Setting up email and RSS alerts

This guide provides instructions on how to set up email and RSS alerts using a feed reader.

**Tip!** It is advised that you create a email account (hotmail or Google, for example) to hold your email alerts unless you don’t mind being inundated with alerts on your current email account.

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**How do you set up alerts?**

The first thing to do is to decide on what ‘Reader’ you are going to use. Google Reader is going to become obsolete after July 1st. You can use a reader like Google’s and the two that most closely mimic Google Reader are The Old Reader ([www.theoldreader.com](http://www.theoldreader.com)) and CommaFeed ([http://www.commafeed.com](http://www.commafeed.com)). See IOE LibGuide RSS: Keeping Current with Research ([http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/rss](http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/rss)) for details on other readers.

Once you have registered, follow the instructions outlined below.

1. Go to the website you want to keep up-to-date on and click on the RSS icon:
2. This will open up a dialogue box asking you which reader you want to use to subscribe to the feed:

3. Simply copy the feed URL (address) which in this example is http://feeds.feedburner.com/ResearchInformation-Features

4. Use The Old Reader or CommaFeed to subscribe to the website.

5. You can do the same for feeds from Databases and from Zetoc.

So once you have set up alerts, you need to make sure you monitor the alerts on a regular basis so that you are not inundated with information. If you have a 'smart' phone (i.e. one that gives you access to the Internet), you can download an RSS Reader such as Zite (see: www.zite.com) or Feedbly (see: www.feedbly.com) available from the App Store. This will allow you to catch-up with your feeds on the go, i.e. whilst you are travelling or waiting in a queue.