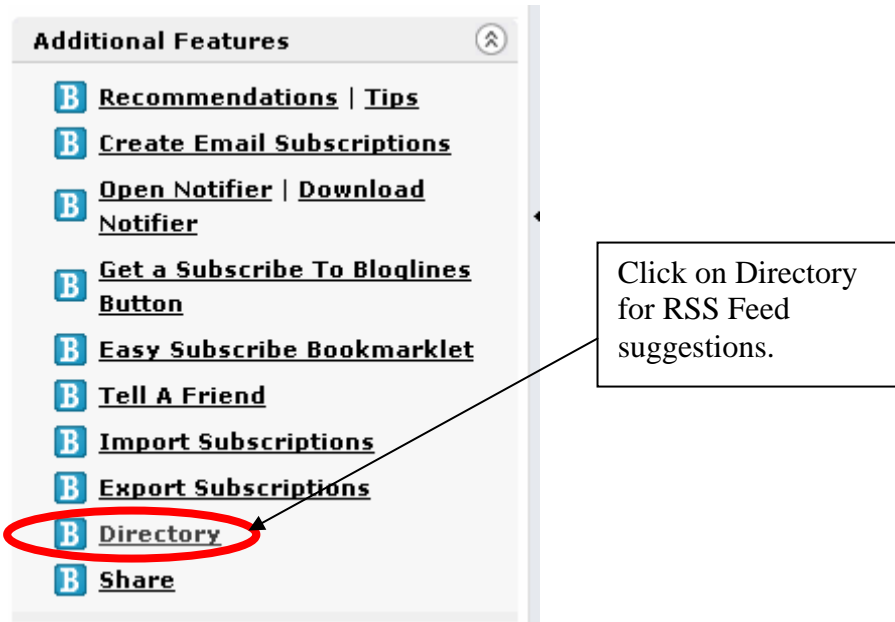
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Folder | <input type="text" value="TopLevel"/> ▼ |
| Updated Items | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Display As New
<input type="radio"/> Ignore |
| Display Preferences | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Default
<input type="radio"/> Complete Entries
<input type="radio"/> Summaries if Available
<input type="radio"/> Titles |



Once you have made any changes that you wish to make to the feed subscription, click on the **Subscribe** button at the bottom of the page. Congratulations! You have added the RSS feed for the 52 Books, 52 Weeks blog to your Bloglines account. You should now see it listed on your Feeds page.



STEP FIVE: Not sure what to subscribe to? Bloglines has a directory of new and popular RSS Feeds. On the left hand side of the page you will see a listing for **Additional Features**. Click on the **Directory** link.



After clicking on the Directory link you will be presented with the most popular feeds of the day. To see a full listing of feeds listed alphabetically by name, click on the **Feed Directory** link. To see a list of suggested feeds arranged by subject, click on the **Quick Pick Subscriptions** link.



[Home](#) > [Most Popular Feeds](#) > [1/29/2007](#)

[Most Popular Feeds](#) | [Newest Feeds](#)

[Feed Directory](#) | [User Directory](#) | [Quick Pick Subscriptions](#)

Bloglines | News

The Latest News And Updates From Bloglines

<http://www.bloglines.com> | [Preview](#) | [Related Feeds](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Slashdot

News for nerds, stuff that matters

<http://slashdot.org/> | [Preview](#) | [Related Feeds](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Using either the Feed Directory or Quick Pick Subscriptions, find five RSS Feeds to subscribe to and subscribe to them.

Wiki Activities by Debra Kakuk

- What Web sites help you keep up-to-date with news, technology, reference and research resources?
- What online tools assist you in performing your library tasks more efficiently?

Utilizing the "Best of the Web" resources found on the Soaring Wiki, <http://soaring.pbwiki.com/> find the answers to at least three of the questions received by the overwhelmed librarian in the vignette called "So Many Questions, So Little Time" from the Soaring to Excellence "Best from the Web" program.

Discuss the organization and content of the sites listed on the wiki in terms of how easy or difficult it was to locate the correct answers.

Based on your hands-on experience finding the answers to those questions, do you agree or disagree that these sites are "Best of the Web" quality?

Explain your reasoning.



Ameet Doshi's Open Source Software Information

Suggested Reading:

Raymond, Eric S. "The Cathedral and the Bazaar." *First Monday*
http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue3_3/raymond/

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux>

Questions:

- What is Linux?
- What are some differences between commercial software and open source software?
- Linux is just one example of an open source product. What are a few other examples of software that the open source community creates? (see: sourceforge.net)
- Why are open source software tools generally more secure than commercially available programs?
- Who is "Tux"?

Computer Dictionaries on the Web:

FOLDOC (Free Online Dictionary of Computing): www.foldoc.org

Computer Hope Dictionary: <http://www.computerhope.com/jargon.htm>

Define:

Source Code

Linus Torvalds

L.A.M.P. (Software Bundle) stands for what?

Exercises:

Download, install and play with the following open source products (look for a "download windows binaries" link):

- "Celestia" <http://www.shatters.net/celestia/>
- "xaos" <http://xaos.sourceforge.net>
- "Firefox 2" <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

