Blogging as a tool: innovative approaches to information access

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What is a Blog?

- Consists of dated entries in reverse chronological order
- Most recent post appears first
- Frequently updated
- Library blog can include news items, announcements, instructional tips, new electronic resources, etc.

What is RSS?

- RSS - Real Simple Syndication
  It brings contents to you
- Content available as new feeds
- XML based (eXtensible Markup Language) for content distribution called feeds
- Aggregators – contains compilation of feeds
  - Collect feeds and display them in easy to read format
  - More later during the talk

What is RSS?

- **Feedreaders (RSS feed readers)**
  - RSS aggregator or News Reader – a software that enables you to get the latest news headlines in RSS
  - delivered straight to your desktop
  - Several Feedreaders are available for download at RSS Compendium – RSS readers
- **Many weblogs have built in RSS feeds.**
  - RSS feeds are identified by 'XML' or 'RSS' icons
  - Just add the URL associated with the icons into your feedreader or bloglines

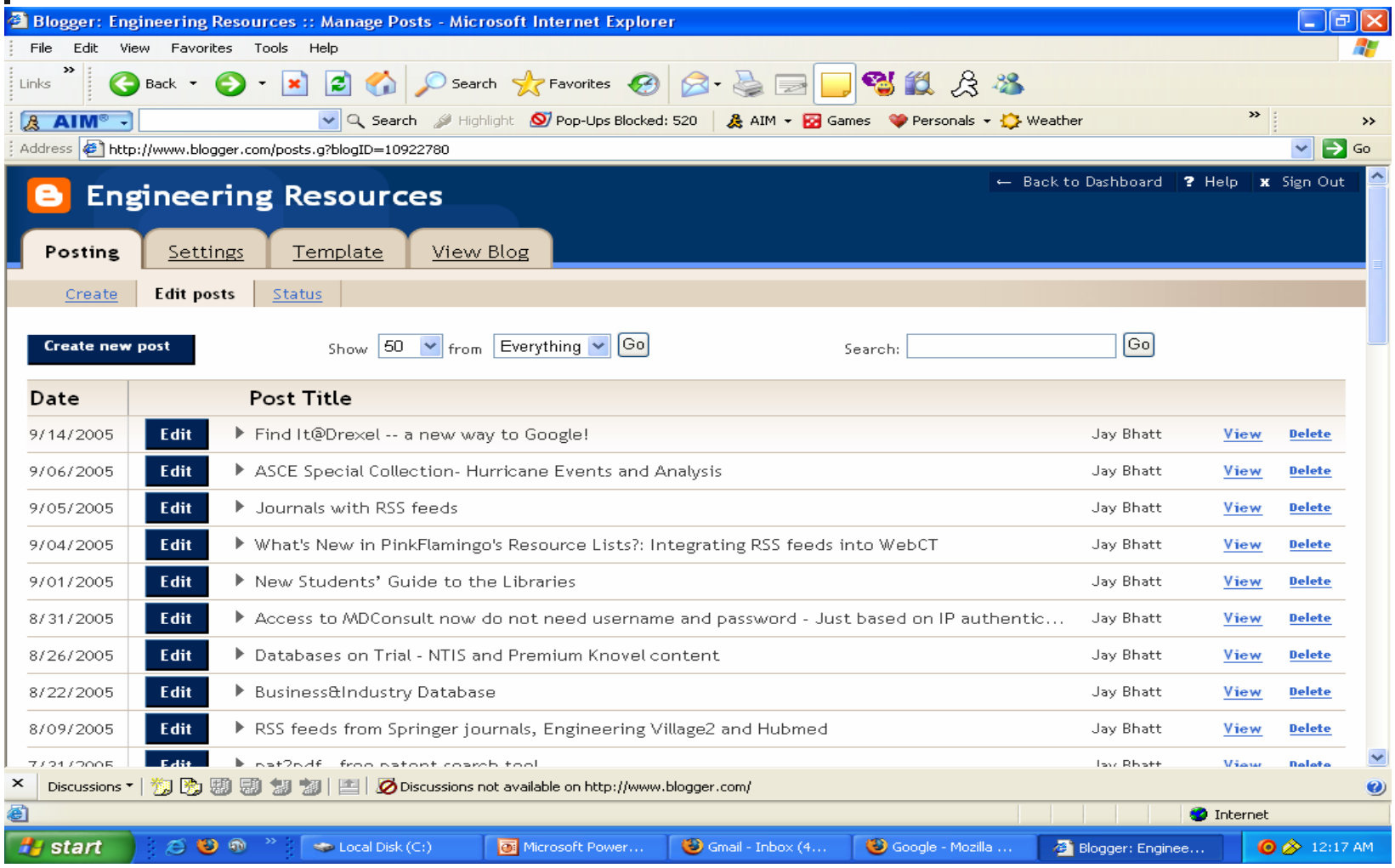
Create Blog

- Blogger is one of the tools to create blogs
  - Create your account
  - Name your blog
  - Choose a template
  - Create your blog
  - Periodically add items to keep your blog active

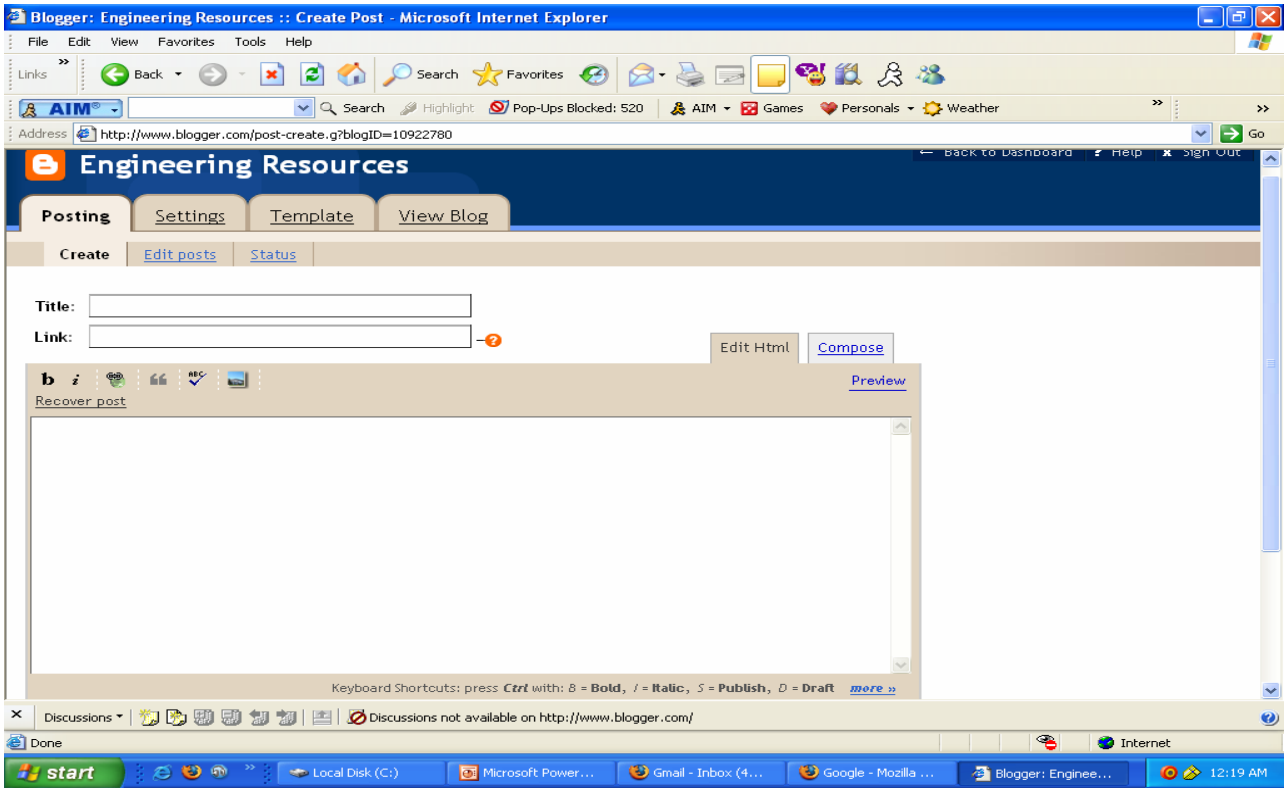
Create Blog

- Blog: Engineering Resources created
- Under Blogger's Sitefeed provides the URL for the feed
- Feed URL: http://englibrary.blogspot.com/atom.xml

