
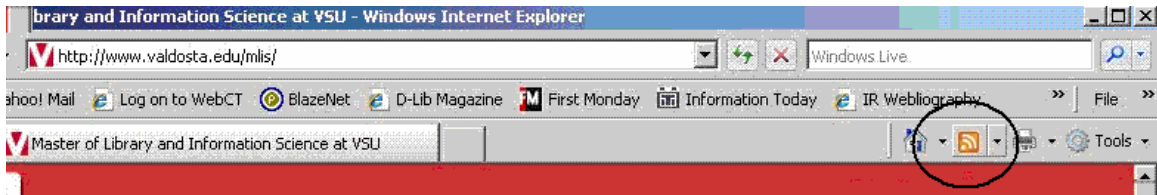


## The VSU MLIS Program RSS Feed

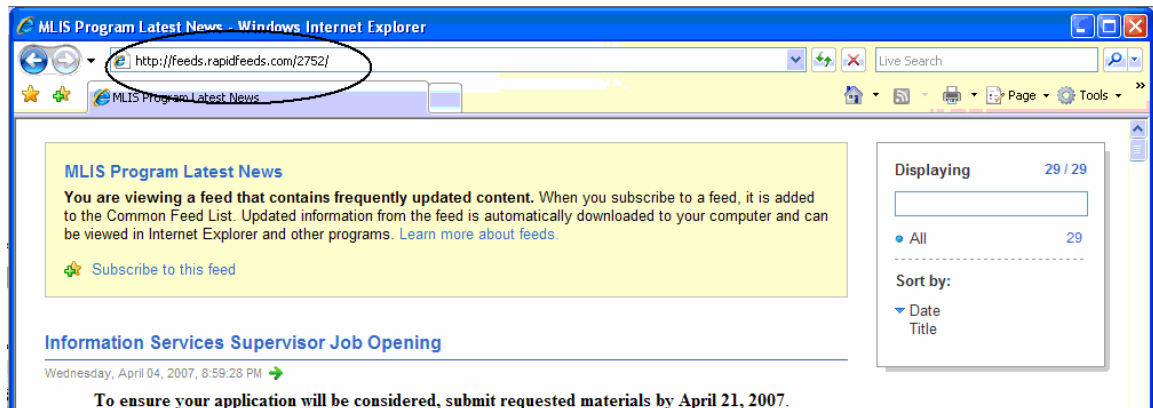
The acronym “RSS” is shorthand for “Really Simple Syndication” – a type of format used for information posted to the Web. The MLIS Program at VSU is now posting job ads and other announcements to its own RSS feed. If you want to subscribe to this feed, the MLIS faculty recommend using the Internet Explorer 7 browser (explained next) or one of the more reliable free RSS feed aggregators (listed on the last page of this document).

### Subscribing to the MLIS RSS Feed with Internet Explorer 7

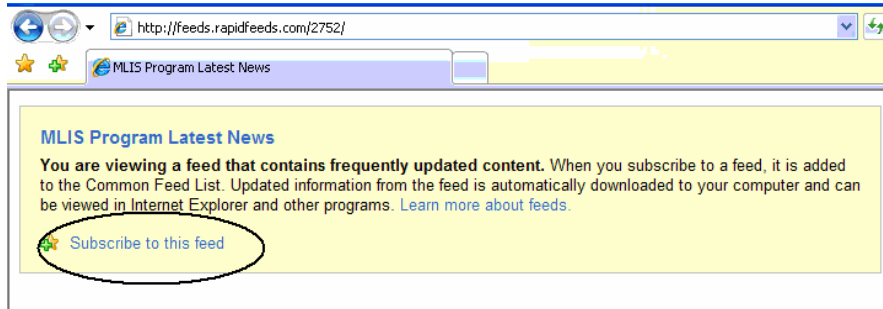
- Start Internet Explorer
- Go to the MLIS website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis>
- Click the  orange feed button located at the right side of the browser window.



- This takes you to the MLIS feed.  
(Clicking on this IE feed button from another site would take you to that site’s RSS Feed – if it had one.) Note the URL of the feed site (circled below).  
The MLIS feed is currently through a free feed site called Rapid Feeds.



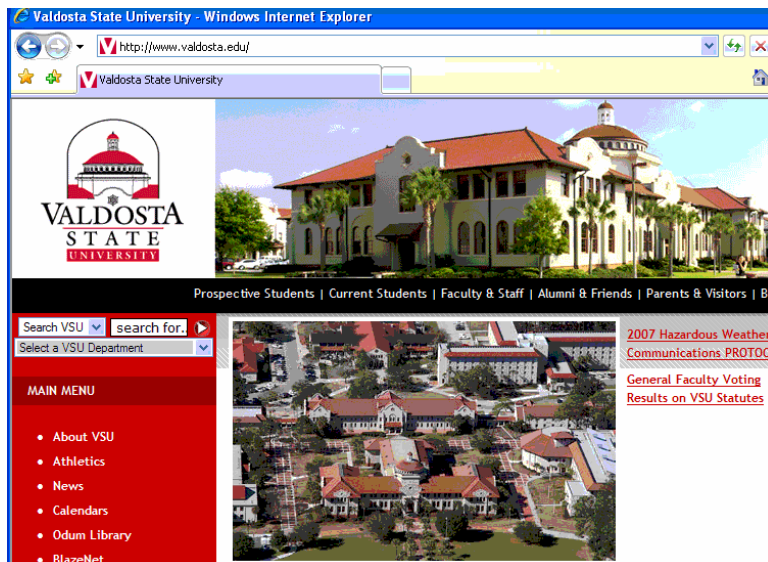
- Click the “Subscribe to this feed” link.



