

# Analog v. Google in the CMS: RSS Feeds to the Rescue!

Heather L. Moulaison  
Edward M. Corrado



The College of New Jersey

# Course Management Systems (CMS)

- As a secure online environment
  - Supporting face-to-face instruction
  - Replacing classroom experience altogether

1 course shell = 1 class section

# CMS products

- BlackBoard
  - WebCT
  - Moodle
  - Sakai
  - eCollege/eCompanion
  - Home grown
- 
- Institutions may use one or more of these products

# How are CMSs used for instruction?

- Each CMS has different features...
- Instructor
  - Customize shell for class (color, modules used, etc.)
  - See roster and photos of students
  - Can post syllabi, assignments, calendar, Web links, etc.
  - May post and calculate grades
  - Communicate with students through “announcements” and mass emails
  - Can create online quizzes
  - Use html function to create Web page

# CMS for users

- Students
  - Post preferred contact information, customize space (add personal photo, etc.)
  - Use online discussion boards
  - Use chat rooms (workspace for group projects)
  - Submit assignments electronically
  - Check course reserves (library presence!)
- Librarians
  - May be included with “student” status in a class
  - Some systems allow to be added as “TA” or even “librarian”

# CMS at TCNJ: SOCS



- Simple Online Courseware System (SOCS)
  - In-house
  - IT-maintained

# The College of New Jersey Library, Ewing, New Jersey, USA





Google lurks...

... in the online environment.

# Like Google, academic libraries...

1. Can also be available at the point of need
2. Have an OPAC that's user-friendly, too

But moreover, academic libraries

- Are designed to support scholarship
- Can help students reconcile "online" life and "offline" resources
  - Can actively advertise in the *online* campus environment by displaying new acquisitions in the CMS

# RSS

- Really Simple Syndication (RSS 2.0)
- Rich Site Summary (RSS 0.91)
- RDF Site Summary (RSS 0.9, 1.0)
- “Result Set Syndication” (Walter Lewis)
  
- Atom (a newer XML *syndication* format)
  
- Issues can arise...

# Anatomy of an RSS feed

- Channel :
  - Title (TCNJ Library – New Music Books)
  - Hyperlink (<http://www.tcnj.edu>)
  - Description (“This News feed lists new acquisitions by TCNJ Library in the area of Music”)
  - Items
  - Other details (author, date, etc.)

# Anatomy of a RSS feed item

- Same Basic Parts of the Feed (Title, Hyperlink, Description, etc.)
- What to put where?
  - Title: Brief title (245a)
  - Hyperlink: Direct link to item in catalog
  - Description: (Everything else!)
    - Long Title (whole 245)
    - Location
    - Call Number

# Example of an RSS item

TCNJ Library - New Mathematic Books - Mozilla Firefox  
http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Elibrary/rss/math.xml

Applied statistics and the SAS programming language /  
Ronald P. Cody, Jeffrey K. Smith. Location: General  
Collection. Call Number: QA276.4 .C53 2006

[Square root of 2 : a dialogue concerning a number  
and a sequence /](#)

Square root of 2 : a dialogue concerning a number and a  
sequence / David Flannery. Location: General Collection.  
Call Number: QA247.5 .F53 2006