Add post in Blog



Add post in Blog

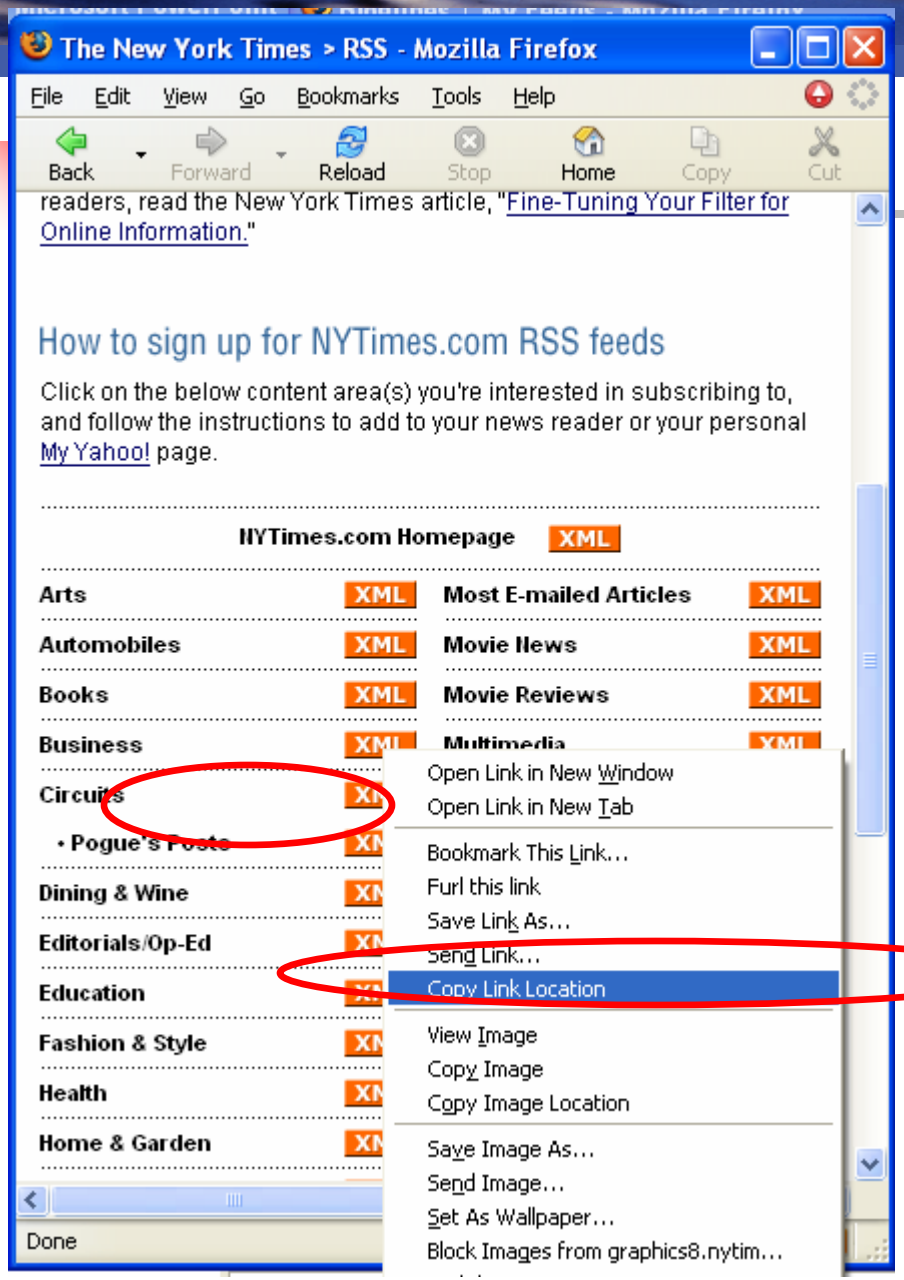


Bloglines

- Bloglines http://www.bloglines.com
  Aggregator online information sources. Free, create account first, no need to download a software

