Staying Current with Science News -- Searching and Sources Online

Patricia F. Anderson
<pfa@umich.edu>
Health Sciences Libraries, UM
May 30, 2007

© 2007 Regents of the University of Michigan. All rights reserved.

Science News: Searching: General Search Engine Strategies

- Think of a group of terms that describe your topic, and gather them in a single search statement using the Boolean OR.
- Test your search for a few days, refine.
- Then use the RSS feed from the search in your RSS feed reader, *or* create an e-mail alert.
- SEE EXAMPLES -->

Science News: Searching: General Search Engine Strategies

- Examples:
  - Search in *Google* for news:
    (omics OR genomics OR proteomics OR nanotechnology OR bioinformatics OR transgenic OR "genetically modified") (news OR "press release")
  - Search in *Google: News*:
    (omics OR genomics OR proteomics OR nanotechnology OR bioinformatics OR transgenic OR "genetically modified")

Science News: Searching: General Search Engine Strategies

- (dental OR dentistry OR dentist OR dentists OR orthodontics OR endodontics OR periodontics OR maxillofacial OR caries OR cariology OR "bite-mark")
- metastasis OR angiogenesis OR ((tumor OR tumour) (suppression OR inhibition))

New! More ways to find the latest on **metastasis | angiogenesis | tumor | tumour suppression | inhibition**:

- Search blogs
- Create an email alert

News Alerts from Google

Welcome to Google Alerts

Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic.

Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- monitoring a developing news story
- keeping current on a competitor or industry
- getting the latest on a celebrity or event
- keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams

Create an alert with the form on the right.

You can also sign in to manage your alerts

Create a Google Alert

Enter the topic you wish to monitor.

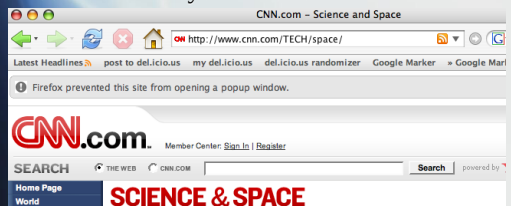
Search terms: metastasis OR angiogenes
Type: News
How often: once a day
Your email:

Create Alert

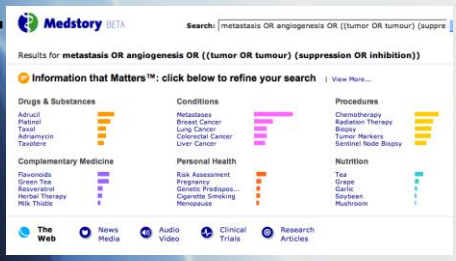
Google will not sell or share your email address.

RSS News via RSS Feeds

- RSS session coming next week.
- In the meantime, look for this symbol in the location box of your browser.

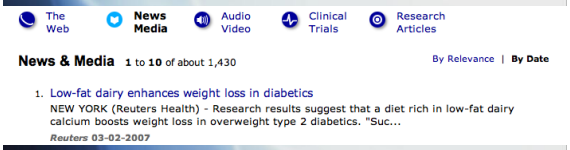


Science News: Searching: Topic Search Engines

- 

Science News: Searching: Topic Search Engines

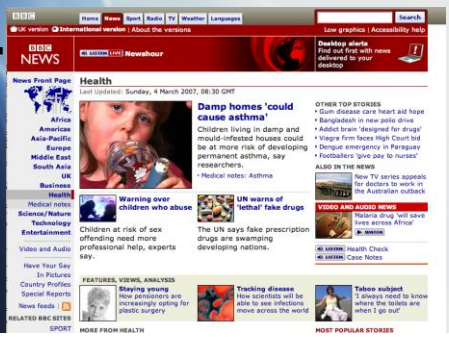
- MedStory: http://www.medstory.com/



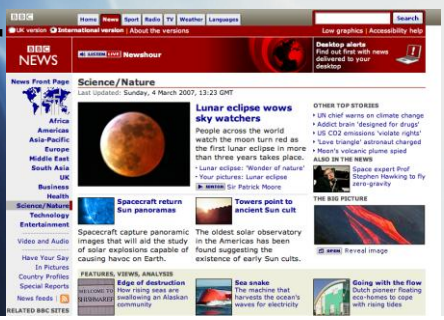
Science News from Major News Providers

- Advantages:
  - Almost always have RSS feed for specific topic
  - Topics will include both Science, Health or Medicine, and Technology (in various combinations)
  - Major names have reputation to protect, so accuracy review is fairly tight.
  - Always have something
- Disadvantages:
  - Not as precisely focused on your specific topic
  - Usually not reported by scientists, so quality may vary

