

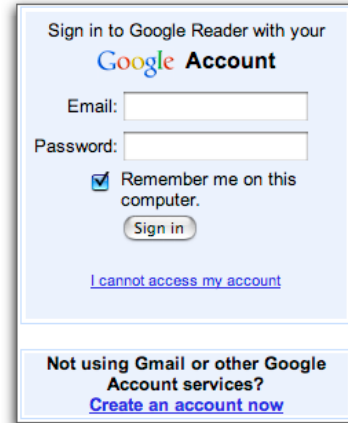
Setting Up Google Reader

Google Reader is the Aggregator (news feed reader) that AISD Educational Technology promotes. Why? Because it is web-based, it will be useable by a teacher from any computer platform and from in or out of the district. It is a free reader, so we don't have to pay for it. We reviewed a number of online aggregators and this one seemed to be the easiest and most-likely to be used for more than just a summer of workshops.

Sign up for a Google account

You will need a Google account to start using Google reader. If you already have a Gmail account or sign into Google for other services they provide, then you can skip this section.

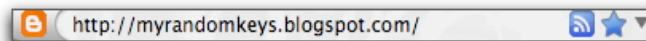
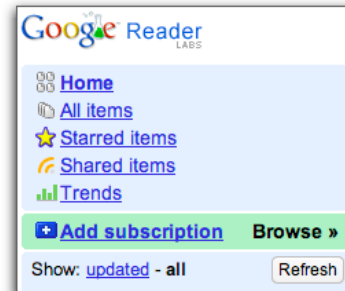
1. Go to Google.com
2. Click on **Create an account now**
3. Google accounts are based on a current email account. Give them an email account that you can access from school. Your login information will be sent to that address.
4. Once you verify the email address, you will be logged into Google.



Get started setting up your reader

You will see a number of options from your Google Reader. As you add more subscriptions, you will be able to sort and share them using the top few links.

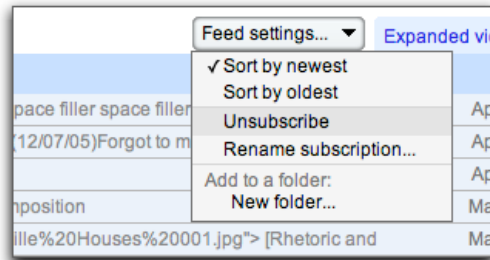
To add a subscription to your Google Reader account, click the, um, **Add subscription** link. Simple type in the address to any website that is RSS capable. For example, the new district teacher web pages are RSS aware. Find a teacher's website, copy the web address, and paste it into Google's **Add subscription** box. The reader will automatically add it and update the feed.



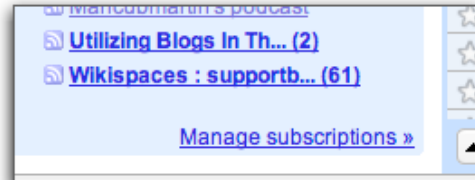
Another way to add subscriptions is to use the **Browse** link (beside **Add subscription**). Any keyword search will start generating a list of websites that one can subscribe to. Once you find one you are interested in, click the **subscribe** button. You can always remove it later by clicking **Manage Feeds** at the bottom of the Google Reader page.

Managing your subscriptions

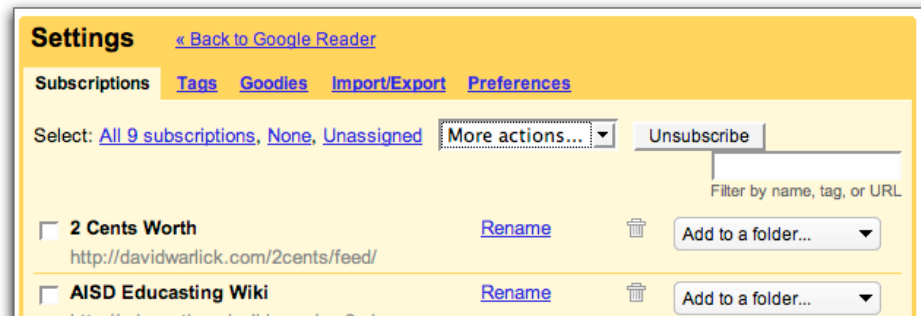
There are two ways to remove a subscription, or feed. If you are looking at a feed, then you will see the **Feed settings...** button at the top of the window. You can manage that particular feed through the selections in the drop window.



The other way to manage feeds is the **Manage subscriptions** link at the bottom of the window.



There are many options when managing all of your subscriptions. You can select subscriptions that you no longer want



and **unsubscribe** from them. You can organize your collection of subscriptions into folders by using the **Add to a folder...** button. If you don't already have folders, you will be prompted to create a folder.

Um, What is RSS anyway?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication and is the special coding needed to make a webpage subscribe-able. When you are on a page and the address bar show the RSS symbol, a orange radar-looking icon, you can copy that address and paste that into your Google Reader's 'Add subscription' link.



Alternatives to Google Reader

Afraid of Google taking over the world and you want another choice? RSS aggregators take many forms. There are free application readers that stay on your computer. Search 'aggregator' on <http://downloads.com>. Online readers are many and include: Google, NewsGator, FeedBurner, Bloglines, and many others. In fact, with little effort, you can make your Firefox or Safari browsers pull in news feeds with their built-in reader functions.