- Subscribe to different RSS feeds from blogs
  - News, search queries in databases (Ei Compendex, Proquest, HubMed, etc.)
  - Table of contents of journal articles
  - To find feeds, look for 'XML' or 'RSS' icon
  - Add 'URL' into Bloglines
  - Bloglines will constantly check those feeds for changes or additions and direct new information onto your Bloglines personal page.

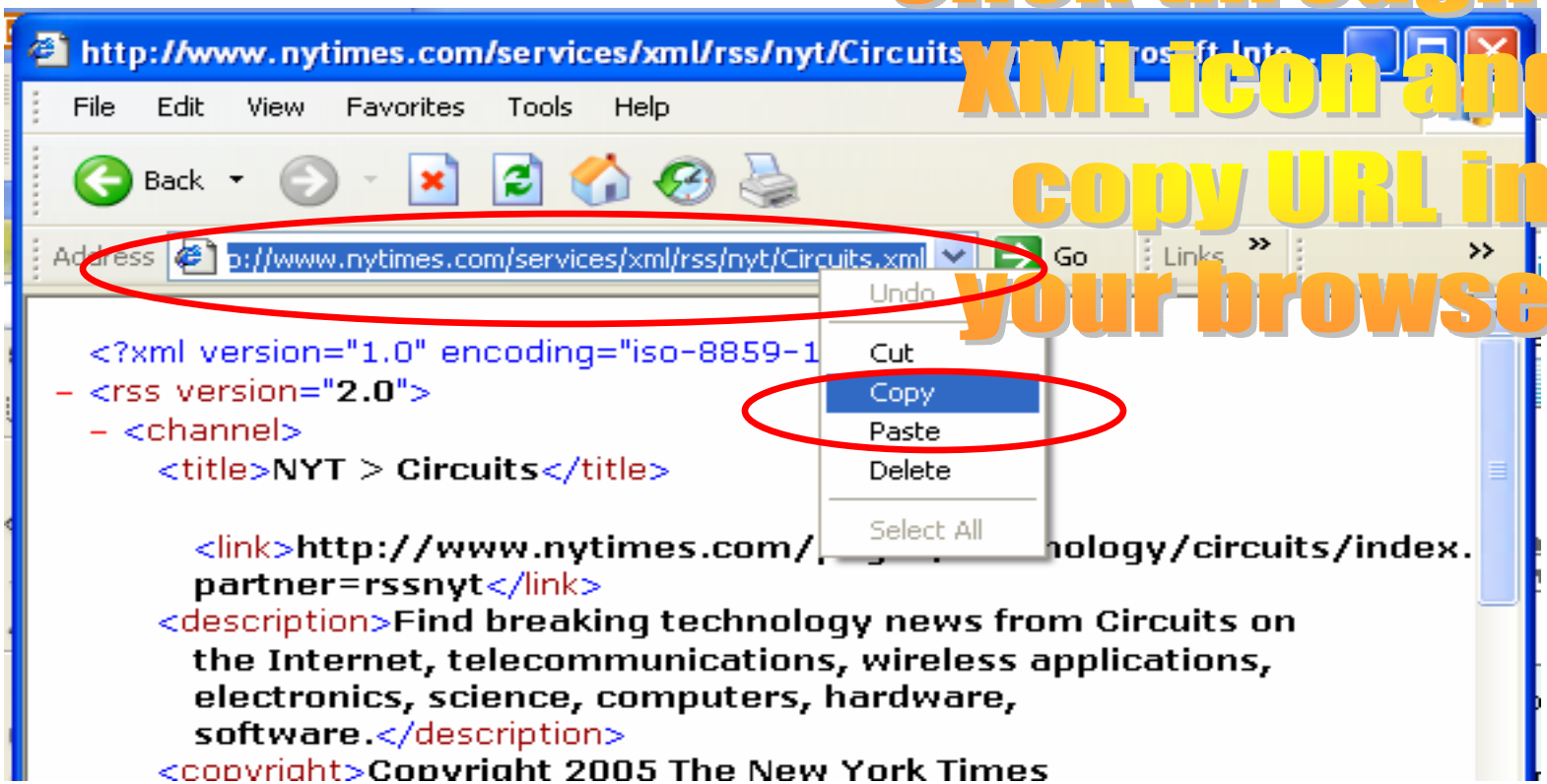
  - Jay's public feeds
  - The New York Times RSS feeds



