

# Alerts

## Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

Presented for

VOGIN-IP-lezing 2016: 'zoeken & vinden'

by Ran Hock

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## **Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens**

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## **Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens**

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### **Overall Objective**

The objective will be to improve and/or update attendees on **sources and methods for keeping up-to-date on news, events, etc. from news resources, social media and other types of content by means of alerts, RSS feeds, Web-based software programs, and other tools.**

### **We will cover:**

The **wide range of monitoring needs** such as news, events and conditions (such as disasters threats, storms, political and economic developments, conferences, etc.)

The **variety of channels for delivering alerts:** email alerts (such as from BBC), alerts provided by search engines (such as Google Alerts), RSS feeds, software for monitoring specific websites and individual websites, etc.

Setting up **Alerts on Google** for specific topics and for specific topics on individual websites

Using **RSS feeds and RSS readers**

**News feeds from individual sites** such as newsletter and blog sites.

**Tracking social media** (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, etc.) using specialised software for social networking, Google Alerts, and other approaches.

Using **specialised website monitoring software** (such as Infominder, WebsiteWatcher, etc.)

**How to track “trends”** using Google Trends, Google Public Alerts, and Recorded Future

**Links for all websites covered in this booklet can be found at:**

**`www.onstrat.com/alerts`**

The above Web page will remain online for your convenience. Feel free to share it with others.

**Suggestions for getting the most from this session:**

**Share with the group your own experiences, sources, etc.**

**Ask questions**

**Make note of sites that you may want to make use of.**

**Make note of sites (and pages on sites) that have relevant RSS feeds and other automatic distribution features.**

# A Framework for Monitoring The Internet For Fast-Breaking news and Events

**Web Sources**

News organisations

- Print/Internet
- Radio
- TV

Governments

Other organisations

- Print/Internet
- Video

Individuals

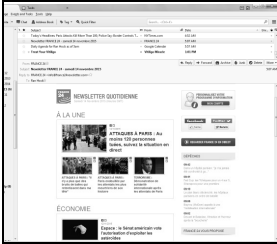
- Social Networks
- Blogs
- Discussion Groups
- Video

Trends Analytics

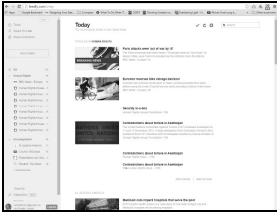
**Delivery Methods**

By:

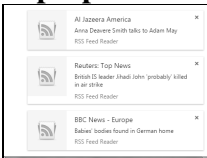
**Email**



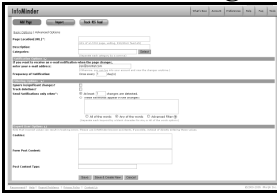
**RSS Feeds**




**Pop-ups**



**Website Tracking**



**Trends sites**



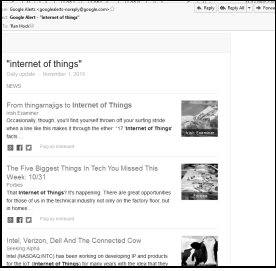
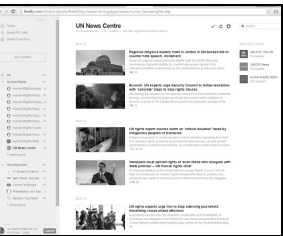


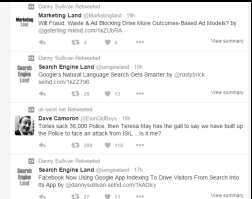
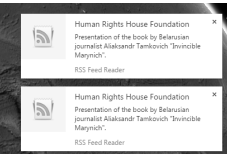
To:

- Computer
- Phone
- Tablet

# Your Own Alerts Program

	Track by means of:						
	Google Alerts	Individual Website alerts/newsletters	RSS Feeds	Social Network Following	Specific Apps	Trends Tools	Other
<b>ISSUES/TOPICS</b>							
<b>ORGANISATIONS</b>							
<b>PEOPLE</b>							

# Alerts Delivery Methods

<p><b>Search Engine Alerts</b></p>		<p>Coverage of 10's of thousands of sources.</p> <p>Can be as specific or as broad as you want.</p> <p>If you have many of them, they can clog your inbox</p> <p>Flexible with regard to frequency, etc.</p>
<p><b>RSS Feeds</b></p>		<p>Your own selection of sources all available in one place.</p> <p>You are not necessarily aware that there is something new if you don't go to your RSS reader.</p> <p>But, they may provide pop-ups.</p> <p>Very easy browsing of many sources</p>
<p><b>Email Newsletters</b></p>		<p>Usually more general coverage.</p> <p>Can be "somewhat specific".</p> <p>Can be very highly regarded well-known sources</p>
<p><b>Mobile Apps</b></p>		<p>"Instant" and mobile availability.</p> <p>Interactive</p>
<p><b>Social Networks</b></p>		<p>"Instant" and mobile availability.</p> <p>Can cover large numbers of personally selected sources.</p>
<p><b>Pop-Ups</b></p>		<p>Easy and <b>instant</b></p> <p>No user-action required.</p>



# General Alerts Tools – Google Alerts

www.google.com/alerts

Covers over 50 000 sources

Delivered via email. Can have up to 1000 alerts.

- Can choose "as it happens", daily, or weekly
- Can choose that the alert be for **News, Blogs, Video, Discussions, Books, Finance or Everything**
- Can choose **daily, weekly, or "as it happens"**
- Can specify **language**
- Can specify **region** (country)
- Can specify **all** or **"only the best"** results
- Delivery by **email** or **feed**

**The specificity of your search statement and your choices regarding frequency, types of content, and "all or only the best" control the balance between being adequately informed and overwhelmed!**

Use same syntax as in a regular Google search (terms automatically ANDed, can use OR and quotation marks, an a minus sign for a "NOT")

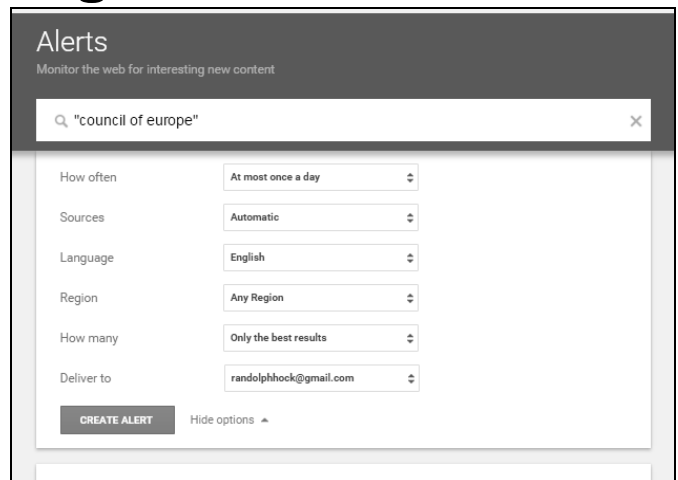
About 200 regional/country choices.

An email notification will be sent to you that you will need to reply to (or at that point you can change your mind and cancel).

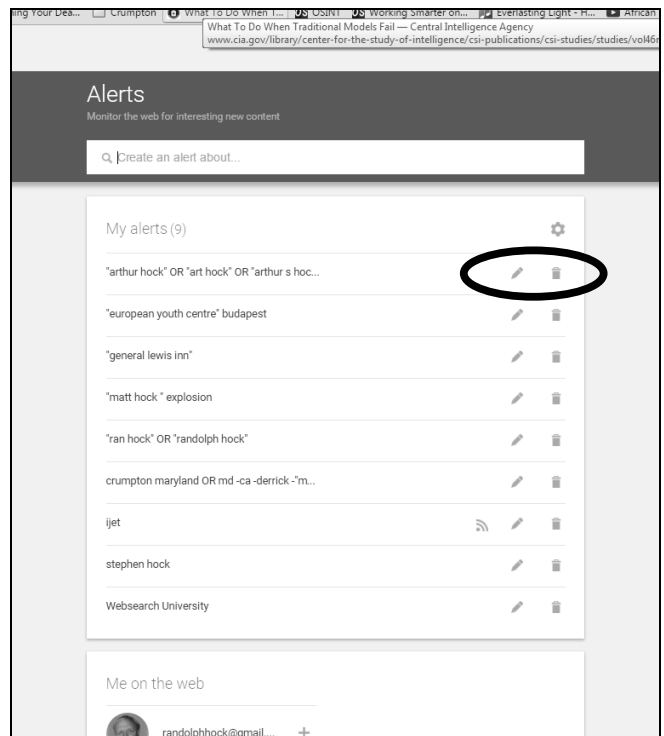
You must click on the verification link in the email before your alert will be activated.

**For each News Alert, you will receive notification for new items that appear in *the top 10 records* of your search.**

Take advantage of the **Alerts Management Page** to edit and delete alerts, create new alerts, change the type of Alert (News, Web, both), change frequency, etc. If you specify RSS delivery, use the RSS symbol here to get the RSS URL for an alert.



Alerts set-up



Alerts management

## Methods Tip:

- When setting up an/or modifying alerts, take advantage of the site's search syntax. In the case of Google alerts, make use of the OR operator (and, as necessary, the minus sign) and the intitle: prefix to improve both precision and recall.

## General Alerts Tools – RSS Feeds

**RSS** - Acronym for **Rich Site Summary** and/or **Really Simple Syndication**. This is an XML (Extensible Markup Language) format by which news providers (and other Web resources such as blogs) can easily syndicate (distribute) their content over the Internet.



Hundreds of thousands of news providers and bloggers “syndicate” their output by making the output available as an RSS feed. Individuals can sign up for the newsfeeds of their choice and read them through RSS “readers”, including “portals” such as My Yahoo and or websites/programs such as RSS Feed Reader (a Chrome add-on) and Feedly.

### Readers: Web-Based Aggregators and Search Engines

#### Understanding the Mechanism of Using RSS Feeds.

1. ABC Organisation each day has news they want to distribute to anyone who wants to receive it.
2. ABC Organisation each day creates and puts on the Web a specially coded page (basically unreadable by anyone except programmers) that contains the day’s news. That page is referred to as an “RSS feed” page.

**The KEY action for anyone who want to automatically receive news from an organisation is to get the URL of that RSS feed.**

**To get the URL of a news feed, click on the RSS (or XML) link on a website and then copy the URL**

Once one gets that URL, they **enter the URL into their RSS reader. Thereafter,**

1. The RSS reader will regularly retrieve that page (containing the “new” news from ABC organisation) *and*
2. make the new news available to each person who has requested that news from ABC Organisation.

Some websites make the process easier, but the above approach is the most universal way to take advantage of RSS feeds.

#### Example of an RSS feed page



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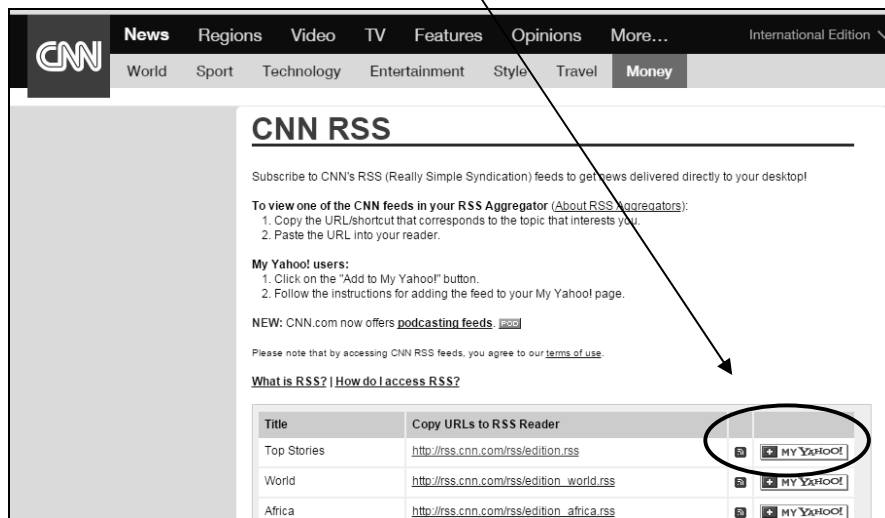
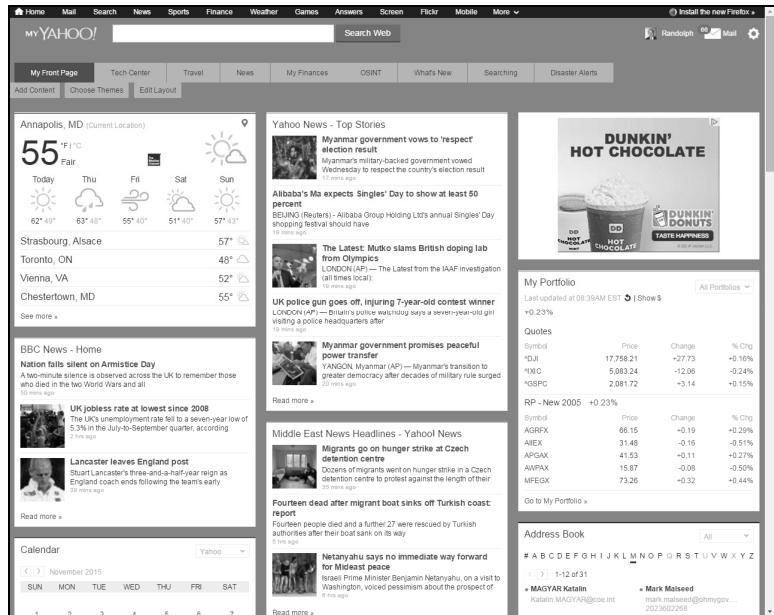
## Three Examples of RSS Readers

### My Yahoo my.yahoo.com

My Yahoo builds a Web-based RSS reader into its outstanding personal portal.

