The DSpace Course - RSS Feeds, Alerts and News

Lewis, Stuart

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Module: RSS feeds, alerts and news

Module overview:
This module will introduce the concept of RSS feeds and their support in DSpace, the subscription alerting mechanism which allows users to be emailed when new content is added to particular collections, and the news items on the front page which can be edited by DSpace administrators.

RSS feeds and alerts allow users to see what is new in the repository, and the news allows the administrators to easily edit the front page.

Module objectives:
By the end of this module you will:

1. Know how the RSS feeds work in DSpace
2. Be able to set up and understand email alerts
3. Know how to edit the news on the front page
4. Have edited the news on the front page

Note
For the practical exercise, please refer to your sheet ‘Local instructions’ for details of the following:

- How to launch a web browser
- What the URL of your DSpace installation is
RSS feeds

- RSS feeds
  - Site level (all new items)
  - Community level (new items in all contained collections)
  - Collection level (new items in that collection)
- Can be read in modern web browsers
- Can be subscribed to in news reader software

RSS feeds

RSS feeds are feeds on information that users can subscribe to. The RSS feeds in DSpace apply to each collection, community, and system-wide. RSS feeds at each level show the latest items to have been added to that area.

RSS feeds are configured in dspace.cfg. At the simplest level they can be enabled or disabled. At a more advanced level you can configure the metadata fields used in the feeds, how many are cached, and how long the cache lasts for.

RSS feeds can be viewed in most modern browsers and in dedicated news readers.
Alerts

Registered users can create subscriptions which alert them when new items are deposited in that collection. Emails are sent out periodically, depending upon the schedule setup by the system administrator. A script is run to send the emails, and it typically run each night. The script is called:

- [dspace]/bin/sub-daily
News

- News on front page
  - Top news
  - Side news
  - Edited via the ‘Administer’ menu and the ‘Edit News’ option.
  - News items can include HTML

News

There are two news sections on the front page of a normal DSpace repository. They are called the ‘top news’ and the ‘side news’.
The news can be easily edited using the ‘Administer’ menu and the ‘Edit News’ option. The news can be entered in HTML so that you can include rich formatting.
Credits

- These notes have been produced by:
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