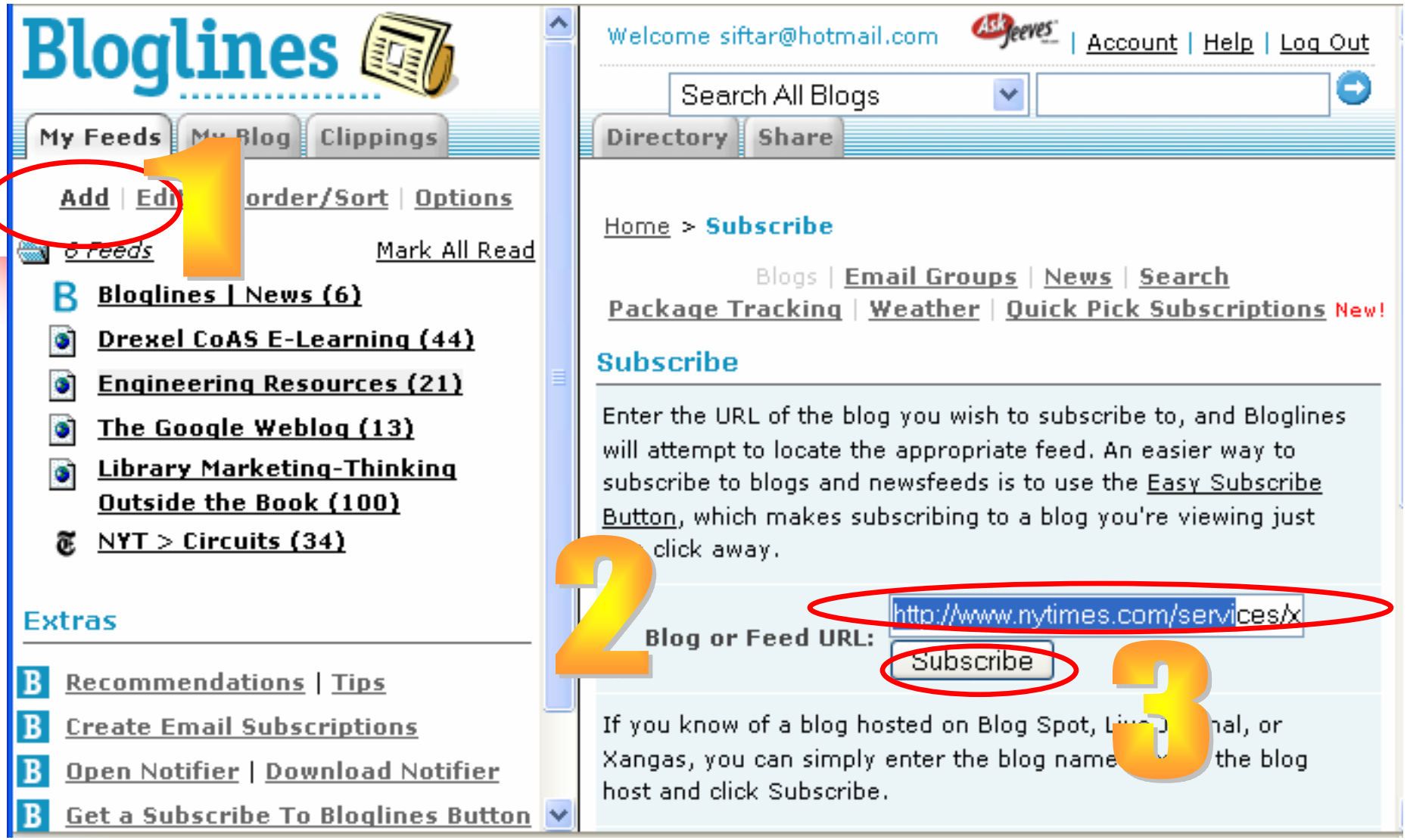
Using FireFox browser on the website of a desired publication.