This is one of the simplest of readers to use. Can have up to 50 modules on a page and My Yahoo! allows 5 pages.

For many sites with RSS feeds, when you click on the feed link, My Yahoo will be a choice. This makes it extremely easy to add a feed to your My Yahoo page.



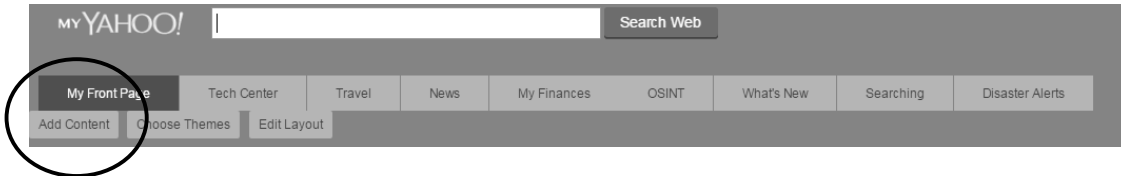
**Regarding mobile apps:** There is no separate app for My Yahoo. There are apps (both Android and IOS) for Yahoo itself and those apps have a link to My Yahoo. (Look under the upper left menu, then there, under More Sites .) Also, My Yahoo can be accessed through a browser on mobile devices.

**However –** In none of the mobile situations can you “Add Content” to My Yahoo. You must use a desktop or laptop to add content (which thereafter will appear on the mobile devices).

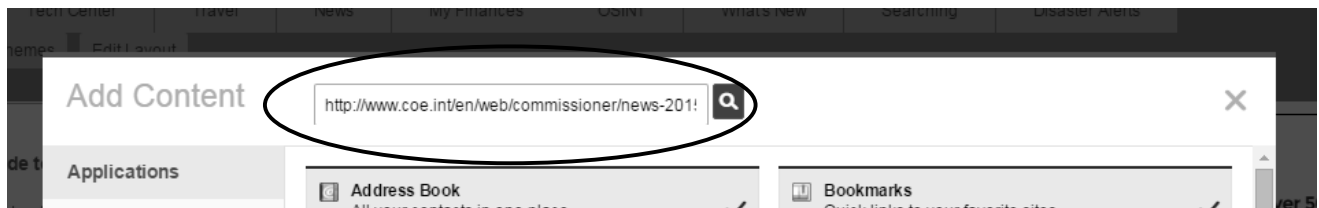
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### To add an RSS feed to My Yahoo:

1. Get the URL of the RSS feed
2. Sign in to your My Yahoo and click the “Add Content” tab

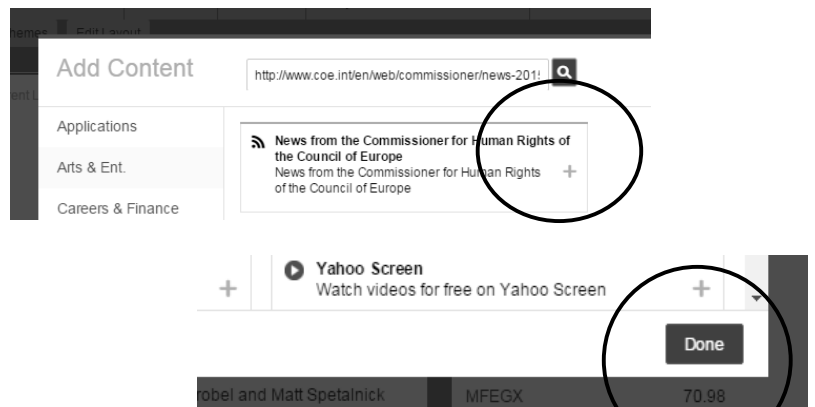


3. Copy the RSS feed URL into the box then shown.



4. Click the magnifying glass to search for that feed.

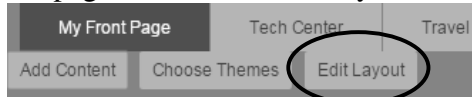
5. When the “search” result comes back, click on the plus sign to confirm that is the RSS feed you are looking for.



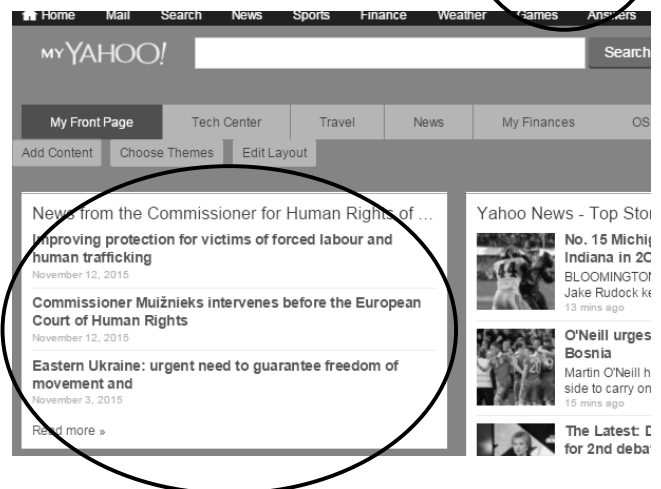
- 6 Then click “Done”

The RSS feed will now appear on your My Yahoo page.

If you wish to move it to a different position on the page, click the “Edit Layout” tab,



Then hold your cursor over the title of the box and drag it to where you wish to place it



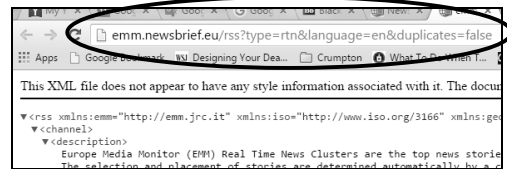
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### RSS Feed Reader (Downloaded Chrome extension)

1. Download the reader from an apps store or “Chrome Web store”. An icon for the reader will thereafter appear on the Chrome toolbar. (For a small fee, you can subscribe to RSS Feed Reader and synch the program for all devices you use.)

2. Click on an RSS feed link.

3. Copy the URL from the RSS feed page.



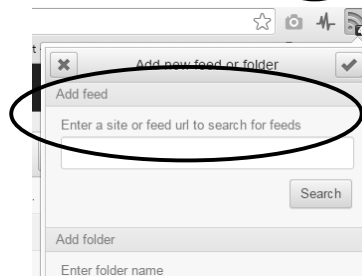
4. Click the RSS Feed Reader icon now found on the Chrome Toolbar.



5. Click the plus sign to add a feed



6. Paste in the URL Then click “Search”. (If you are on an RSS feed page, the reader will automatically show the feed. If so, click “Follow”.)

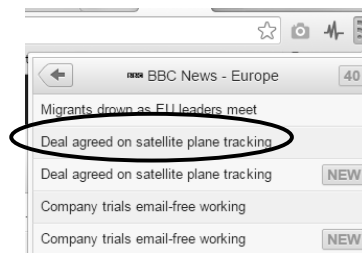


7. To see your current feeds, click on the icon on the toolbar



8. Click on an item of interest.

Results will also be automatically displayed as a pop-up on your screen if you have that setting enabled from the “Settings” link of the reader.



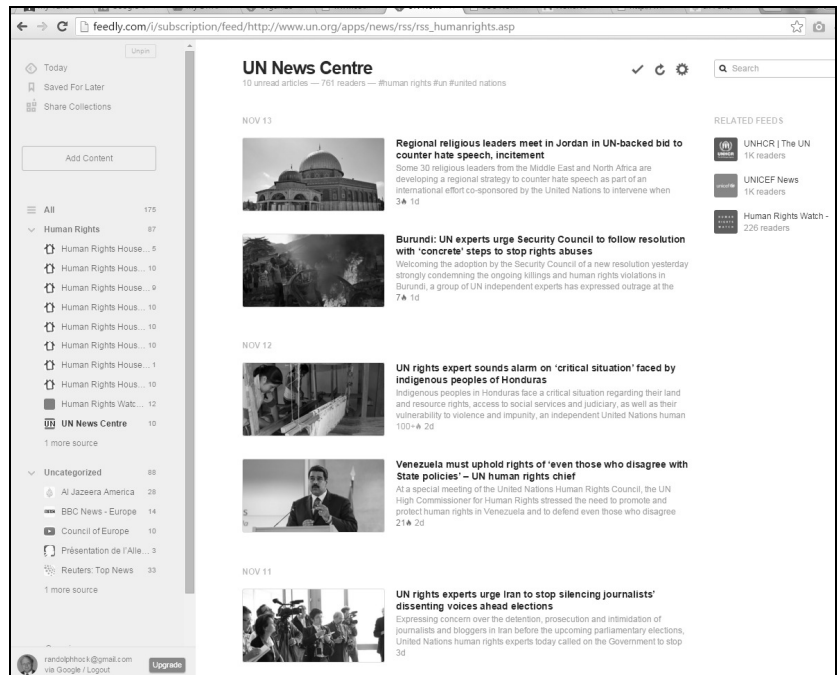
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### Feedly

Get started at [www.feedly.com](http://www.feedly.com)  
Or search for the app on an apps store.

This is a highly-regarded and easy-to-use, but typically-structured, RSS reader.

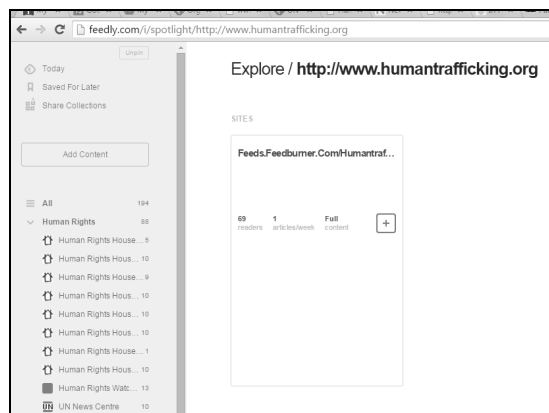
Once you have signed up (you can do so with your Google or Facebook login), open the app or go to [www.feedly.com](http://www.feedly.com).



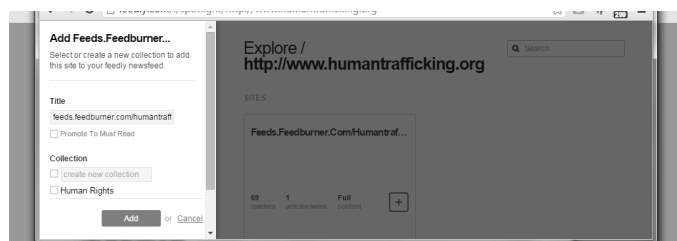
In the box, paste a URL or enter a topic (preceded by a hash mark) or a website name. Feedly will search for an RSS page



If Feedly finds an RSS, a box will appear beneath the search box. Click on the plus sign in the box to add the feed..



You can just click the Add button on the left, or choose (or create) a folder in which to place that feed.



Use the Organize option to re-categorise, etc.