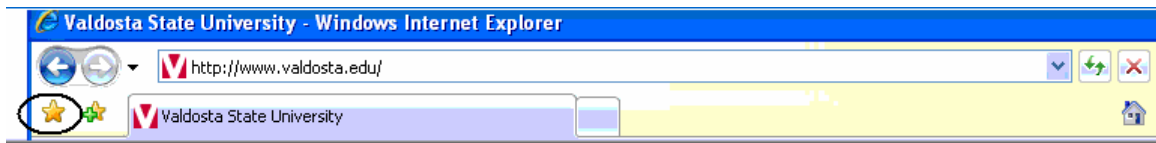
- When prompted with this dialog box, click the Subscribe button.



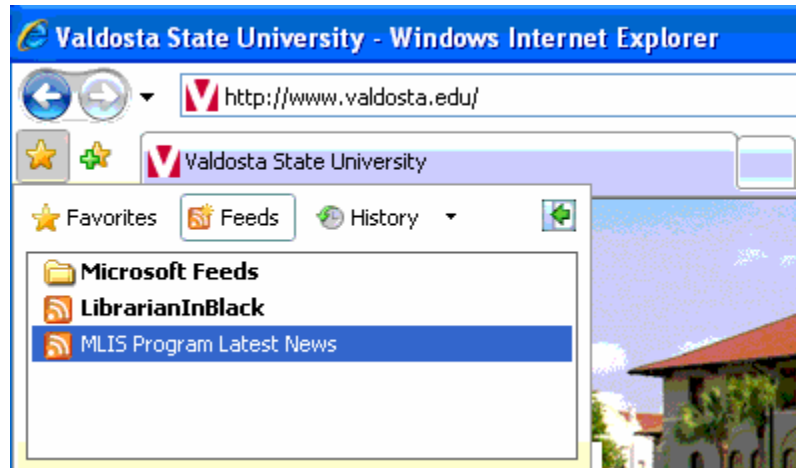
- You will \*not\* get a confirmation for your subscription.
- To make sure you are subscribed, return to \*any\* web page using IE. (For example, you can go to the VSU homepage, pictured below.)




- To view your feed, now or at any time, locate the IE star icon located on the left of the IE menu (circled below). Click it.



- Click the “Feeds” icon. You’ll see your new feed added to the list.



### Reading the MLIS RSS Feed postings with Mozilla FireFox or Netscape 7

- Go to the MLIS website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis>
- Click the  button located in the left margin of the homepage.



**Mozilla FireFox** displays the feed postings and you can view them using this method. However, the Mozilla FireFox feed subscription option seems to have a problem with retrieving the actual postings. All you get are a list of titles. Mozilla is Open Source software and its feed subscription is not quite ready for “prime time.”

**Netscape 7.1**, like Mozilla FireFox, displays the feed postings, but you see all the XML code. So, this is not a viable alternative as an RSS reader either.

### **Available free RSS Aggregators**

- **AmphetaDesk:** <http://www.disobey.com/amphetadesk/>  
A news aggregator you access through a web browser (Mac/Win/Linux)
- **Awasu:** <http://www.awasu.com/>  
A more complicated aggregator for Windows (Win)
- **FeedReader:** <http://www.feedreader.com/>  
Like SharpReader, but sporadically updated. (Win)
- **NewsGator:** <http://www.newsgator.com/>  
Read the news from within Microsoft Outlook (Win)
- **NewsWatcher:** <http://www.newswatcher.com/>  
Based on Scopeware technology (Win)

### **More on RSS Feeds**

RSS formats are specified in XML (a generic specification for data formats). RSS is a simple XML-based system that allows you to subscribe to your favorite websites. RSS delivers information as an XML file called an RSS feed, webfeed, RSS stream, or RSS channel. All these terms describe the “feed” process which moves information through the Internet pipeline to you, the subscriber.

Creating your own RSS feed allows you, in effect, to compile your own personalized “delivery service” of content from you favorite Web sites. You need two things to establish this “delivery service” – an aggregator (which collects content from web sites) and a reader (supplied by the aggregator). The IE7 and Mozilla FireFox browsers come with their own built-in RSS aggregator and reader.

With RSS readers, you have the choice of installing it on your computer’s desktop, using e-mail client software that includes a feed, or connecting through the Web.

### **Further Reading:**

**Georgia State University’s Scholarly Activities page**

<http://www.library.gsu.edu/about/pages.asp?ldID=68&guideID=282&ID=4209>

Presentations by the GSU librarians on blogs, rss, and wiki applications for libraries may be downloaded as pdf files.

**Rich Site Services: Web Feeds for Extended Information and Library Services**

<http://www.llrx.com/features/richsite.htm>

**RSS for Non-Techie Librarians** (by Steven M. Cohen)

<http://www.llrx.com/features/rssforlibrarians.htm>