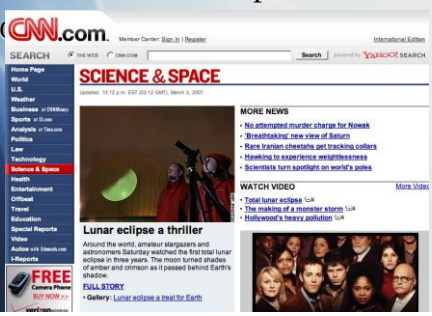
Science News from Major News Providers: Examples: BBC

- 

Science News from Major News Providers: Examples: BBC

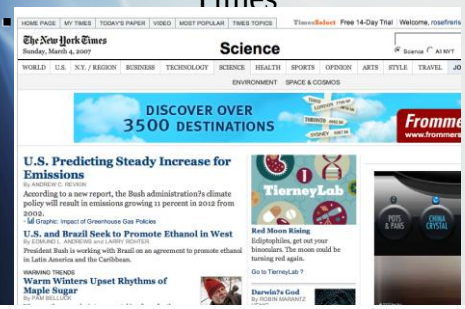
- 

Science News from Major News Providers: Examples: CNN

- 

Science News from Major News Providers: Examples: New York Times

Science News from Major News Providers: Examples: New York Times



Science News from Governments & NGOs

- Examples
  - European Space Agency (ESA): http://www.esa.int
  - National Science Foundation (NSF): http://www.nsf.gov/
  - NATO: http://www.nato.int/
  - Royal Society (RSOC): http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/

Governments & NGOs: Examples: NSF

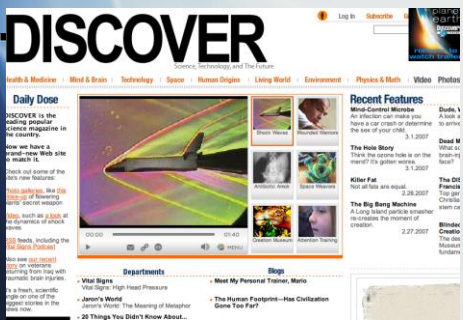
Governments & NGOs: Examples: ESA

Governments & NGOs: Examples: RSOC

News from Popular Science Journals

- Advantages
  - More focused, still broad
  - More scientific review of article content and quality
  - Also very likely to have RSS feed
- Disadvantages
  - Written for popular audience
  - Usually written by science writers, but not necessarily trained as scientists
  - Likely to be broader than your own topic interests
  - Reports what is of interest to public, not what is of interest to scientists

News from Popular Science Journals: Examples: Discover



News from Popular Science Journals: Examples: Popular Science

News from Popular Science Journals: Examples: Scientific American

News from Popular Science Journals: Examples: Science News

News from Popular Science Journals: Examples: Science News: Article

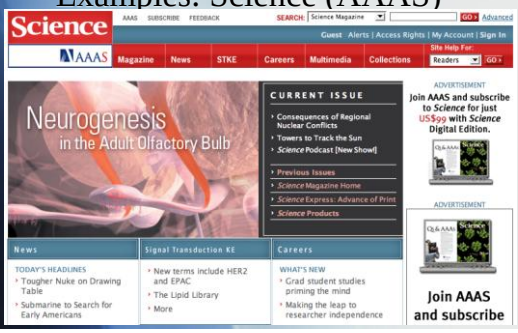
News from General Science Research Journals

- Advantages
  - More focused, still broad
  - More scientific review of article content and quality
  - Also very likely to have RSS feed
- Disadvantages
  - Not many
  - Perhaps still broader than your own topic interests

General Science Research Journals: Examples: Nature

General Science Research Journals: Examples: New Scientist

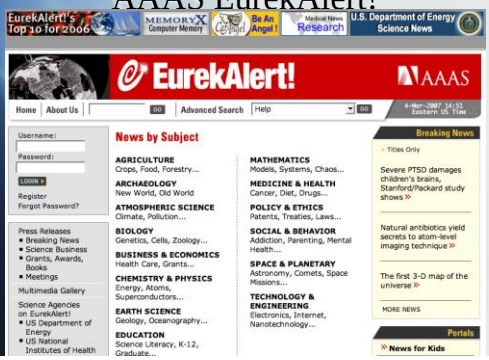
General Science Research Journals: Examples: Science (AAAS)



News from Associations

- Advantages
  - Topical
  - Targeted
- Organizations with small groups or narrow focus tend to have few announcements and focus on their own press releases.
- Best with organizations broad in scope or focused on rapidly changing topics.