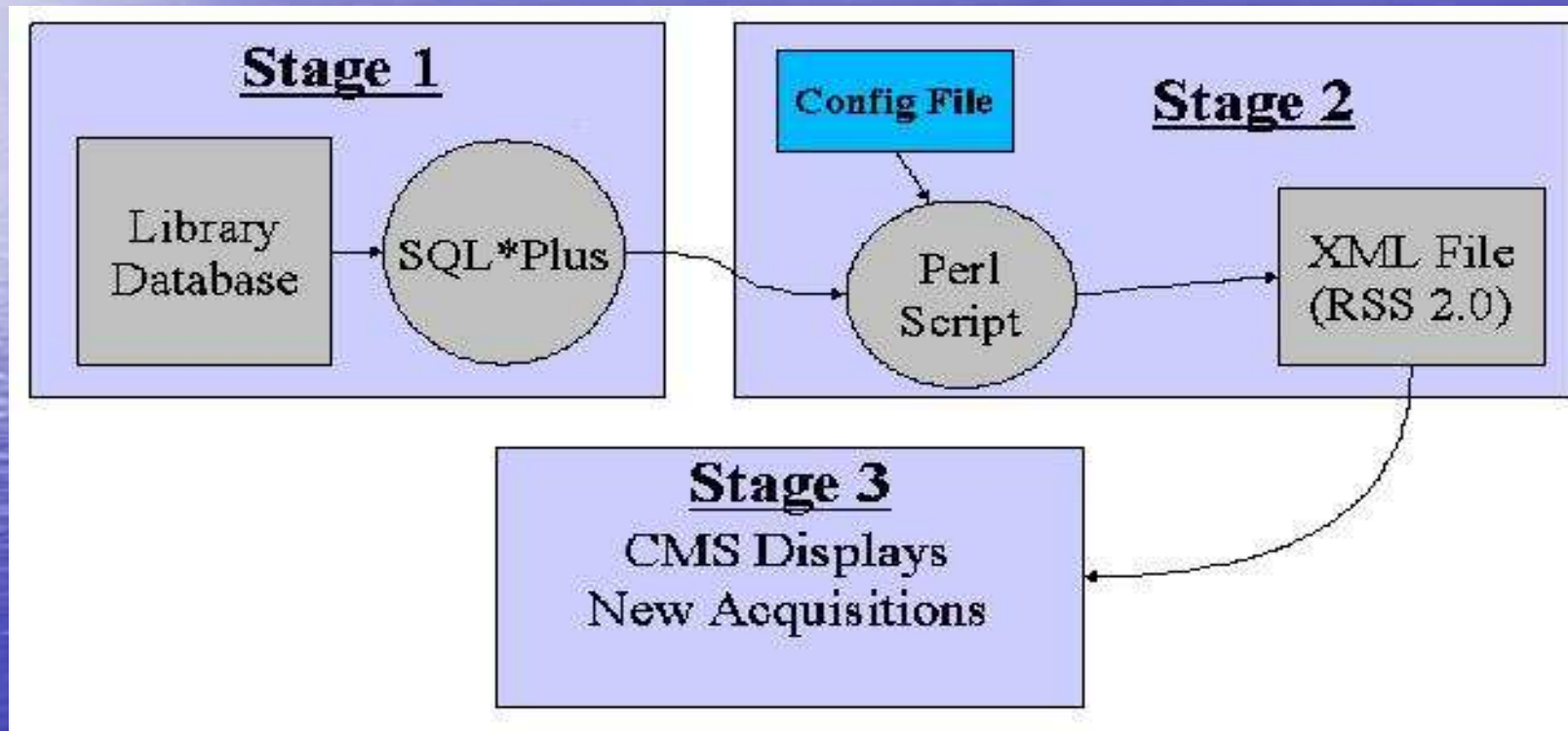
[Write for mathematics.](#)

Write for mathematics. Location: General Collection. Call  
Number: QA135.6 R67 2007

Done

Start CMS Guides RSS moulaison... Baltimore - ... TCNJ Libra... Source of: ... (3 unread) ... Document... 4:30 PM

# Technical details



# More technical information

- More details are available at:  
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/rss/>
- Code is available, but not “Plug and Play”
- Need some knowledge of PERL and access to the server (but not a lot)
- Code designed for Voyager, but could be modified for other ILS

# RSS feeds in SOCS

**SOCS** Main Menu | Log Out | TCNJ | Webmail | Academic Links

Heather Moulaison (N/A Unread) On-Going: LIBDEMO2

**Syndication**  
[Welcome](#) » Syndication

Manage RSS Channels

Display feeds: 5 Show Descriptions:  ON  OFF

Name	Published
<b>TCNJ Library - New Music Books</b>	
<a href="#">Bob Dylan, the essential interviews /</a> Bob Dylan, the essential interviews / edited by Jonathan Cott. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML420.D98 A5 2006	SAT, 10 MAR 2007 16:04:06 EDT
<a href="#">John Lennon, 1940-1980 /</a> John Lennon, 1940-1980 / Ray Connolly. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML420.L38 C66 1981	SAT, 10 MAR 2007 15:30:20 EDT
<a href="#">American musical and the performance of personal identity /</a> American musical and the performance of personal identity / Raymond Knapp. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML2054 .K6 2006	FRI, 09 MAR 2007 13:39:28 EDT
<a href="#">Andrew Lloyd Webber /</a> Andrew Lloyd Webber / John Snelson ; with a foreword by Geoffrey Block, general editor. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML410.L78 S64 2004	FRI, 09 MAR 2007 10:51:38 EDT
<a href="#">Angels &amp; monsters : male and female sopranos in the story of opera, 1600-1900 /</a> Angels & monsters : male and female sopranos in the story of opera, 1600-1900 / Richard Somerset-Ward. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML1700 .S69 2004	FRI, 09 MAR 2007 10:19:50 EDT
<b>TCNJ Library - New Sociology Books</b>	
<a href="#">Love and politics : radical feminist and lesbian theories /</a> Love and politics : radical feminist and lesbian theories / Carol Anne Douglas. Location: General Collection. Call Number: HQ1206 .D67 1990	SAT, 10 MAR 2007 15:16:22 EDT
<a href="#">Gender and elections : shaping the future of American politics /</a> Gender and elections : shaping the future of American politics / edited by Susan J. Carroll, Richard Logan Fox. Location: General Collection. Call Number: HQ1236.5.U6 G444 2006	SAT, 10 MAR 2007 14:15:37 EDT
<a href="#">American sexual character : sex, gender, and national identity in the Kinsw reports /</a>	FRI, 09 MAR 2007 13:45:22 EDT

# RSS feeds in theory

Serve e-patrons, while . . .

