



Knowledge and Use of Rss Feed among Arts and Science College Students

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ABSTRACT:

RSS feed is a format for delivering regularly changing content in web. Many news related sites, weblogs and other online publishers syndicate their content as an RSS feed whoever wants it. RSS solves a problem for people who regularly use the web. It usually allows user to easily stay informed by retrieving the latest content from the sites user is interested in. It saves the time of the user by not needing to visit each site individually. It ensures privacy by not needing to join each site's email newsletter. The number of sites offering RSS feeds is growing rapidly and includes big names like Yahoo News. Feed Reader or News Aggregator software allows the user to grab the RSS feeds from various sites and display them for the user to read and use. RSS feeds enable publishers to syndicate data automatically. A standard XML file format ensures compatibility with many different machines/programs. RSS feeds also benefit users who want to receive timely updates from favorable websites or to aggregate data from many site. Subscribing to a website, RSS removes the need for the user to manually check the website for new content. Instead, their browser constantly monitors the site and informs the user of any updates. The browser can also be commanded to automatically download the new data for the user. The investigators being in the field of education wanted to study the knowledge and use of RSS among arts and science college students. The study has used purposive sampling technique for the study. The study has revealed that 44.16% of arts and science college students have knowledge about what is RSS. The majority of them still do not know what RSS is.

Key words: RSS feed, Knowledge, Use, Arts and Science College students



INTRODUCTION

RSS (Rich Site Summary, originally RDF Site Summary; often called Really Simple Syndication) uses a standard web feed formats to publish frequently updated information: blog entries, news headlines, audio, video. As RSS document (called “feed”, “web feed”, of “Channel”) includes full or summarized text, and metadata, like publishing date and author’s name. RSS feed is a format for delivering regularly changing content in web. Many news related sites, weblogs and other online publishers syndicate their content as an RSS feed whoever wants it. RSS solves a problem for people who regularly use the web. It usually allows user to easily stay informed by retrieving the latest content from the sites user is interested in. It saves the time of the user by not needing to visit each site individually. It

ensures privacy by not needing to join each site’s email newsletter. The number of sites offering RSS feeds is growing rapidly and includes big names like Yahoo News. Feed Reader or News Aggregator software allows the user to grab the RSS feeds from various sites and display them for the user to read and use. RSS feeds enable publishers to syndicate data automatically. A standard XML file format ensures compatibility with many different machines/programs. RSS feeds also benefit users who want to receive timely updates from favourable websites or to aggregate data from many sites. Subscribing to a website RSS removes the need for the user to manually check the website for new content. Instead, their browser constantly monitors the site and informs the user of any updates. The browser can also be commanded to automatically

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download the new data for the user. Software termed “RSS reader”, “aggregator”, or “feed reader” which can be web-based, desktop-based, or mobile-device-based, presents RSS feed data to users. Users subscribe to feed either by entering a feed’s URI into the reader or by clicking on the browser’s feed icon. The RSS reader checks the user’s feeds regularly for new information and can automatically download it, if that function is enabled. The reader also provides a user interface. **amphetaDesk**: amphetaDesk is a free, cross platform, open-sourced, syndicated news aggregator - it obediently sits on your desktop, downloads the latest news that interests you, and displays them in a quick and easy to use (and customizable!) webpage. **Feedreader** : Open-source aggregator that supports RSS and Atom formats runs under Windows 95 and

later versions. **NewsGator**: NewsGator began by calling itself “The RSS Company.” It was founded by Greg Reinacker, who’d written an Outlook plug-in that was an RSS reader called NewsGator. **My Yahoo**: My Yahoo is a customizable web page with news, stock quotes, weather, and many other features. **Bloglines**: Bloglines was a web-based news aggregator for reading syndicated feeds using the RSS and Atom formats. The benefits of RSS are immense. Use of it will help our students better. Hence, the investigators wanted to study the knowledge and use of RSS among arts and science college students.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

RSS - refers to really simple syndication.

Knowledge - refers to awareness, understanding and comprehension.

Use- refers to employ or utilize

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Arts and Science College students - refers to one who is studying B.A. / B.Sc. in Arts and Science Colleges.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has formulated the following objectives:

1. To find out the knowledge of RSS feed among arts and science College students.
2. To find out the use of RSS feed for various purposes among arts and science college students.
3. To find out the apps which are used by arts and science colleges students for RSS feed.