Right click on XML button and "copy link location"

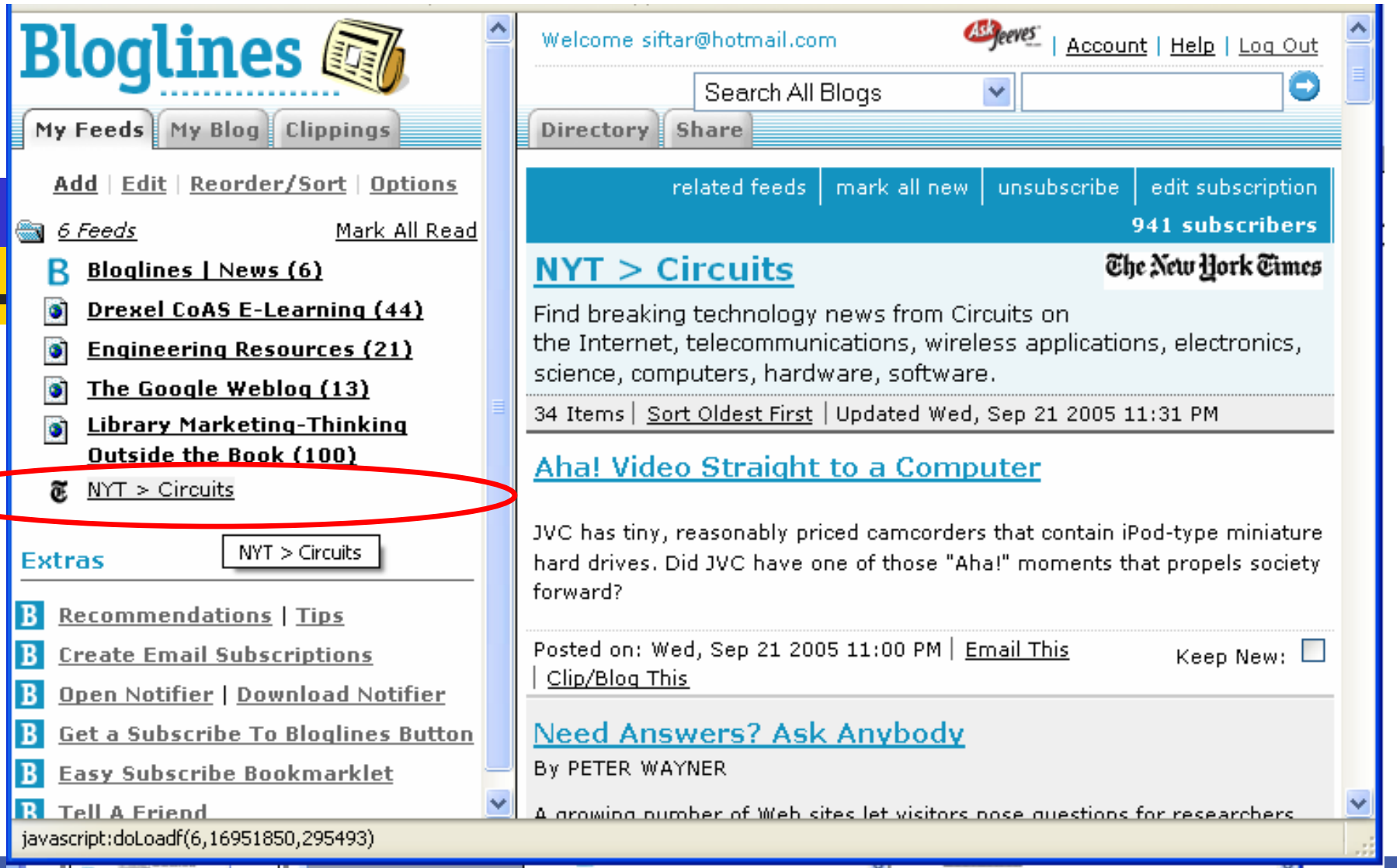
Click through on XML icon and copy URL in your browser.