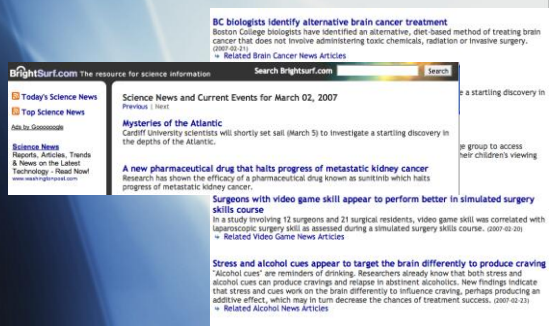
News From Associations: Example: AAAS EurekAlert!



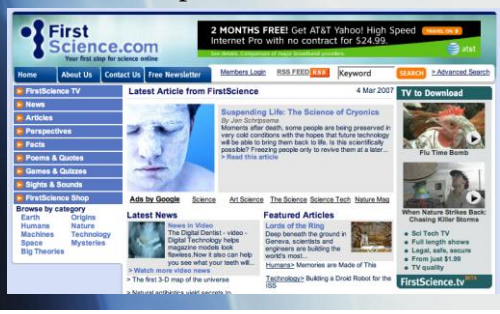
Science News Services

- Advantages
  - Can provide high-quality brief snapshots of what is going on in science
  - Focused
- Disadvantages
  - Sometimes low budget
  - Can be out-dated or under-supported

Science News Services: Examples: Bright Surf



Science News Services: Examples: FirstScience



Science News Services: Examples: SciCentral

Science News Services: Examples: ScienceDaily

Science News Services: Examples: SciTechDaily

Science News Services: Examples: Others

One Stop Specialty Shops

- Advantages
  - Highly focused on relevant topics
  - Cutting edge
  - Selected by and/or written with experts in the topic area
- Disadvantages
  - More difficult to find
  - Can be ephemeral
  - Sometimes not as well supported financially, thus may lack some bells and whistles

Specialty News: Examples: Regional - European

Specialty News: Examples: Genome News Network

Specialty News: Examples: Nanotechnology

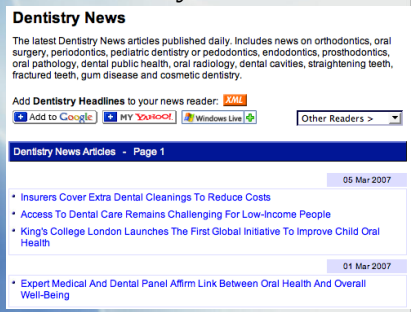
- Foresight Nanotech Institute: http://www.foresight.org
- Nanotechnology: http://www.nanotechnology.com
- NanotechnologyNow: http://www.nanotechnologynow.com
- Small Times: http://www.smalltimes.com

Specialty News: Examples: Medicine & Health

- MedicalNewsToday: http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/
- Reuters Health: http://www.reutershealth.com/
- Ivanhoe's Medical Breakthroughs: http://www.ivanhoe.com/
- Medscape: http://www.medscape.com

Specialty News: Examples: Dentistry

- Medical News Today

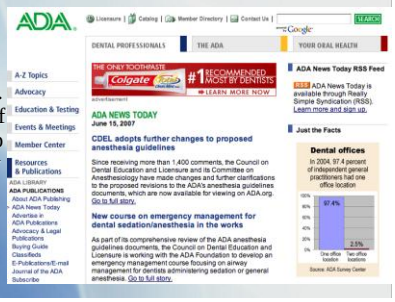


Specialty News: Examples:

- Dental News: http://www.dentalnews.com

Specialty News: Examples: Dentistry

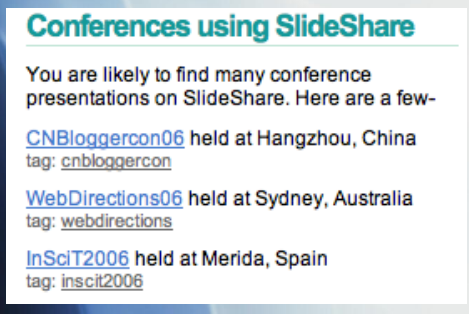
- ADA News Today: http://www.ada.org/prof/resources/pubs/adanews/index.asp



Specialty News: Examples: Dentistry

- Topix: Dentistry: http://www.topix.net/med/dentistry
- Topix: Dentistry: http://www.topix.net/business/dental/

Also Rans: Finding Current News Images

- Google
  - Use the word "pictures" in your topic search
  - Or use: (pictures OR images)
- Google: Images
  - Blocks many images from commercial news services
- Flickr
  - Images from people on the scene
  - Groups collecting images of current events
- Web 2.0 and Citizen Journalism
  - NowPublic, Snaparazzi, OhMyNews, WikiNews

Also Rans: Finding Reports from Conferences