

Cool Tools Episode 39 Podcast: Feed43

Hello, and welcome to another episode of Cool Tools for Library 2.0 from San Jose State University's School of Library and Information Science. My name is Heather, and today we're going to learn about Feed43, a tool for converting web pages to RSS feeds or customizing existing RSS feeds. This is a free, web-based tool that can be found at feed43.com.

RSS is a technology that allows information to be pushed from a website when the website is updated. There are a number of ways to make an RSS feed. You can use an RSS Creator program, such as NewzAlert Composer, or you can use a tool to "scrape" a web page into RSS such as Page2RSS or Feed43. Feed43 also offers the ability to customize an existing RSS feed and transform it into a new feed. That's the technology that I'm going to explore, because I had fun using Feed43 and thought it might be interesting for others to learn a little more about it.

Feed43 is a tool that allows you to convert HTML or XML documents to RSS feeds or to customize existing RSS feeds and create new feeds from them. This could be useful for static web pages that you want to be able to allow others to subscribe to, such as a list of resources to which items are added. It can also be used to customize an existing feed in some way. For example, you may want to provide a link to search your library's catalog for items from a feed. Amazon has RSS feeds which allow you to track items which are tagged with a certain keyword. You could use the feed for items recently tagged with 'web 2.0' or 'oral history' and customize the feed to add a link to search your library's catalog for the item. This might be a good way for users to automatically learn about new resources that are available, and whether your library has the item or not.

What makes Feed43 great is that it allows many options for control and customization, but that can also make it harder to use. The way the tool works is that you select a web page or RSS feed, then define a search pattern to extract a portion of text or HTML from the source. The information from those search patterns is then placed into variables, which can be put together to create a new feed from the HTML, to rearrange an existing feed to make it more user-friendly, or add information to customize the feed in some way. Once you've mastered use of the search patterns, it's easy to put together a great feed from a static web page, or to customize an already existing feed.

To try it out, visit Feed43.com. For more information about Cool Tools for Library 2.0, please visit our blog at cooltoolslibrary2.blogspot.com.