Keeping up-to-date:
Current awareness alerts & feeds

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Contents:

Current awareness tools ................................................................. 3

Current awareness:
Setting up table of contents alerts through JournalTOCs .................. 4-8
Setting up table of contents alerts from publishers’ websites .............. 9-12

Customised Alerts using healthcare databases:
Receiving alerts to new journal articles ......................................... 13-16
How to run a saved search ............................................................... 17
How to check saved search terms ................................................... 18-19

RSS Feeds:
RSS Feeds using Protopages ......................................................... 20-21
Adding RSS Feeds ......................................................................... 22-24
Viewing feeds via the Leeds Libraries website ................................. 25
Want to know more? Need some support? ..................................... 26
Current Awareness Tools:

- Do you feel overwhelmed by the piles of journals you haven’t had time to scan?
- Are your colleagues discussing new reports and research findings you haven’t heard about?
- Are you fully aware of new guidelines and policies as soon as they are adopted?

There are tools which can help you keep up to date.

Objectives

After working through this manual you will be able to:

- Set up table of contents alerts via JournalTOCs
- Set up table of contents alerts from journal publishers’ websites
- Set up alerts to new journal literature using the healthcare databases hosted by NHS Evidence
- Set up RSS feeds
- View RSS feeds via the Leeds Libraries website
Current awareness: setting up table of contents via JournalTOCs

What is JournalTOCs?

JournalTOCs is a searchable collection of scholarly journal Tables of Contents (TOCs). Produced by the Heriot-Watt University, this service allows you to keep up to date with articles and papers that are important to your work and interests.

To use JournalTOCs you need to register with the website.

1. Go to www.journaltocs.ac.uk

2. Click on Sign In

2. Click on Sign Up and select a username and password and click Sign Up

You will receive a confirmation email containing an activation link. Clicking on the activation link will complete the registration process.

Once you have registered with the site simply click the Sign In link and enter your username and password to start using JournalTOCs
Current awareness: setting up table of contents via JournalTOCs - cont’d:

1. Start searching for a journal by entering the title in the search box and click GO.

2. Check the box next to the journal you want to follow.

3. A list of journals you are following is created as you select a journal title.

4. Ensure that the email alert setting is set to on.

4. To add more titles follow steps 1-3 for the required journal name(s).
Current awareness: setting up table of contents via JournalTOCs - cont’d:

5. You will receive an email alerting you when any new articles are published in your chosen journals.

- **JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association** (One new article):
  Association of Changes in Clinical Characteristics and Management With Improvement

- **The Lancet** (4 new articles):
  - The battle against stent thrombosis—to protect and to serve
  - Stent thrombosis and major clinical events at 3 years after Zotarolimus-eluting...
  - Gabapentin: a suppressant for refractory chronic cough
  - Gabapentin for refractory chronic cough: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-con...

In addition to searching for specific journal titles you can browse journal titles by publisher or subject.
Current awareness: setting up table of contents via JournalTOCs - cont’d:

In addition to searching for specific journal titles it is also possible to search by keyword to identify journals that contain articles which may be of interest to you.

1. Type your keyword in the search box, select for Articles by Keywords and click Go

2. You will be provided with a list of articles that contain your keyword in current TOCs. Click on an article for further information

3. Click View full Table of Contents to see the journal details.

4. Tick the box to follow the journal.
Managing your alerts

When you first sign in to JournalTOCs all of the journals you have chosen to follow are displayed on the screen.

**7 Followed Journal(s) (Journals you Follow)**

Uncheck a box to stop following a journal.

- BMJ ★ S N (104 followers)
- JAMA The Journal of the American Medical Association ★ S (104 followers)
- Journal of Advanced Nursing ★ S N (57 followers)
- Neuromodulation ★ S (1 followers)
- The Lancet ★ S (220 followers)
- The Lancet Neurology ★ S N (7 followers)

**To stop following a journal click in the box next to the journal name to deselect that title.**

**Interpreting the icons next to each title**

Sample of a Followed Journals list:

- Library Hi Tech ★ S (131)
- The Electronic Library ★ S N (120)
- Journal of Information Science ★ S (91)
- D-Lib Magazine ★ OA N (79)
- The Library Quarterly ★ S (78)

**Key:**
- OA Open Access
- S Subscription
- P Partially Free
- F Free (Full-text Available)
- Unknown
- N New Issue
- RSS web address
- Homepage
Setting up table of contents alerts from publishers’ websites:

It is also possible to subscribe to table of contents services provided by journal publishers. It is usually necessary to register with the publisher to receive alerts.

Major publishers produce large numbers of journals, and alerts to several titles can be set up in one place. Examples include Informaworld, BMJ Journals, and Wiley.

The following example shows how to set up an alert to 'Geriatric Nursing' which is one of many journals published by Science Direct. Each publisher’s website will use a slightly different format.

1. Go to www.sciencedirect.com

First log-in to use the service
Please note that you cannot use your NHS OpenAthens username and password to log on to the Alerts service so you will need to set up a separate account

2. Login if you have a ScienceDirect username (e-mail address) and password if not click on Not Registered and follow the on-screen instructions.
3. Once logged-in identify the required journals by browsing or searching the “journal or book title” field.