## Finding Relevant RSS Feeds

1. Go to websites you know and look there for RSS feeds (and other alerting options).
2. Check for other websites sites relevant to your area of interest.
  - Use the search features built into RSS Readers, e.g., RSS Feed Reader (Chrome) and Feedly. (Shown on previous two pages)
  - Use Bing's "hasfeed:" and "feed:" search prefixes

## Finding Relevant RSS Feeds Using Bing (bing.com)

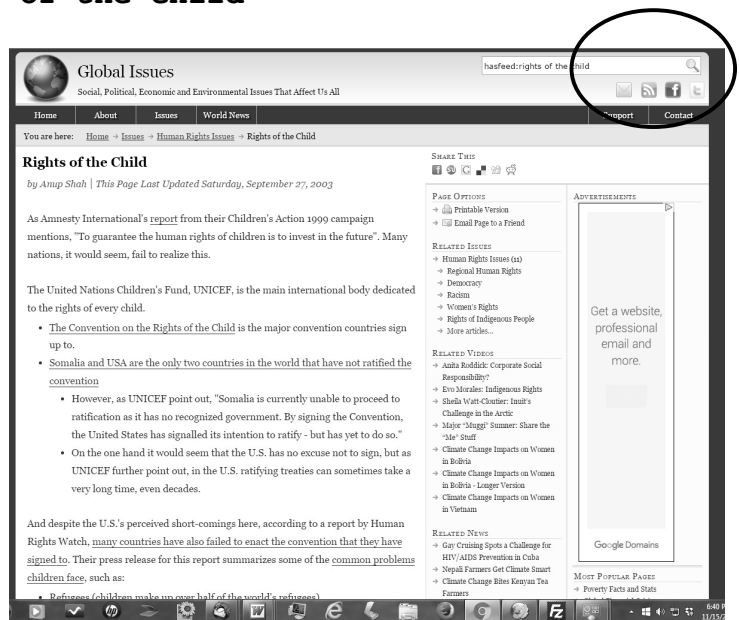
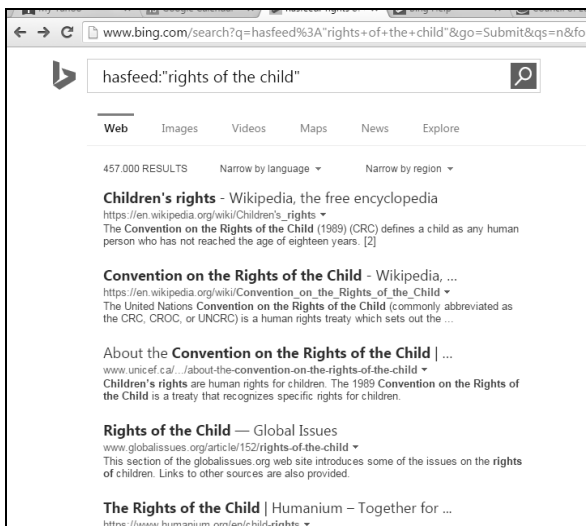
Among the various search prefixes available in Bing, two are specifically relevant to finding RSS feeds:

**hasfeed:** will find webpages that contain a feed on a particular topic:

**feed:** will find specific RSS feed pages that include a particular term

**hasfeed:**

e.g. **hasfeed:"rights of the child"**



Note that this site also has email alerts and can be followed on Facebook and Twitter

## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

Clicking on the RSS feed icon yielded the following pages, which shows two different feeds available.

Clicking on them provides the RSS feed pages, including the URL to be used in an RSS reader.

The screenshot shows the 'Global Issues' website header with a navigation menu (Home, About, Issues, World News). Below the header, it says 'Web Feed for the Global Issues web site'. It lists two feed options: 'Latest updates to in-depth issues and articles' with URL <http://www.globalissues.org/whatsnew/whatsnew.xml>, and 'Latest news headlines' with URL <http://www.globalissues.org/news/feed>. A note at the bottom states: 'In most modern web browsers, you can click the above link and it should help you'.

The screenshot shows the raw XML of the RSS feed at [www.globalissues.org/whatsnew/whatsnew.xml](http://www.globalissues.org/whatsnew/whatsnew.xml). The XML structure includes a channel with title 'Global Issues', a description, and an image. An item is visible with the title 'Action on climate change is cheaper than inaction' and a description starting with '<p>Many are afraid that tackling climate change is going to be action will not just be cheaper than inaction, but could actually bring benefits, while improving sustainability.</p>'. The URL for the item is <http://www.globalissues.org/article/806/action-cheaper-than-inaction>.

feed:

e.g. **feed:radicalisation**

The screenshot shows a Bing search for 'feed:radicalisation'. The search results page displays 2,940 results. The top results are:
 

- Radicalisation Research** from [www.radicalisationresearch.org/feed](http://www.radicalisationresearch.org/feed). Description: 'Journal abstract Since 9/11, 2001, a new form of religious extremism has arguably emerged, one which paradoxically portrays itself as a counter to another ...'
- Radicalisation Research** from [www.radicalisationresearch.org/category/research/radicalisation/feed](http://www.radicalisationresearch.org/category/research/radicalisation/feed). Description: 'Journal abstract Extremist rhetoric and behaviour, including violence, emanating from those fearing and opposed to Islamic extremism—and typically ...'
- Family Law Week: radicalisation** from [www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=rk1163](http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=rk1163). Description: 'editorial. Sixteen year old who attempted to reach Syria removed from parents' care'
- Global Terrorism Research Centre (GTRC) - Monash Arts ...** from [artsonline.monash.edu.au/atrec/feed](http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/atrec/feed)

The screenshot shows the raw XML of the RSS feed for 'feed:radicalisation' at [www.radicalisationresearch.org/feed/](http://www.radicalisationresearch.org/feed/). The XML structure includes a channel with title 'Radicalisation Research' and a description. An item is visible with the title 'Paris attacks: there is no simple explanation for acts of terror' and a link to <http://www.radicalisationresearch.org/debate/francis-paris-attacks/>. The XML also includes a creator 'Matthew Francis' and a category.



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# Major Source of News Alerts – News Websites

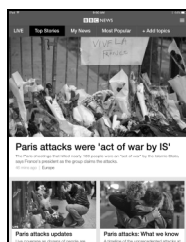
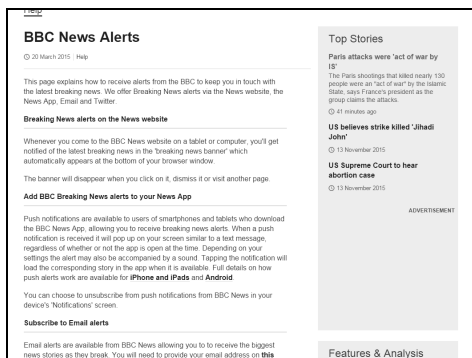
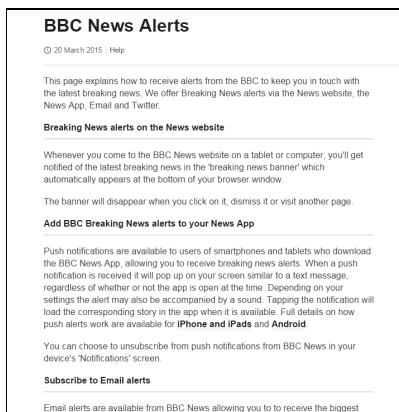
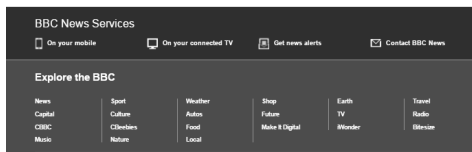
## News Networks/Services

**BBC**

www.bbc.com/news

Sources - BBC News, BBC World Service, the Press Association, Associated Press, Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

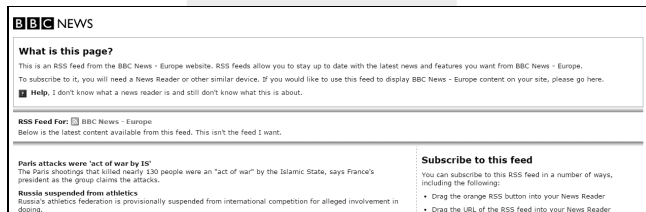
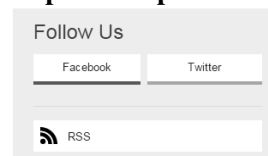
Look under "BBC News Services" for Get news alerts.



Mobile App



Note region-specific pages, each with its own RSS. Likewise for the "Special Reports"!

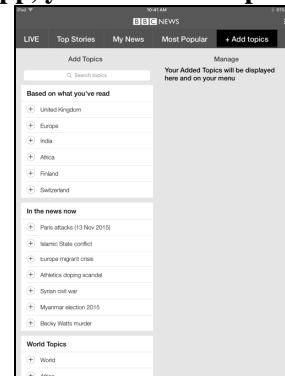


**Subscribe to this feed**

You can subscribe to this RSS feed in a number of ways, including the following:

- Drag the orange RSS button into your News Reader
- Drag the URL of the RSS feed into your News Reader
- Cut and paste the URL of the RSS feed into your News Reader

For the BBC app, you can select topics to be displayed.



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## Reuters

reuters.com

Widely respected for its international coverage.

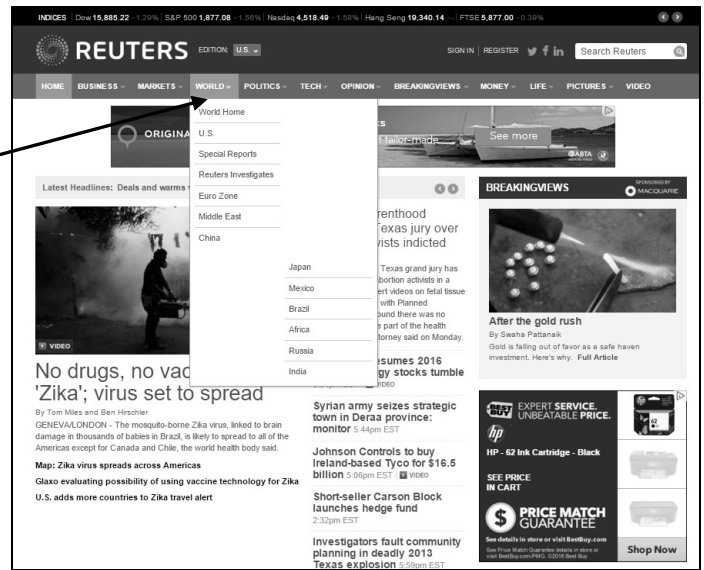
10 country/region-specific editions



Alerting options are shown at the bottom of the page and include:

Twitter  
Facebook  
LinkedIn

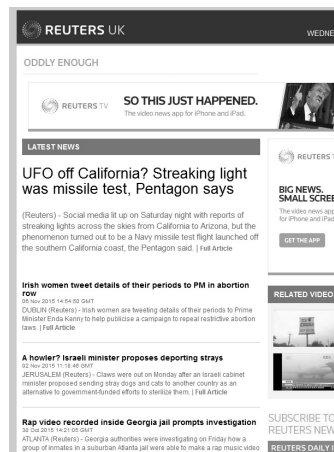
RSS  
Newsletters  
Mobile



Over 80 choices of RSS feeds

- Top News
- Oddly Enough
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Business
- Investing
- Technology
- Internet
- US News
- Science
- World
- Politics
- Health

Mobile Apps available

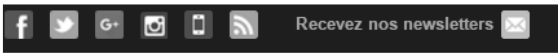


## Newsletter choices:

- Reuters Select
- Morning Business news
- Health Report
- Daily Investor Update
- Top U.S. News
- Evening Business news
- Oddly Enough
- Deals Today
- Technology Report
- Before the Bell
- Reuters Money
- (All are daily)

# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

**Le Monde**  
lemonde.fr



Le Monde provides the following types of alerting services:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google+
- Instagram
- Newsletter

8 different newsletters are available, 3 of which require a paid subscription.



85 different RSS feeds available! Very easily added to readers

A la une	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Les vidéos	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
<b>Rubriques</b>				
Actu	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Afrique	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Aide	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Amériques	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Argent & Placements	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Asie-Pacifique	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Bac	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Bachelor	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Brevet des collèges	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Brésil 2014	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Campus	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Commerce & gestion	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Concours	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Crise financière	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Culture	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Disparitions	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Documents WikiLeaks	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes
Droit & sciences-po	RSS	MON Yr	Google	netvibes



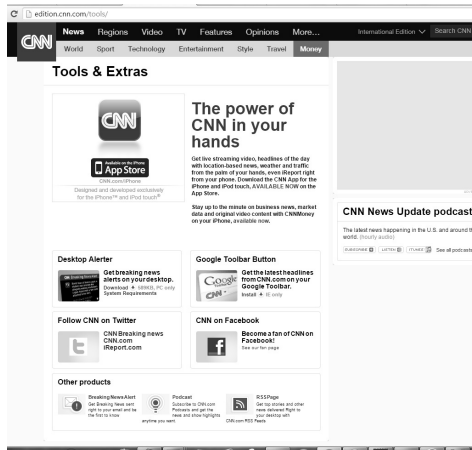
Mobile apps available

## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

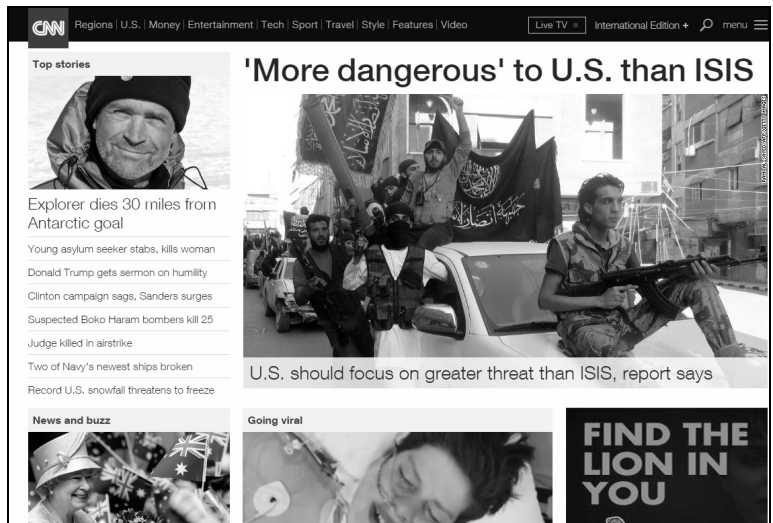
**CNN**

edition.cnn.com  
(International Edition)

www.cnn.com is the US edition)



See “Tools & Extras” at bottoms of pages for alerting features.