HYPOTHESES FORMULATED FOR THE STUDY

The hypotheses have been stated in null form:

1. The arts and science college students do not have knowledge of RSS feed.
2. The arts and science college students do not use RSS feed for various purposes.
3. The arts and science college students do not use any RSS feed applications.

INSTRUMENTATION

The investigator has consulted experts in the IT field and professors in the Information and Communication Technology Engineering departments of select Engineering Colleges in Chennai for the construction of questionnaire on Knowledge and use of RSS feed. After having repeated discussion with the experts, the investigator finalized a questionnaire.



ESTABLISHMENT RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL:

TEST AND RETEST METHOD:

The questionnaire was administered among 30 arts and science college students and re administered among the same 30 arts and science college students after a gap of two weeks. The correlation found between the successive administrations of the questionnaire is 0.89. It is high correlation. Hence it is assumed that the questionnaire is having reliability. Thus the reliability of the rating scale was ensured.

ESTABLISHING VALIDITY OF THE TOOL:

The investigator has consulted experts in the IT field and professors in the Information and Communication Technology Engineering Departments of

select Engineering Colleges of Chennai for constructing the questionnaire. It ensures face and content validity of the questionnaire.

According to Garret, H.E (1967, P, 365) the index of reliability is sometimes taken as a measure of validity.

SCORING:

The responses for all the items were counted and percentage analysis was done.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The investigator has followed probability sampling method for the present study. The investigator has collected a sample of 120 arts and science college students in Chennai Metropolitan city.

The details regarding null hypotheses stated and decisions



regarding the hypotheses are presented in the following paragraphs.

HYPOTHESIS 1.

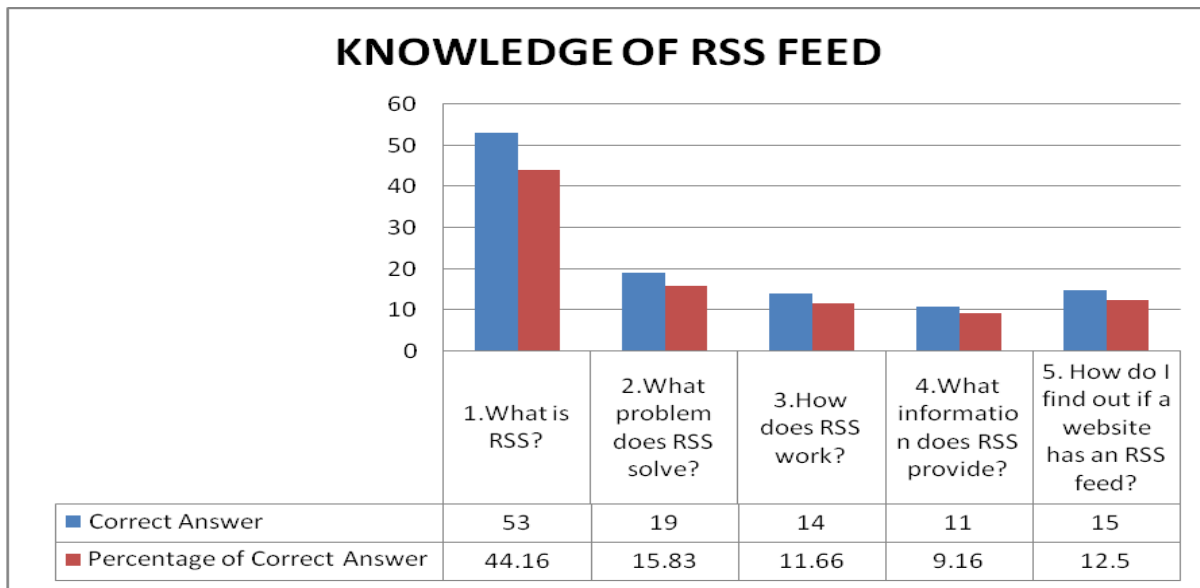
The arts and science college students do not have knowledge of RSS feed.

The details regarding the knowledge of RSS feed among arts and science college students are presented in the following Table 1.

TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF RSS FEED AMONG ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Knowledge of RSS	Correct Answer	Wrong Answer	No Response	Percentage Of Right answer
1.What is RSS?	53	17	50	44.16
2.What problem does RSS solve?	19	23	78	15.83
3.How does RSS work?	14	19	87	11.66
4.What information does RSS provide?	11	21	88	9.16
5. How do I find out if a website has an RSS feed?	15	16	89	12.5

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF RSS FEED AMONG ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS



It is evident from Table 1 that the arts and science college students 44.16% are having knowledge about RSS. 15.83 % of arts and science college students have knowledge about what problem does RSS solve. 11.66% of them have knowledge about how RSS does work. 9% of them have knowledge about what information RSS provide. 12.5 % of them have knowledge about whether a website has an RSS feed or not.