- Answering education's call for more library visibility in the CMS
- Showing relevancy of library's evolving print collections in the digital age
- Spotlighting and encouraging local skills and talents without burdening any library department or area
- Serving as an electronic "new books" area<sub>17</sub>

# RSS feeds in practice

- Discussions with “New-ish” Faculty
  - What Library resources do they want in the CMS?
- Used in RSS readers
  - New DVD Feed was 3rd most used resource on Library portion of TCNJ Web site
- Inclusion in Web pages
  - Departmental Web sites
  - Subject Guides

# RSS feeds in Library subject guides

Modern Languages :: TCNJ Library - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help del.icio.us

http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/moulaison/languages.html

Modern Languages :: TCNJ Libr...

## TCNJ Library

TCNJ Home : [Library](#) : [Subject & Class Guides](#) : [Modern Languages](#)

Text Size: A A A

### Modern Languages

Visit our Language/Resource-Specific Web Pages

- [French Studies](#)
- [Italian Studies](#)
- [Spanish Studies](#)
- [French-language DVDs](#)
- [Italian-language DVDs](#)
- [Spanish-language DVDs](#)

#### Contents

- [Basic Modern Languages Resources](#)
- [Foreign DVDs and Videos at TCNJ](#)
- [Library Article Databases](#)
- [Books & Other Library Materials](#)
- [People, Resources, & Organizations](#)
- [Selected Modern Language Websites](#)
  - [Writing resources](#)

#### Basic Resources

##### Selected Online Resources

Hundreds of online dictionaries, in a variety of languages, mostly free: <http://yourdictionary.com>

AltaVista's Babel Fish: Quick-and-dirty machine translation from dozens of languages to dozens of languages: <http://world.altavista.com/tr>

Unauthoritative/inconsistent but conveniently free multilingual Wictionary (wiki + dictionary): [http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page)

New Velázquez Spanish and English dictionary [electronic resource]: [Netlibrary eBook](#)

##### Selected Library Resources

#### German Dictionaries

- Practical Dictionary of German Usage (German-English, English-German) REF PF3460 .B35 1996
- The pocket Oxford-Duden German dictionary (German-English, English-German) PE3640 .R6 2003

### New Modern Language Acquisitions at TCNJ

**Crimson rain : seven centuries of violence in a Chinese county /**  
Crimson rain : seven centuries of violence in a Chinese county / William T. Rowe. Location: General Collection. Call Number: DS797.48.M334 R69 2007

**Dynastic crisis and cultural innovation : from the late Ming to the late Qing and beyond /**  
Dynastic crisis and cultural innovation : from the late Ming to the late Qing and beyond / David Der-wei Wang and Shang Wei, editors. Location: General Collection. Call Number: PL2296 .D96 2005

**Vuelo del hipogrifo /**  
Vuelo del hipogrifo / Elia Barcelo. Location: General Collection. Temporarily Shelved at: Sent to Bindery. Call Number: PQ6652.A6618 V84 2002

**Vistas y voces latinas /**  
Vistas y voces latinas / Esther L. Levine, Constance M. Montross [compilers]. Location: General Collection. Temporarily Shelved at: Sent to Bindery. Call Number: PC4117 .V53 2002

**Japanese language, gender, and ideology : cultural models and real people /**  
Japanese language, gender, and ideology : cultural models and real people / edited by Shigeko Okamoto, Janet S. Shibamoto Smith. Location: General Collection. Call Number: PL524.75 .J36 2004

**Cyprus : the search for a solution /**  
Cyprus : the search for a solution / David Hannay. Location: General Collection. Call Number: DS54.9 .H36 2005

**Metaphor and artificial intelligence /**  
Metaphor and artificial intelligence / John A. Marden and Mark G. Lee, guest editors. Location: General Collection. Call Number: P325.5.M47 M48 2001

**Language in the U.S.A. : themes for the 21st century /**

Done

Start vale2006\_combined.p... Modern Languages... (4 unread) Yahoo! M... Microsoft PowerPoint ... 5:11 PM

# The Library needs to be in the CMS

- The students are there and they expect the resources to be there
  - One-stop shopping
- “Why are course guides on the library Web site and not in SOCS?”
- CMS being pushed on campus
- Danger of libraries being marginalized in the online environment

# Analog v. Google in the CMS: RSS Feeds to the Rescue!

**THANK YOU!!!**

Heather L. Moulaison / Edward M. Corrado  
moulaison@tcnj.edu / corrado@tcnj.edu

<http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/rss>