Log into your RSS reader or bloglines account, add new feed, and paste in URL



Then, click on the link in bloglines to read your RSS feed!



Engineering Resources Blog

- Engineering Resources Blog
- http://englibrary.blogspot.com
- Announcement of new resources, instructional tips for using a particular database or a resource, new and important web resources and more.
- Archive of information added over a period of time
- Emphasis on resources for CoE and Biomed Eng – mainly subscription based

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Announcing new books by selected top research keywords:***
- **New Books in 2005 for some subject areas**
  - Important subject areas
  - Availability of both print and electronic books
  - Increases visibility of Library books
  - May increase usage

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Announcing the availability of RSS feeds of electronic databases:***
- ***Engineering Village2 RSS feed***
  - **Engineering Village2 – Ei Compendex/INSPEC**
  - **Search – copy and paste URL into Bloglines under 'Add' in'My Feeds' – URL found by clicking on RSS**
    - **Create appropriate folders to receive feeds in particular**
    - **subject areas**
    - **Excellent way to keep up-to-date with new research**
    - **No need to receive email alerts**

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Announcing the availability of RSS feeds of electronic databases:***
- ***RSS Feeds including HubMed (pubmed rewired)***
  - HubMed is an alternative interface to the PubMed medical literature
- ***RSS feeds from Proquest databases***
  - RSS feeds are available based on Proquest's predetermined search queries
  - *'Curriculum Match Factor: RSS Feeds'* - Categories

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Integrating feeds from journals and journal articles***
  Nature*, *Nature Biotechnology*, *Nature Materials* – *All Nature title feeds
- ***Institute of Physics***
- ***Science Online RSS feeds***
- ***IngentaConnect***
  - International Journal of Applied Ceramic Technology
  - Journal of Failure Analysis & Prevention
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Engineering Resources Blog

- *IEEE Computer Society*
- *Royal Society of Chemistry*
  - *Lab on a Chip*, *Annual Reports A: Inorganic Chemistry* and *Annual Reports B: Organic Chemistry*
- *University of Chicago Press Journals*
- *Biomedical and health sciences electronic journals with available RSS Feeds*
- Many more to come including ScienceDirect

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Instructional Tips – using webCT***
- ***tips on linking journal articles***
- ***Course based tips to find research information***
- ***Bionanotechnology BMES460/BMES480 and Body Synthetic BMES212***
  Library sessions on blogging in both classes integrated with research seminar

Engineering Resources Blog

- ***Announcing library events on the blog***
  - ***Scholarly Communication Speaker Series***
  - ***RefWorks Introduction and Training***
  - ***Library tours and orientations***
  - ***Open House***

Collaborating with Faculty created blogs

- Faculty blogs
- Identify faculty working on blogs
  - *Drexel CoAS E-Learning blog*
  - *Civil, Architectural and Envi. Eng*
  - *Drexel E-Learning Podcasts*
  - *One more opportunity to work together*

Vision

- More and more electronic journals will have RSS feeds
- Databases – IEEE is working on it
- ScienceDirect
- Possibly Google Scholar soon
- Refworks – group members receive RSS feeds of the citations added (future?)
- Active collaboration with faculty and students essential
- More outreach necessary

Thank You!

- Thanks very much and have fun creating blogs
- Please send me your feedback
- Interested in creating and developing a collaborative blog?
- Contact me anytime at
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