It may be concluded from the above table that 44.16% of arts and science college students report correctly

what is RSS? 15.83 % of them answer us rightly what problem does RSS solve. 11.66% of them give reply correctly how does RSS work. 9% of them have knowledge about what information does RSS provide. 12.5 % of them have awareness about whether a website has an RSS feed or not.

HYPOTHESIS 2.

The arts and science college students do not use RSS feed for various purposes.

The details regarding use of RSS feed for various purposes among arts

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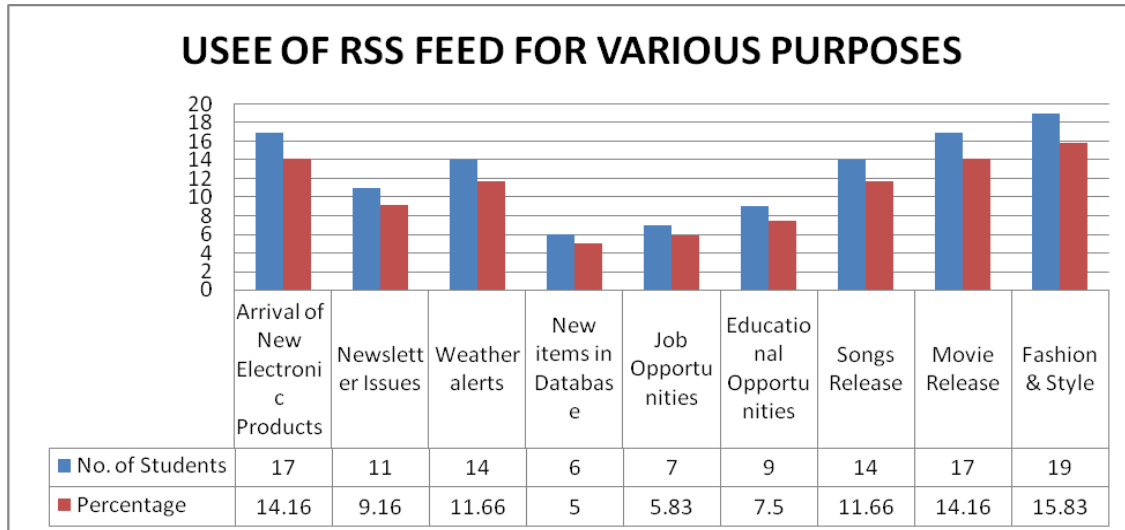
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and science college students are presented in the following Table 2.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE USE OF RSS FEED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES

Use of RSS	No. of Students	Percentage
Arrival of New Electronic Products (Mobiles, I pad I pod etc.)	17	14.16
Newsletter Issues	11	9.16
Weather alerts	14	11.66
New items in Database	6	5
Job Opportunities	7	5.83
Educational Opportunities	9	7.5
Songs Release	14	11.66
Movie Release	17	14.16
Fashion & Style	19	15.83

FIGURE 2. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE USE OF RSS FEED FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES



It is evident from Table 2 that 14.16 % of arts and science college students use RSS feed for arrival of new electronic

Products, 9.16 % of them use for news letter issues, 11.66 % of them use for weather alerts, 5 % of them for new



items in database, 5.83% of them for job opportunities, 7.5% of them for educational opportunities, 11.66% of them for songs release, 14.16 % of them for movie release and 15.83 % of them use RSS feed for buying fashion & style accessories.

It can be concluded from the above Table that the arts and science college students mainly use RSS feed for buying fashion & style accessories (15.83 %) which is followed by New electronic products (14.66%), movie release (14.66 %), songs release

(11.66%), weather alerts (11.66%), news letter issues (9.16%), educational opportunities (7.5 %), job opportunities (5.83 %) and new items in database (5 %).

HYPOTHESIS 3.