Provides:

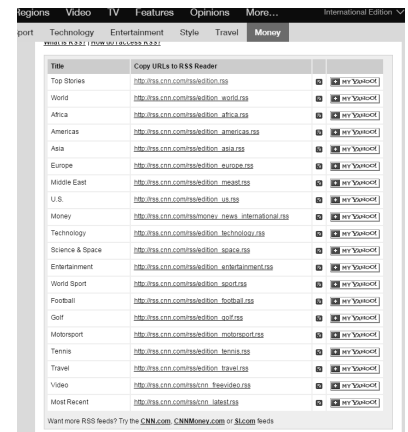
Mobile apps

Desktop Alert (PC only)

3 video and 5 audio podcasts

Twitter and Facebook

21+ RSS feeds



**France 24**

www.france24.fr  
www.france24.com/en/

Provides :

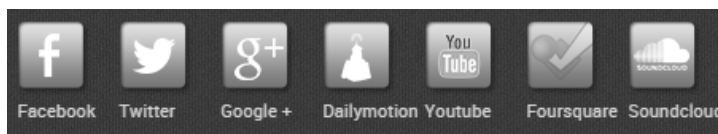
3 newsletters

Mobile apps in French, English, and Arabic

RSS feed

Podcasts

Plus the following social networking access



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Aljazeera

english.aljazeera.net

Arabic version at [www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)

"now when Aljazeera speaks, the world listens and "reads"."

Note that the **stories on the** English version are **not** usually the same stories as on the Arabic version.

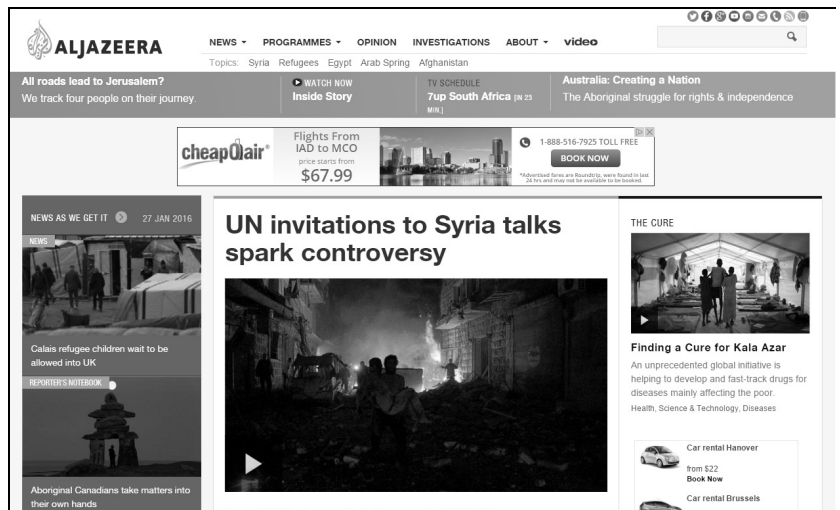
Provides:

RSS fee for each regional section

Weekly newsletter

Mobile apps

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube presence



### ITAR-TASS News Agency

[www.itar-tass.com](http://www.itar-tass.com)

Available in **Russian and in English versions. RSS feeds for each.**

**Twitter, Facebook,** and Google+ presence.

"In existence since 1904, The Russian News Agency ITAR-TASS is one of the world's largest international information agencies. The successor to the Soviet TASS news agency, it was re-named in 1992, when Russia proclaimed its sovereignty following the collapse of the USSR. It has retained its status of being the state central information agency."



# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

## News Aggregator Sites

### NewsExplorer

[press.jrc.it/NewsExplorer](http://press.jrc.it/NewsExplorer)

#### A European Commission initiative

“gathers reports from news portals world-wide in 43 languages, classifies the articles, analyses the news texts by extracting information from them, aggregates the information, issues alerts and produces intuitive visual presentations of the information found.”

The page for each of the listed entities (countries, people, etc.) on the News Explorer page has its own RSS!

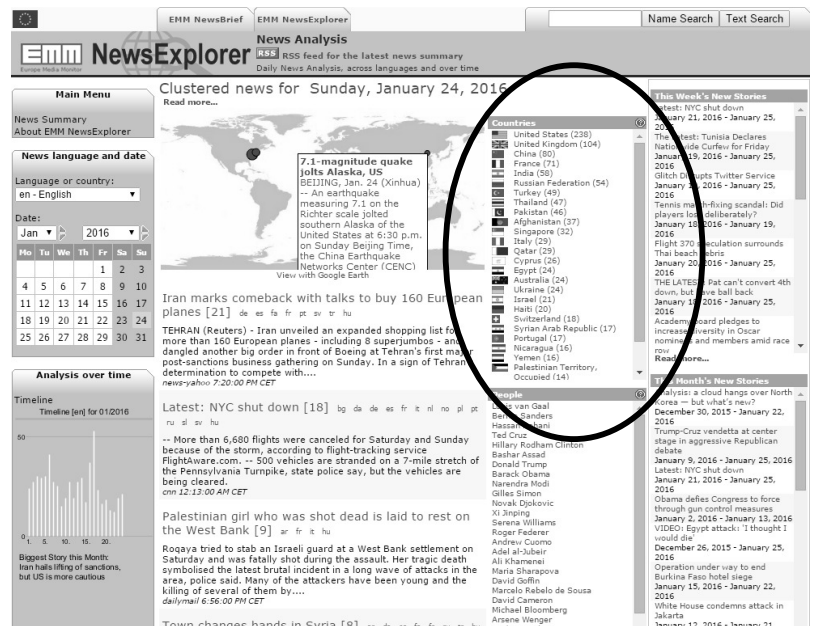
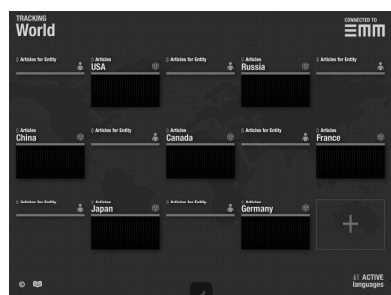
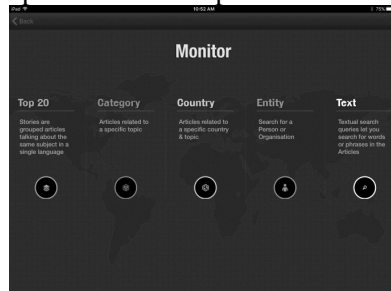
Explore the menus, esp. Policy Areas, Themes, and The World (Country pages found here)

#### On NewsBrief, look at

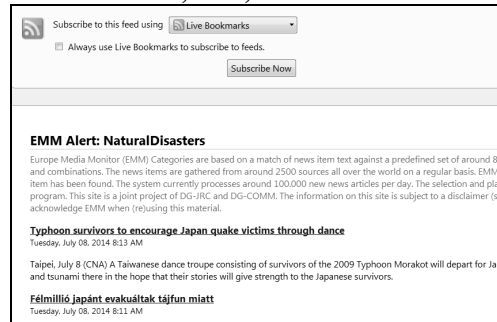
#### RSS

#### Mobile App available.

The EMM mobile app contains the same content as the website but is organised quite differently, making “personalisation” possible.



### NewsBrief Theme categories include Natural Disasters, Manmade Disasters, Communicable Diseases, etc., with RSS feeds available.



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Identifying the "Local" News Sites: News Resource Guides

#### Methods Tip:

"Get local" by using the regional and local sources. Use news resource guides to identify particular newspaper, radio, and TV station sites throughout the world.

#### ABYZ News Links

www.abyznewslinks.com

Mostly newspapers, but also includes many broadcast stations, Internet services, **magazines**, and press agencies.

#### NewsLink

newslink.org

Links to various media sites worldwide.

Lots of broken links, though.

Find the sites for the geographically relevant area and **check the individual news sites for RSS, newsletters, etc.**

## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

# Specialised Sources

Please note that the following are just representative examples, NOT in any way *exhaustive* (or even "best" for your specialised interests).

## Examples

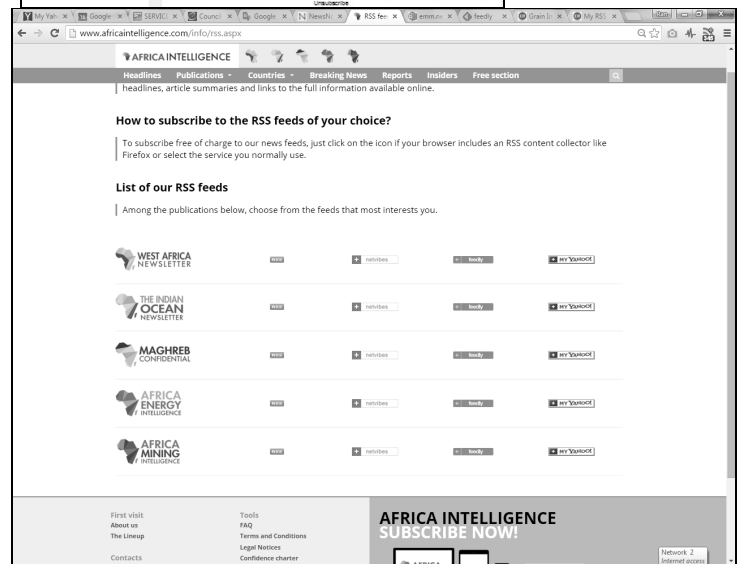
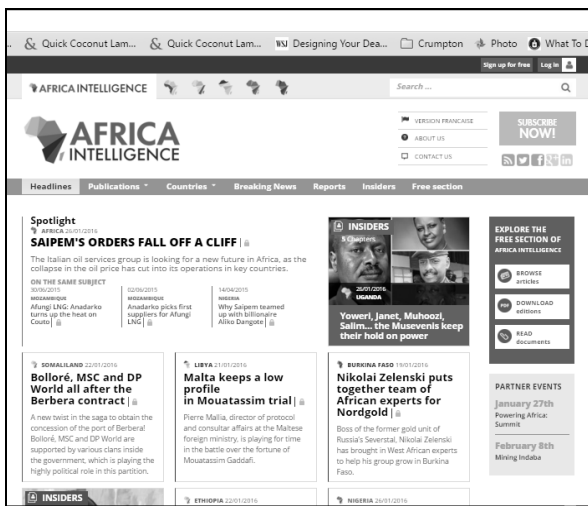
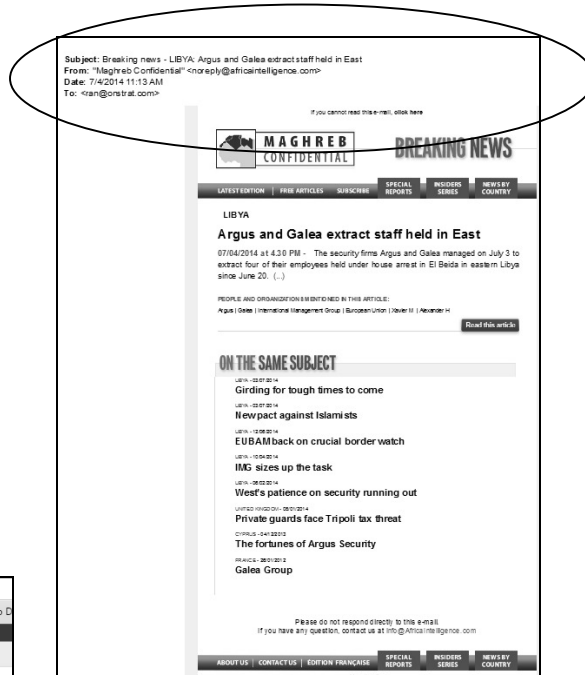
### Africa Intelligence

www.africaintelligence.com

Africa Intelligence, also provides:

- Maghreb Confidential
- The Indian Ocean Newsletter
- Africa Mining Intelligence
- West Africa Newsletter
- Africa Energy Intelligence

RSS feeds and email newsletters are available for each of the above.





## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Intelligence Online

www.intelligenceonline.com

Paid subscriptions required to get full articles.


Has following topical/geographic sections:

- Government Intelligence
- Corporate Intelligence
- Europe
- North America
- Middle East
- Asia
- Due Diligence
- Special Reports

Each of the above sections provides an RSS feed

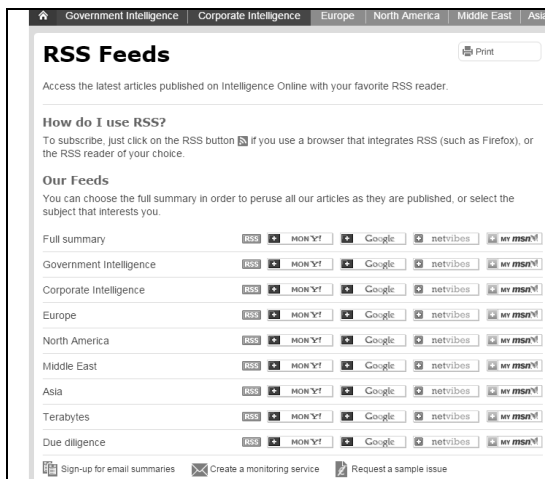
**Free Services**

- ▶ Create e-mail alerts
- ▶ Receive summary by e-mail
- ▶ Read articles
- ▶ Download an issue

 **RSS Feeds**



The screenshot shows the Intelligence Online homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with categories like Government Intelligence, Corporate Intelligence, Europe, North America, Middle East, and Asia. Below this, there's a main content area with several article teasers. One prominent article is titled "NGA opens arms to private sector" by Robert Cardillo. Other articles include "New techniques to geolocate 4G phones" and "After Vienna, hope shifts to Oman". On the right side, there's a "Special Offer" for a 25% discount on subscriptions and an "INSIDERS Series" featuring a photo of a man.



The screenshot shows the "RSS Feeds" page. It provides instructions on how to use RSS and lists various feeds available. The feeds are organized by category, including Full summary, Government Intelligence, Corporate Intelligence, Europe, North America, Middle East, Asia, Terabytes, and Due diligence. Each category has a corresponding RSS icon and a "MON Yr" button. At the bottom, there are links for "Sign-up for email summaries", "Create a monitoring service", and "Request a sample issue".

### Methods Tip:

#### For Identifying (Discovering) Specialised Sources:

Try Google searches such as:

- "middle east" news
- health news
- health news alerts
- asia news (alerts OR rss)

# Travel and Other Advisory Services

## Government Travel Advisory Pages

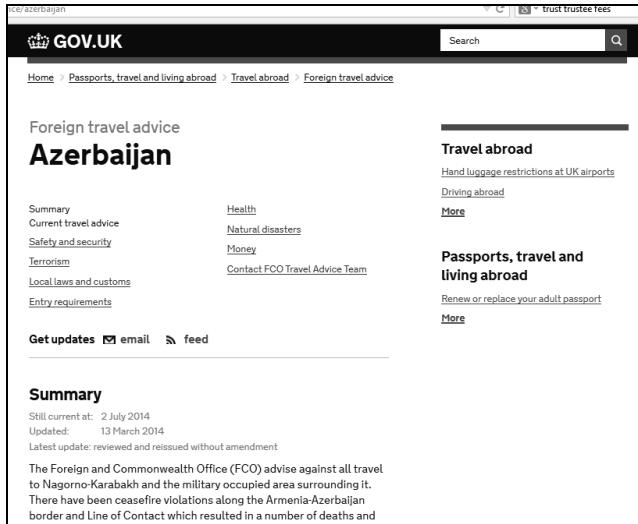
### Gov.UK - Passports, travel and living abroad > Travel abroad - Foreign travel advice

[www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

Country reports and country-specific RSS feeds provided.

Email travel advice emails alerts available for virtually every country.

Can be “immediately”, daily, or weekly.



### France Diplomatie - Conseils aux Voyageurs

[www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseil-aux-voyageurs/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseil-aux-voyageurs/)

Contains maps showing relative levels of risk by country

Also see the Health Risks and other sections of this site.

Conseils aux Voyageurs
Conseils par pays
Dernières minutes
Infos pratiques
Préparer son départ
Législation
Assistance aux Français
Risques
Risques naturels
Risques sanitaires
Coronavirus MERS
Rage - voyage à l'étranger avec un animal de compagnie
Grippe aviaire
Grippe A (H1N1)
Santé / Vaccinations
Risque nucléaire
Piraterie maritime
Cybercriminalité
Foire aux questions



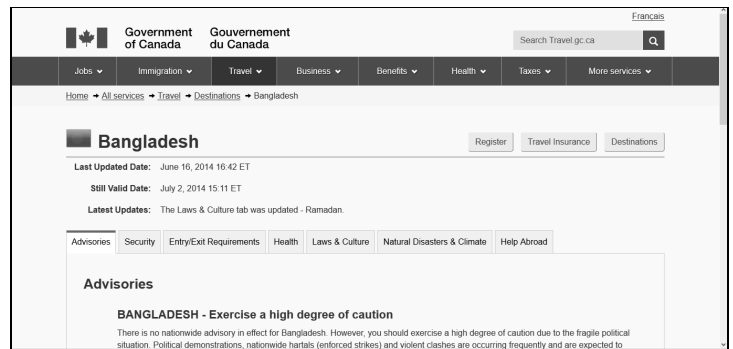
## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Government of Canada \_ Travel - News & Warnings

[travel.gc.ca/news-warnings](http://travel.gc.ca/news-warnings)

Country-specific RSS list.

Global 24 hour RSS update



### U..S. Department of State

[travel.state.gov/content/passport/english/alertswarnings.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/passport/english/alertswarnings.html)

#### Travel Warnings



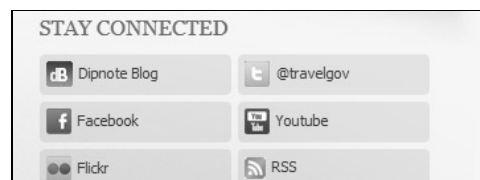
"We issue a Travel Warning when we want you to consider very carefully whether you should go to a country at all. Examples ... unstable government, civil war, ongoing intense crime or violence, or frequent terrorist attacks.... Travel Warnings remain in place until the situation changes; some have been in effect for years.



#### Travel Alerts



"Examples of reasons for issuing a Travel Warning might include unstable government, civil war, ongoing intense crime or violence, or frequent terrorist attacks....



Note the RSS and other alerting options

# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

## Disaster, Weather, and Health Advisories

### Disasters

#### Pacific Disaster Center

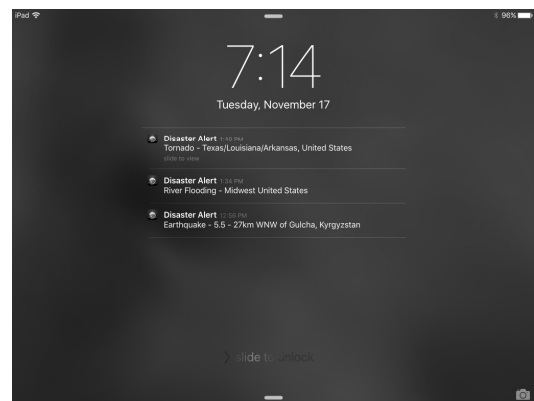
[www.pdc.org/](http://www.pdc.org/)

Not just “Pacific”.

See interactive Global Hazards Atlas

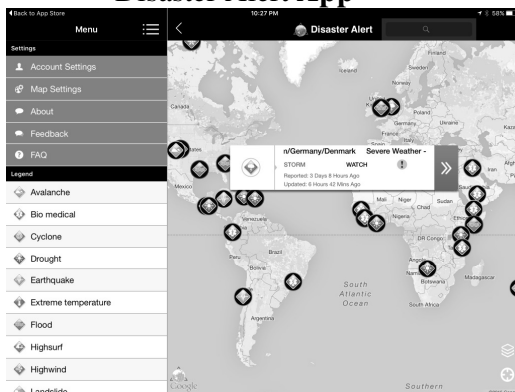
- A disaster monitoring and early warning interactive map
- Click on map on main page to go to atlas
- View your selection of layers

GeoRSS available



If you have the app, current alerts may appear on your device.

#### Disaster Alert App



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### RSOE - Emergency and Disaster Information Service (EDIS)

hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap

Monitors events which may cause disaster or emergency.

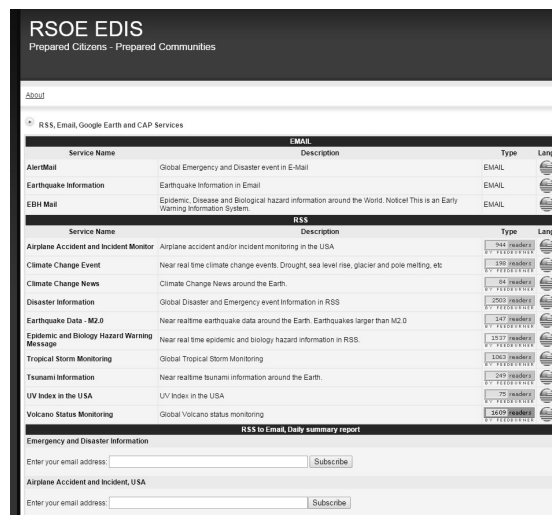
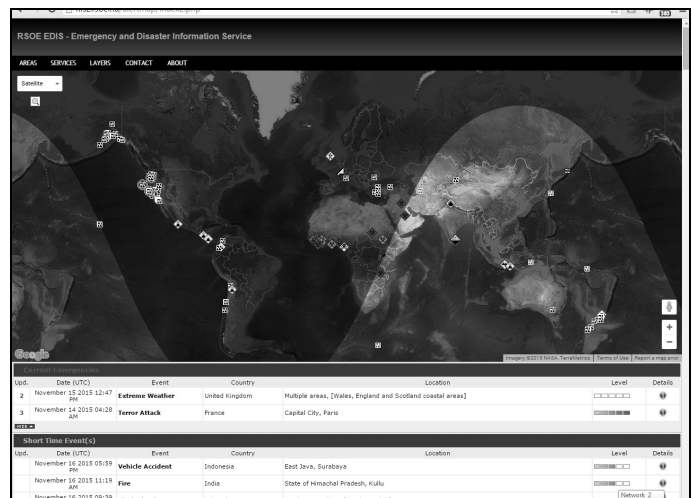
Hungary, Europe, and other areas of the World **Monitored in 24 hours per day and displayed near real time.**

RSS for Climate Change News

Foreign organisations' data and over 1000 internet press publications

Events are categorised separately in the **RSS, XML, CAP directory** (e.g. earthquake, fire, flood, landslide, nuclear event, tornado, volcano) at [hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/read/index.php?pageid=services\\_index](http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/read/index.php?pageid=services_index).

RSS available for each or 10 types of incidents. Emails for 8 types



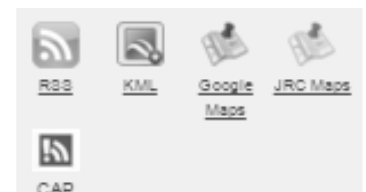
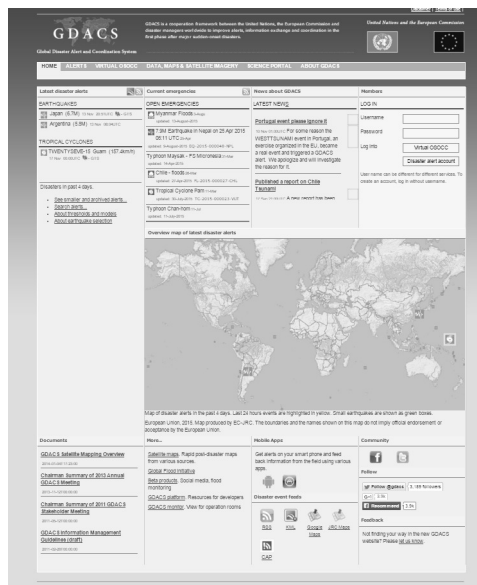
### Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

www.gdacs.org

“GDACS is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters.”

You can browse the map or search by type of disaster, location, date, population, and severity.

Variety of RSS feeds. RSS available for the Event list.



# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

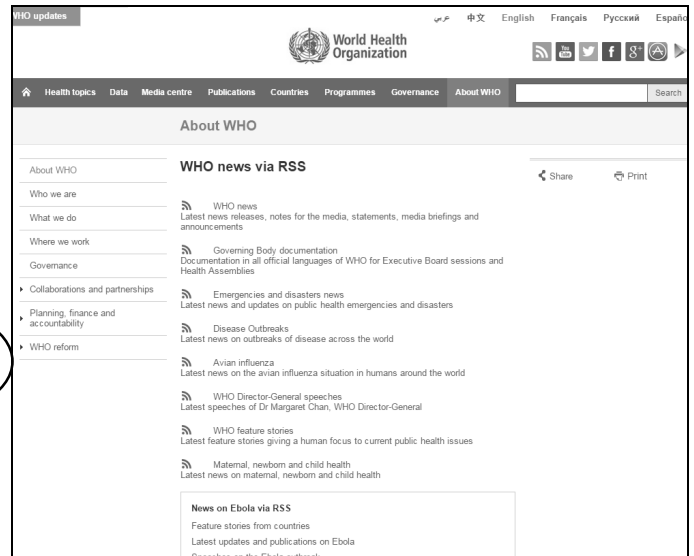
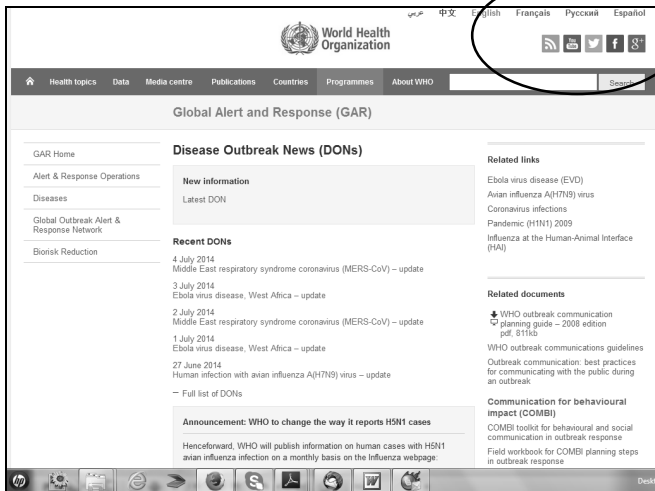
## Health

### World Health Organization

www.who.int

www.who.int/csr/don/en  
(Disease Outbreak News)

Variety of RSS feeds available, including:  
Emergencies and disaster news  
Disease outbreaks



8+ RSS feeds and mobile apps available  
Plus Facebook YouTube, Twitter

### U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

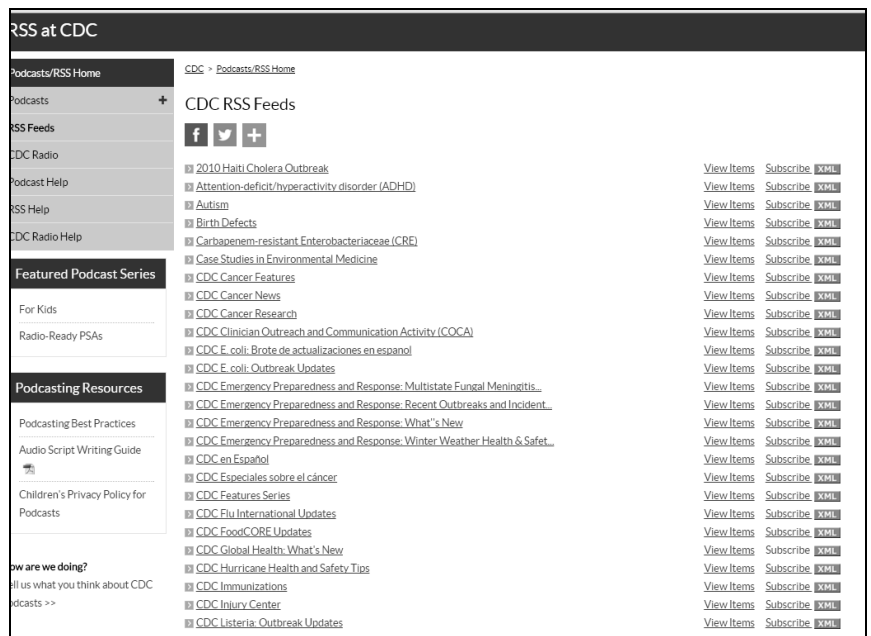
cdc.gov

See, especially, the Traveler's Health section.

Over 100 specific RSS feeds available.

Email alerts (immediate, daily, weekly) available for over 100 topics.

Also available on Facebook and Twitter.



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Health Map

healthmap.org

“leader in utilizing online informal sources for disease outbreak monitoring and real-time surveillance of emerging public health threats.”

Sources: “online news aggregators, eyewitness reports, expert-curated discussions and validated official reports”

“Diseases Near Me” shows outbreaks by locality. Location can be changed under Settings.

**App available**

No RSS available.



### FEWS - Famine Early Warning Systems Network

www.fews.net

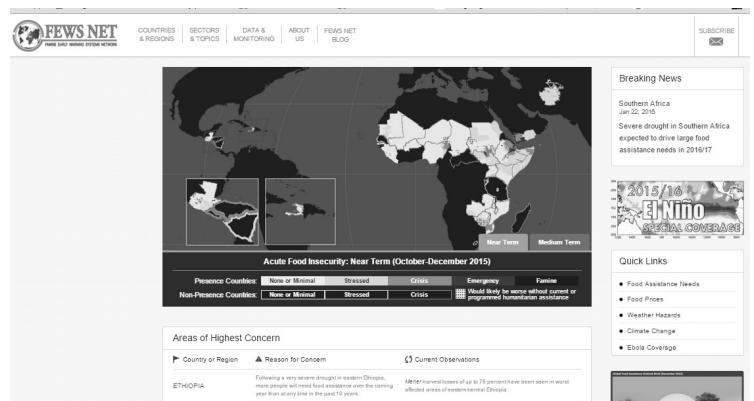
“Analysts and specialists in 20 field offices work with US government science agencies, national government ministries, international agencies, and NGOs to produce forward-looking reports on more than 35 of the world's most food-insecure countries.”

Reports and maps “detailing current and projected food insecurity”

Daily “alerts on current or emerging or likely crises” available (You select the regions to be included.)

Multiple RSS feeds.

On Twitter and Facebook



## **Social Networking Sites**

For actual and reliable information from governments, organisations, and companies. Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook and are the three social networking sites of most significance.

For all three, the mechanism for being alerted to news and events of interest there are two approaches:

1. **“Following” particular organisations or people of interest.**
2. **Setting up an automatic alert using a specialised search engine.**

### ***“Following” on Social Networks***

To “follow” on any social network, you need to have an account for the site, e.g., a Twitter account



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

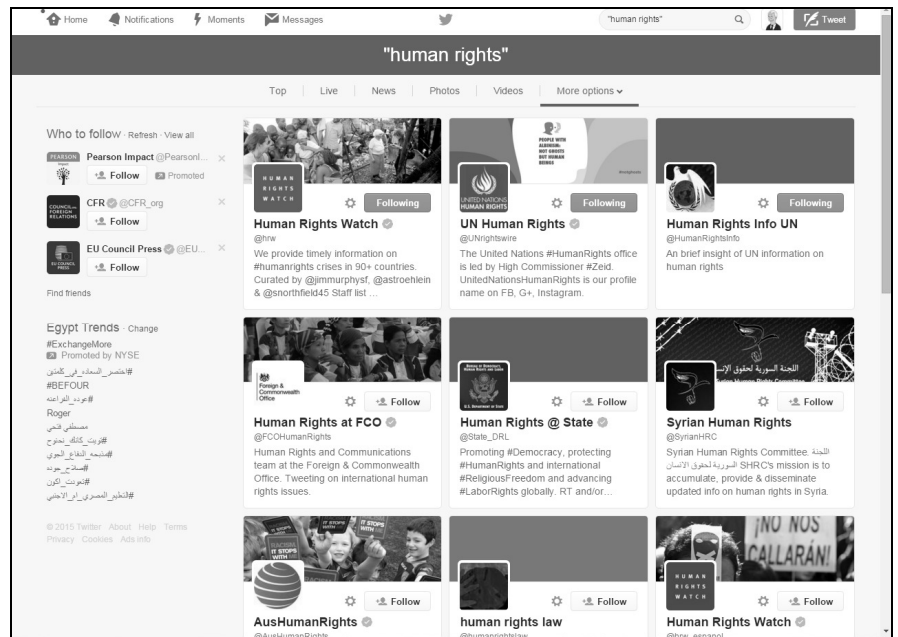
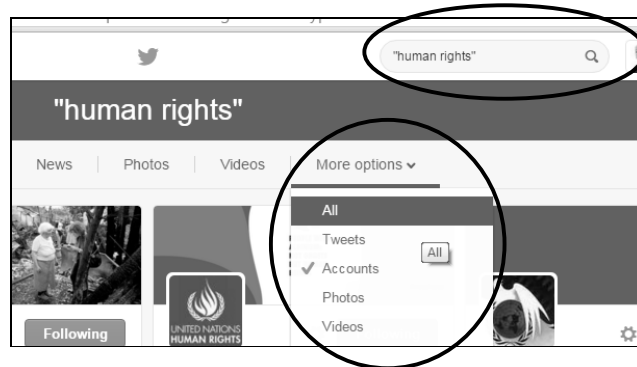
### Twitter

twitter.com

To identify Twitter members of interest you can search on your topic of interest in the Twitter search box.

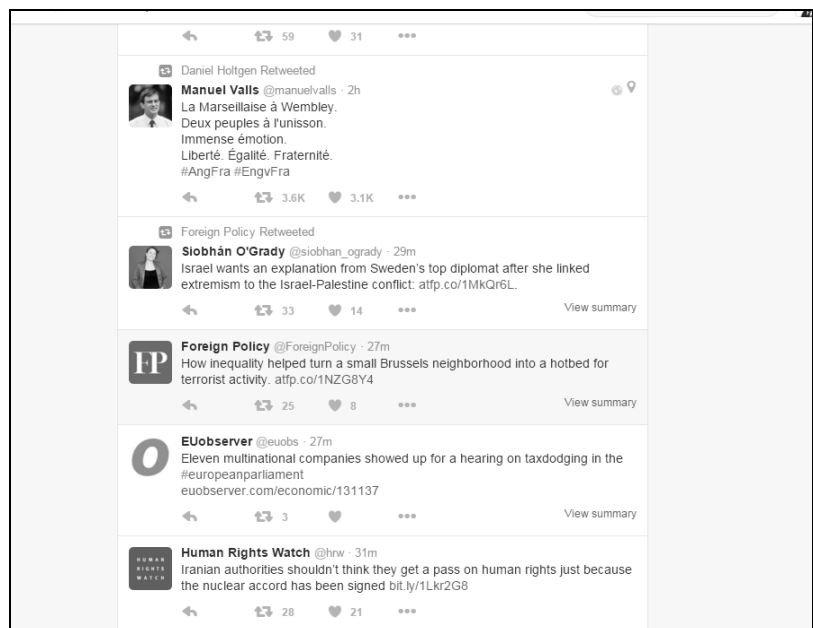
On search results pages, Click the “More options” link and then choose “Accounts” to see accounts related to the topic (not just “tweets” related to the topic).

If your topic is very narrow, seeing individual tweets may be helpful in identifying others who have the same interest.



For many organisations, tweets are the very first “official” announcement of events and other news.

To stop following anyone, on your home page, click “Following” to get a list of those you are following, then uncheck the undesired account



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### YouTube.com

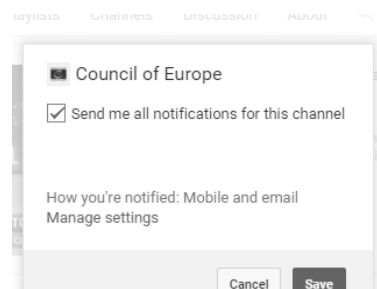
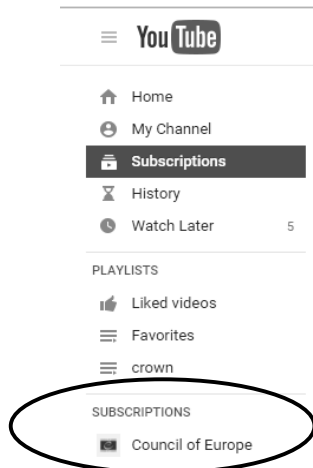
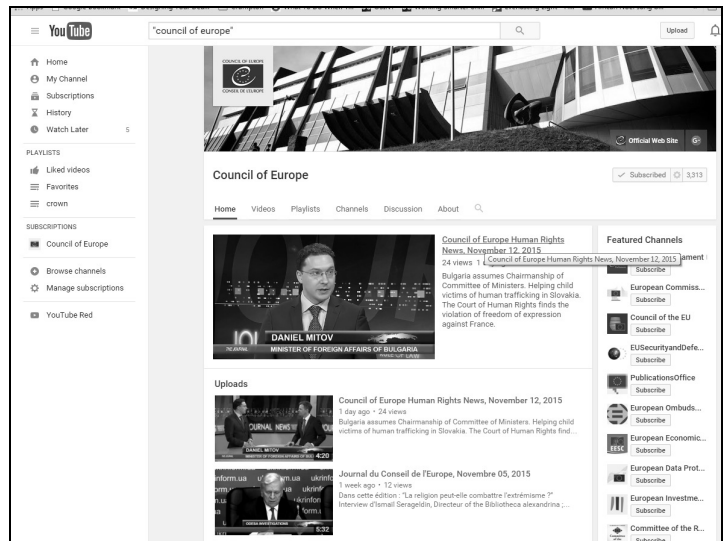
www.youtube.com

Many organisations, particularly large organisations, have a “channel” on Facebook that contains all of the videos they have uploaded.