4. Click “Alert me about new articles” to receive e-mails when new papers are published.
Setting up table of contents alerts from publishers’ websites: - cont’d

There are also websites built around a specific journal. For example, The Lancet:

1. Go to www.TheLancet.com

2. You cannot use your NHS Athens username and password to access this facility. If you have a login please click on Login and enter your username & password. If you do not have a personal login click on Register.

3. As part of the registration process there is an option to sign up for an alert for the Lancet journals.
3. Once you have logged on click on My Lancet.

4. Choose the journal titles that you wish to receive a Table of Contents Alert for e.g. The Lancet and click on Update.
Potential Problems with Table of Contents alerts:

There may be some problems with registering to receive alerts

- Activation links sent by email and alerts are automatically generated and may be blocked by spam managers if you register using a trust email address. If you suspect that this is happening you will need to contact IT support to ensure that these emails reach your inbox. Alternatively you could use another email address.

- If you are having any difficulties with setting up or receiving alerts your local library staff will be able to provide advice and support.
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence) - Receiving alerts to new journal articles:

You may be familiar with searching for journal literature using the Healthcare Databases available through the NHS Evidence portal. It is possible to set up alerts so that when a citation of a new article on a subject that you are interested in is added you will receive an e-mail.


2. Click on **Journals and Databases**.

3. Click on **Healthcare databases advanced search**.

4. Enter your NHS Athens username & password & click on **Login**
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence) - cont’d

If you need help with searching please refer to the ‘Using healthcare databases effectively to support your work manual’. Courses covering this topic are also available and your local library staff can provide support.

5. Select the relevant database by ticking the box on the left.
   Then click **Search**

6. Perform the search and click **Save all**
7. Give the alert a name and select **Save & Create Alert**.

8. Complete relevant fields and select **Save Alert**.
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence) - cont’d

Managing your alerts

9. To view alerts click Alerts

10. You can delete saved alerts, view the alert history or edit the alert by clicking on:
- Delete alert
- View history
- Edit alert

11. Alerts will be sent directly to your email address.

Click here to open the attachment.
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence) - How To Run a Saved Search

1. Select Saved Searches

2. Click on the appropriate search history name and click **RUN SEARCH**
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence): To Check Saved Search Terms

1. Select Alerts.

2. Select appropriate alert and click View history.
Customised Alerts using Healthcare Databases via Health Information Resources (NHS Evidence): To Check Saved Search Terms - cont'd:

3. Click on Sent and the search terms will be displayed.
Current awareness: RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds using Protopages

What are RSS Feeds?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. This is a protocol that websites use to distribute their content. Feeds are files which are updated and contain the site’s latest information. Instead of repeatedly checking websites to see if new content has been added, if you subscribe to the site’s feeds this information will be sent to one place: your RSS reader. This is an application which is used to view feeds; examples include “Protopages” and “Bloglines”. RSS readers gather feeds from multiple sites into one place where they can be viewed.

Websites normally use the following symbol 📥 indicating that RSS feeds are available.

How to access RSS Feeds using Protopages

1. Go to www.protopage.com
2. Click HERE to register with the site.
Current awareness: RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds using Protopages - cont’d

3. Complete the registration form.
   - Select a name for your site
   - Choose to keep the site private or make it publically available

Once you have submitted the form you will be sent an email with an activation code to authorise your site.

4. Visit your Protopages site and Login with your password

When you first use your site you will notice that the site is automatically populated with various feeds. These can easily be removed by clicking on the cross in the top right hand corner of the feed box
Current awareness: RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds using Protopages - cont’d

Adding RSS Feeds:

If you wish to add feeds from your favourite websites you will need to find the RSS URL and cut and paste this into the Feed URL on your Protopages site.

1. Click here to access the BBC’s News Feeds

2. Copy the RSS URL.

RSS URL (Uniform Resource Locator) or web address
Current awareness: RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds using Protopages
- Adding RSS Feeds: (cont’d)

3. To add a feed to your Protopages site select Add widgets.

4. Paste the feed into the RSS feed box and select Go.

5. Drag the RSS feed box onto your Protopages site.
Current awareness: RSS (Really Simple Syndication) Feeds using Protopages (NHS Evidence)
- Adding RSS Feeds: (cont’d)

6. You can edit the feed to alter the number of headlines and/or the amount of information displayed.

The Keeping Up To Date section of the Leeds libraries website provides access to the latest evidence to help you keep up to date with the developments in your field.

1. Select your topic of interest from the menu on the right

Clinical
- Acute Medicine
- Adult Critical Care
- Adult Theatre & Anaesthesia
- Adult Therapies
- Bipolar Disorder
- CAMHS
- Cancer
- Cardiac-Respiratory

2. Click on the article you would like to view

3. The article / abstract will open in a new window.
Want to know more? Need some support?

Build on your knowledge after this course. More in depth training is available where you can:

**Receive support to set up alerts and feeds in your area of interest**

**Get help if your alerts aren’t giving you the information you need when you need it**

To book a one-to-one session or get help and support for using current awareness tools, please contact your local Library Services Team.

Details available from [www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk](http://www.leedslibraries.nhs.uk)

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