




Adding RSS Feeds to Your Blackboard Course

What is an RSS feed? RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication" or "Rich Site Summary". It is a way to easily distribute a list of headlines, update notices, and sometimes content to a wide number of people. In a nutshell, RSS is a format for sharing and distributing Web content. It is written in the Internet coding language known as XML (eXtensible Markup Language). RSS feeds added to Blackboard courses are automatically updated, and present an easy way to provide current news, articles, and other information to students. There are thousands of RSS feeds available, covering topics related to almost every academic discipline.

Why Use RSS Feeds to Support Teaching and Learning?

You can find RSS feeds on a variety of topics. For instance, in a world cultures class you might want students to follow news about a particular country during the entire semester. Or, maybe students need to track stocks for a few weeks. Feeds for these assignments would provide students with up-to-the-minute news and updates.

Directions

1. Navigate to the website that has an RSS feed.
2. Look for an icon on the page that looks like this: 
3. If you don't see that icon, look for some text that mentions "subscribe to feed" or "RSS". Linked text that reads "Entries (RSS)" is a common way the feed for a WordPress blog is encountered, usually near the bottom of the screen.
4. You can right-click on the icon or text link and choose either Copy Link Location (*Firefox*), or Copy Shortcut (*Internet Explorer*).
5. Alternatively, you can click on the icon or the text and it should lead you to a page with a few options to subscribe to the RSS feed. What's important is that the feed URL is now in the web browser's address bar. Copy the URL so that you can paste it into the appropriate field in the Google Module creator.
6. Navigate to the Google Module Creator website.
<http://www.gmodules.com/ig/creator?synd=open&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcustomrss.googlepages.com%2Fcustomrss.xml&lang=en>


7. Type the title of the RSS Feed and paste the RSS feed URL into the box labeled **FEED URL**.

Google™ Add this gadget to your webpage

This is a preview of what the gadget would look like on your page. If parts of the gadget appear cut off, try increasing the width and/or height. [More about this gadget.](#)

[Grand Valley State University Success Stories](#)

- Music prof releases second CD
- Helping Central American farmers
- Chemistry dept. wins green award
- Singer surprises GVSU audiences
- Alumna receives musicology grant

 Gadgets powered by Google

Tip: Drag the bottom right corner of the preview above to resize the gadget.

Display settings	Gadget settings
Title <input type="text" value="Grand Valley State University Success Stories"/>	FEED URL <input type="text" value="http://www.gvsu.edu/success.xml"/>
Width <input type="text" value="320"/> px	

8. Click on the button labeled “Get the code”
9. This will display code in the field labeled “copy and paste the HTML below to include this gadget on your webpage”

* required

Copy and paste the HTML below to include this gadget on your webpage.

```
<script src="http://www.gmodules.com/ig/ifr?url=http://customrss.googlepag
```

10. Copy the entire contents of this field. This is the code you will need to place in Blackboard.
11. Navigate to the area in your Blackboard course where you would like to place the RSS information.
12. Click on “add item” to create a new content item.
13. Please note that you will need to turn the visual textbox editor “off” before you paste the html code into blackboard.

Create Item

A content item is any type of file, text, image, or link that appears to users in a Content Area, Learning Module, Lesson Plan, or content folder.
[More Help](#)

* Indicates a required field.

Cancel

Submit

1. Content Information

* Name

Color of Name

 Black

Text

Rich text editor toolbar with icons for Bold, Italic, Underline, Paragraph, Arial, 3 (12pt), Bulleted List, Numbered List, Indent, Outdent, Link, Unlink, Text Color, Background Color, Undo, Redo, and others. The "HTML" icon is circled in red.

Path: p Words: 0

Provide a name for the content item in the name field, then select the "HTML" icon.

14. In the Text editor paste the html code created from Google.

1. Content Information

* Name: Grand Rapids News Feed

Color of Name: Black

Text: HTML code view

```
<p></p>
<script language="JavaScript" src="http://www.feed2js.org//feed2js.php?
src=http%3A%2F%2Fblog.mlive.com%2Fgrpress%2Fnews_impact%2Fatom.xml&chan=y&desc=1&utf=y" charset="UTF-8"
type="text/javascript">*<![CDATA[*/*
/*]]>*</script>
<noscript><a href="http://www.feed2js.org//feed2js.php?
src=http%3A%2F%2Fblog.mlive.com%2Fgrpress%2Fnews_impact%2Fatom.xml&chan=y&desc=1&utf=y&html=y">View
RSS feed</a></noscript>
```

Cancel Update

15. Click the Update Button

16. Click on the Submit button.