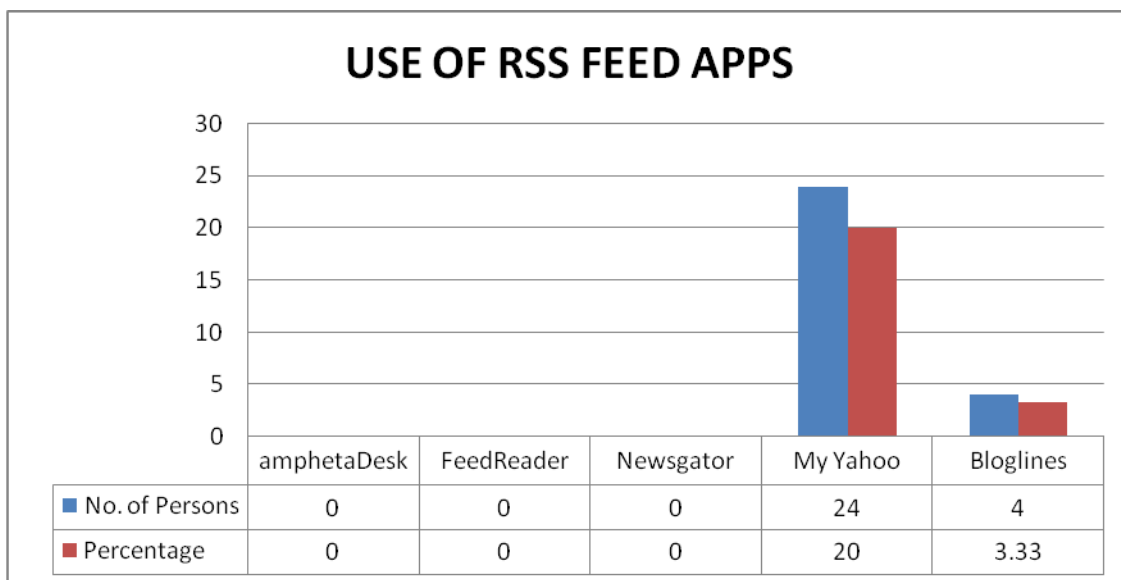
The arts and science college students do not use any RSS feed Applications.

The details regarding the use of RSS feed apps by arts and science college students are presented in the following Table 3.

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE USE OF RSS FEED APPS BY ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS

Variety of RSS Readers	No. of Persons	Percentage
amphetaDesk	0	0
FeedReader	0	0
Newsgator	0	0
My Yahoo	24	20
Bloglines	4	3.33

FIGURE 3. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS FOR THE USE OF RSS FEED APPS BY ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE STUDENTS



It is evident from Table 3 that the arts and science college students 20% of them use My Yahoo application for RSS feed and only 3.33% of them use Bloglines for RSS feed. The other RSS feed applications amphetadesk, Feedreader, NewsGator are not at all used by arts and science college students.

It may be concluded from the above table that majority of arts and science college students (20%) use My

yahoo for Reading RSS feed and a few percentage (3.33%) use Bloglines for reading RSS feed.

CONCLUSION

The study can be concluded by stating the following. They are:

1. The study has revealed that 44.16% of arts and science college students report correctly what is RSS. 15.83 % of them answer what problem RSS



solves. 11.66% of them give reply correctly how does RSS work. 9% of them have knowledge about what information does RSS provide. 12.5 % of them have awareness about whether a website has an RSS feed or not.

2. The arts and science college students mainly use RSS feed for buying fashion & style accessories (15.83 %) which is followed by New electronic products (14.66%), movie release (14.66 %), songs release (11.66%), weather alerts (11.66%), news letter issues (9.16%), educational opportunities (7.5 %), job opportunities (5.83 %) and new items in database (5 %).

3. The majority of arts and science college students (20%) use My

yahoo for Reading RSS feed and only a few students (3.33%) use Bloglines for reading RSS feed.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The study has revealed that 44.16% of arts and science college students have knowledge about what is RSS. The majority of them still do not know what RSS is. The answers for other questions were of a meagre percentage. It means that the arts and science college students do not have sufficient knowledge about RSS. Regarding the use of RSS feed for various purposes fashion & style accessories has got 15.83 % which is followed by New electronic products forming 14.66%, movie release 14.66 %, songs release 11.66%, weather alerts 11.66%, news letter issues 9.16%, educational opportunities 7.5 %, job opportunities 5.83 % and new items in

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style and New electronic products have come to the forefront as far as arts and science college students preferences in RSS feed is concerned. The last finding says that the arts and science college students forming 20% use my yahoo for Reading RSS feed. It is so popular among them. Since many have email accounts in Yahoo. They have adopted it for RSS feed also.

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