To subscribe to a channel, click the Subscribe button beneath the header image on the page

Thereafter, when you go to YouTube, click on a “subscription” to see new material from channels to which you subscribed.

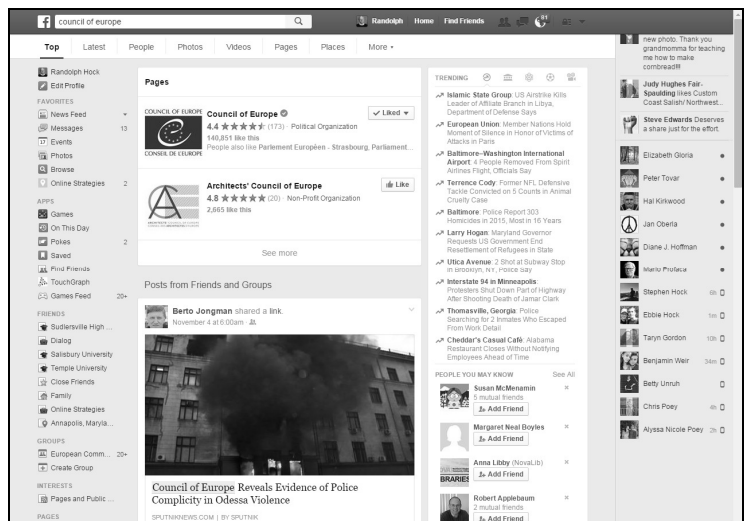
Beside the Subscribe button , click on the gear to be **notified when new videos have been uploaded.**



### Facebook

facebook.com

Facebook is not as useful for alerts since organisation pages are not “friended”, only “liked”. Liking a page may indeed cause postings to appear on your own Facebook News Feed.



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

### Social Networking Sites Alerts

#### Talkwalker

talkwalker.com  
www.talkwalker.com/alerts

Fee-based part of Talkwalker allows you to monitor, analyse, and benchmark topics in social network conversations.

Free portion provides alerts of 10 social networking sites, plus news, blogs, and discussions.

Click on Alerts/Search button to get to. links for the search and alerts functions

In creating alerts you can use Boolean (AND, AND NOT [for minus], quotation marks for phrases, site;, \* for truncation, etc.. See "Search Syntax" link for details.

You can also specify the type of results, language, frequency, and number of results displayed.

"Manage Alerts" page allows easy editing and deleting of your alerts.



talkwalkeralerts CREATE MANAGE IMPORT ran@onstrat.com

Manage Alerts Delete CREATE Alerts

<input type="checkbox"/>	RESULT TYPE	LANGUAGE	COUNTRY	HOW OFTEN	HOW MANY	LAST SEEN	ACTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everything	All languages	All countries	As it happens	Best	30/03/14	<span>Edit</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	"extreme searcher"						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everything	All languages	All countries	As it happens	All	01/06/14	<span>Edit</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	"general lewis inn"						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everything	All languages	All countries	As it happens	Best	06/05/14	<span>Edit</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	"ran hock" OR "randolph hock"						

global RSS feed Turn email delivery for alerts off Switch to Text Emails Export Alerts Export OPML

talkwalkeralerts

**Create Alert**

SEARCH QUERY:

RESULT TYPE:

LANGUAGE:

HOW OFTEN:

HOW MANY:

YOUR EMAIL:

From alerts@talkwalker.com  
Subject: [Talkwalker Alerts] Alert for "general lewis inn"  
To: Ran Hock

talkwalkeralerts

Latest News from our blog: Survey: Getting inside the mind of a Social Media Marketer  
If you like our Alerts, please help us keep this service free by liking and following!

**News** 2 new results

**Arts Notes: June 8, 2014**  
— Trillium Performing Arts is hosting the 13-ring Cirque du Jardin at the **General Lewis Inn** on June 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be a live auction and a mystery raffle with chances to win tickets.

## Tracking Websites – Being Alerted to Changes in a Page

There are services that will notify you by email (or otherwise) when a particular page has changed.

**Easiest situation** – Pages that have **RSS feeds**, with an intentional alert to new items (sites that are happy for everyone to know that there is a change.)

**Solution** – Use an RSS reader (My Yahoo, Bloglines, etc.)

**Other Situations** – Pages that don't have an RSS feed. (Less sophisticated sites, sites that don't provide "news", and those that are aiming for a smaller, *select* audience.)

**Solution** – Use website services and software that enables you to automatically be alerted when something changes on a page.

- Some are free, some require a subscription. (Some offer a free trial.)
- Some, e.g., Google Alerts, search for new occurrence of a term(s) on a page, or new pages containing a term(s)
- **Some, (e.g., Infominder, WebSite-Watcher, WatchThatPage) alert you anytime any change occurs on a page (at least any change in wording)**

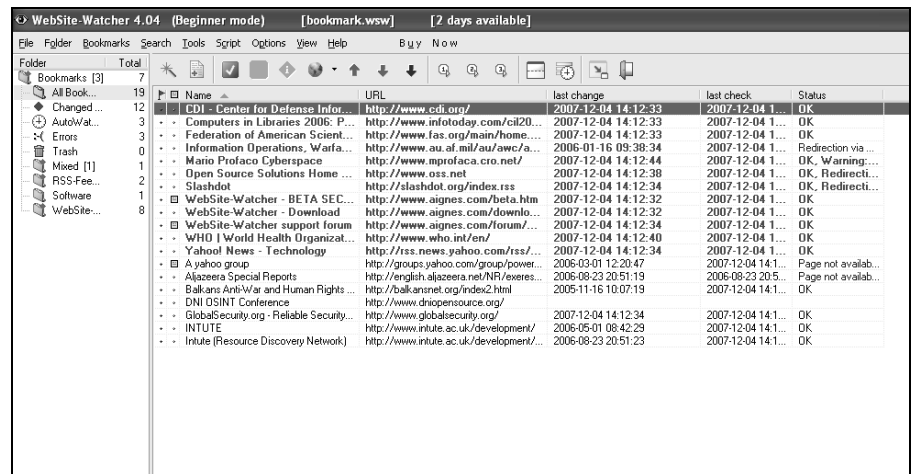
Google's own alert service is simplest, but may not be as **flexible, precise, or timely** as client software such as WebSite Watcher, InfoMinder, and WatchThatPage.

## WebSite-Watcher

www.aignes.com

**Downloaded program.** Subscription required (but has free trial)

- Can cover websites that require a login.
- Can monitor pages as frequently as once a minute
- Can monitor for specific keywords.
- Notification by email
- Saves changed pages to your own computer
- Highlights changes and words you have selected
- Interface in 8 languages
- Can use filters to ignore content such as date and time.
- Can watch an entire website as well as specific pages (and can specify depth of links)



# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

## InfoMinder

www.infominder.com

Can monitor any change of a page, or only changes on pages where a particular word appears in the changed content.

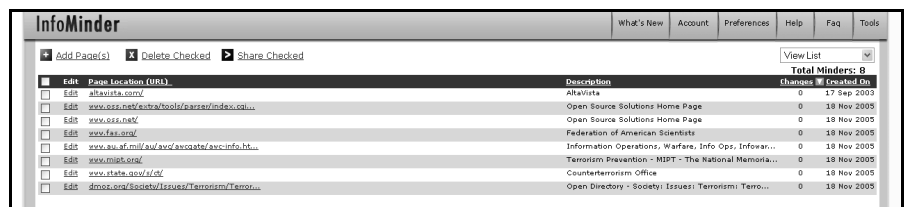
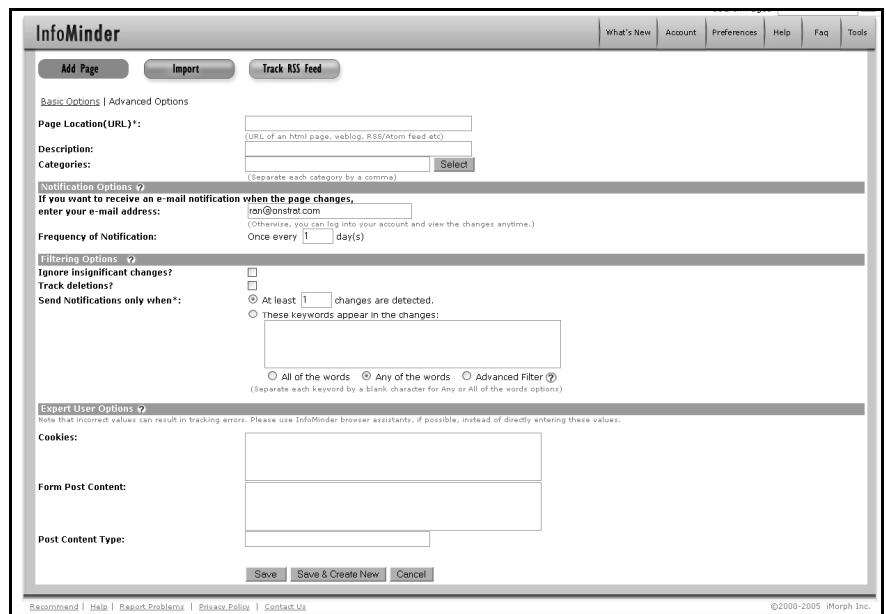
Can tell it to ignore update dates, etc. on a page.

You can either use the InfoMinder website or download the program (the latter has more functionality)

Results can be delivered by going to the InfoMinder site or by email.

Can have it monitor RSS feeds

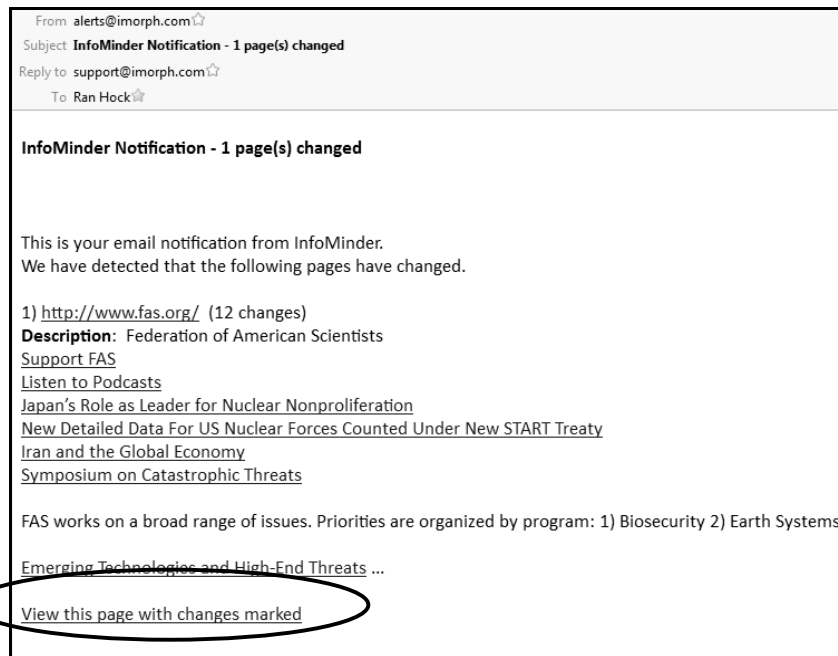
Subscription - \$30/year



## Email notification:

Email notification – you set frequency and threshold for number of changes to be found before reporting to you..

Can have email notifications by category.



## Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

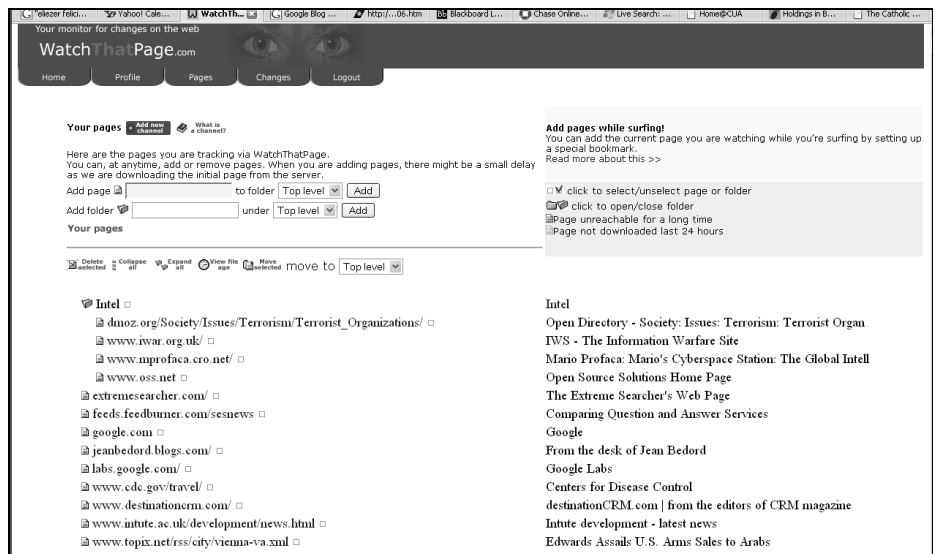
### WatchThatPage.com

[www.watchthatpage.com](http://www.watchthatpage.com)

Free service for individuals, fee requested for professional users.

Notices sent by email, or to a personal webpage. Weekly or daily. Shows changed text

“Channels” enable you to group pages by topic or WatchThatPage settings.



For most browsers there are add-ons that allow you to identify changes in pages. The following is one example.

### Update Scanner – Firefox Add-On

[addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/update-scanner/developers](http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/update-scanner/developers)

or [sourceforge.net/p/updatescanner/wiki/Home/](http://sourceforge.net/p/updatescanner/wiki/Home/)

Go to one of the above addresses and **download the program.**

Once installed, look under “Tools” for the Update Scanner. Clicking on “Update Scanner” brings up the Update Scanner panel

#### To add a page:

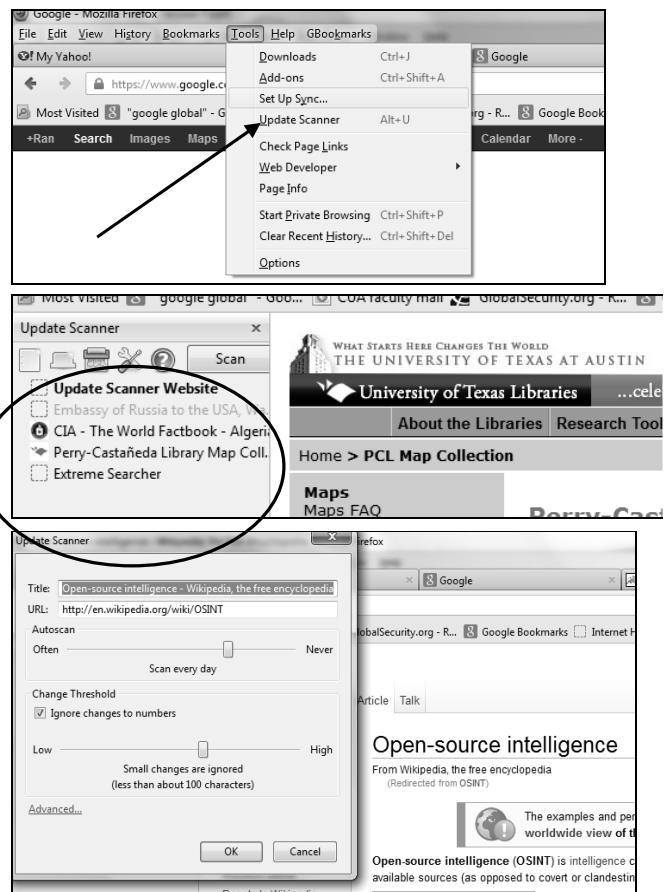
Open the update scanner.

Go to the page you want to add.

In the scanner, click the New Entry button. The name and URL of the page will automatically be filled in.

Change frequency and threshold if you wish.

Thereafter, when you want to check page, open the scanner, click Scan to scan all pages or use the checkboxes to scan specific pages.



There are many other similar services, including ChangeDetection, ChangeDectect, Wisdom Change, Copernic Tracker, ChangeNotes, and TrackEngine. A review of several of these types of “page-watching”

services can be found at: **Monitoring Web Page Changes:**

[www.rba.co.uk/sources/monitor.htm](http://www.rba.co.uk/sources/monitor.htm)

# Tracking Trends

## Google Trends

www.google.com/trends

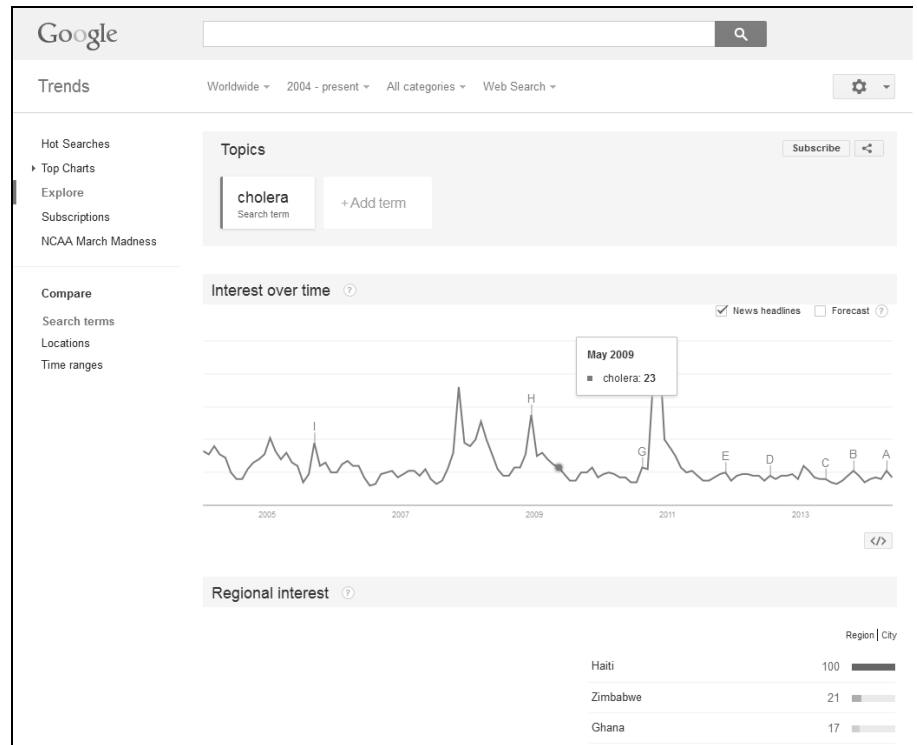
Provides possible insights about what people are searching. Shows search “traffic patterns”, for time and geography

Data is drawn from Web, images, news, and product searches. Now also includes data from YouTube going back to 2008.

Compare up to 5 topics. Compare content (Web, images, product, YouTube), locations, time, and categories (25, including Finance, Health, Law & Government, News, etc.)

Can download results in CSV format.

There may be a quota!



# Alerts: Knowing What's Happening As It Happens

## Recorded Future

recordedfuture.com

This site **requires a subscription**, but is an important site to know about for those who want to be one step ahead of “what is happening now.”

- Analyses news, blogs, trade publications, financial databases, “niche” sources, etc.

- Identifies past trends, upcoming events, “online sentiment”, “momentum over time”

- Sees 3 “dimensions” of data – Structure, time, metrics

- Can check track record and credibility of sources

- Visualisations of “relationships and their evolutions”

- Interfaces – Web, alerts, APIs

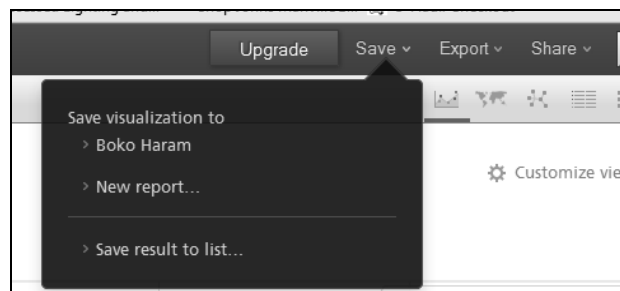
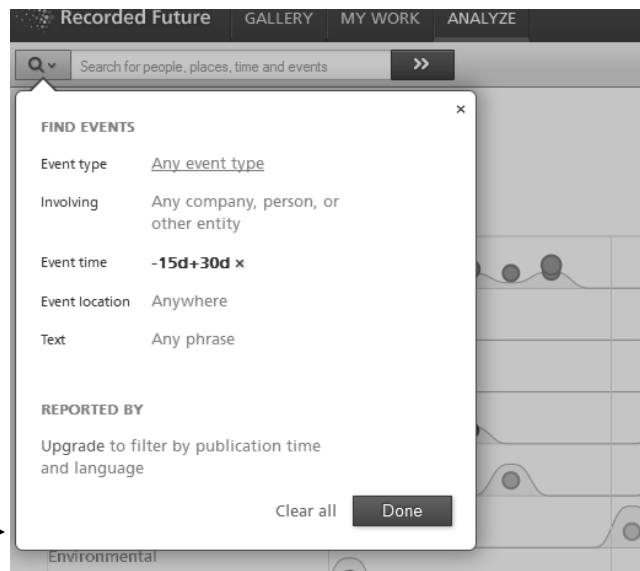
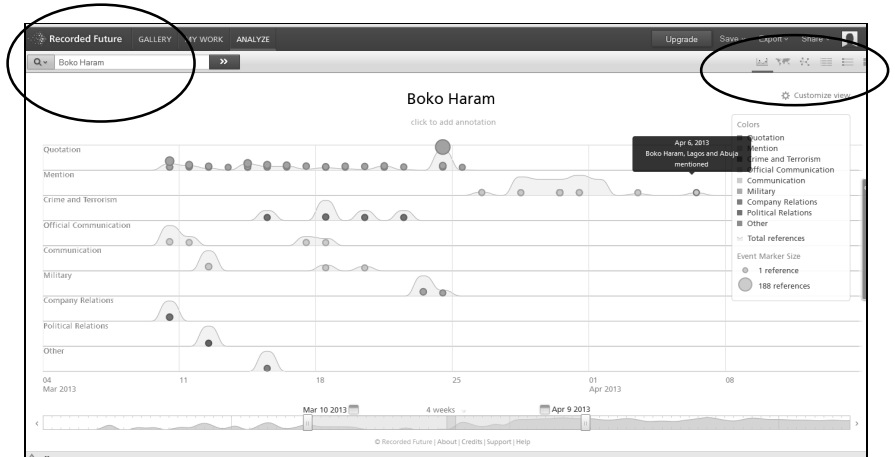
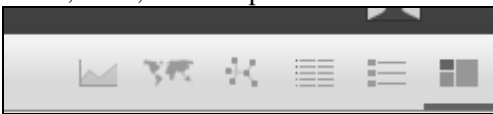
- Over 40,000 sources

### Search Options

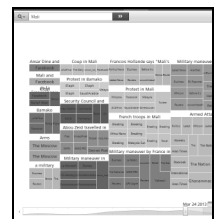
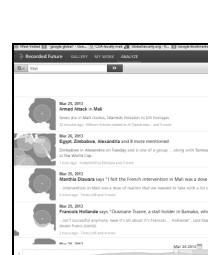
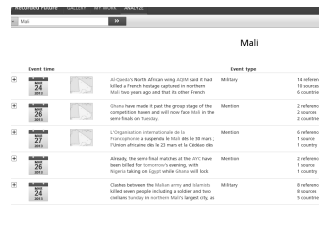
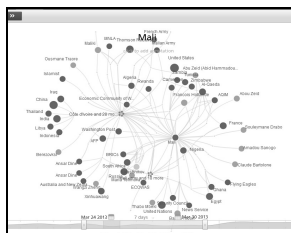
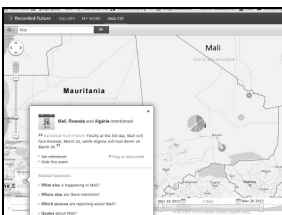
Click “Analyze” link, then click arrow to the left of the search box

List – Under search options (“Add”) or click the Save link

6 “Views” – Timeline, Map, Network, Table, Feed, Tree Map



See: [www.recordedfuture.com/web-intelligence/](http://www.recordedfuture.com/web-intelligence/)





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