Finding and Integrating Library Resources

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Course Goals and Objectives

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Welcome!
Hello, and thanks for signing up for the Library Technology and Copyright Literacy course! In the past fifteen years or so, the Internet has revolutionized the ways in which the HCC Libraries achieve their primary goal, which is to help you and your students get access to the best information possible to meet your academic needs. Gone are the days of the card catalog and still and quiet refuges. HCC’s libraries today are filled with computers and the click-clacking of keyboards, as students and faculty dive into an increasingly vast and unruly sea of information. Today you will see those resources we provide in order to help you and your students. In the second part of this class, we’re going to focus on the ways that you can successfully integrate library information into your DE courses. Of course, with that ever-changing information landscape, the laws about how you, as instructors, can handle, manipulate, and disseminate that information are changing too.

Expectations
As distance education efforts have expanded at HCC, so have your library services. We strive to provide DE students and instructors with access to and assistance with the full range of our services that we offer. The challenge for us now is to provide these resources and assistance in using them remotely- to users who may be miles away. We do this by spending money on not just print, but the equivalent electronic formats of books, magazines, newspapers, reference books, and journals. We provide help in a variety of ways- phone, online chat, instant messaging, SMS/texting, and email. We want to reach you and your students where ever you are! And we want you to let us know what you and your students need from us- materials, services, access points, and assistance.
The HCC Library Homepage

The HCC Libraries website at http://library.hccs.edu/ has a ton of great information. In a minute, we’ll look closely at how it enables access to our collections - both print and electronic - and to some of our more important services. Before we look at access and services, though, I want to point out these important features of the site. Take a look at these links-

- **Locations & Hours**: Includes phone numbers for both reference and circulation desks at all HCC Libraries, as well as hours and locations.
- **My Library Account**: Using this online feature, you can see what books you have out, check due dates, renew items, and more!
- **Learn How**: This section of the website offers tons of online help for students, including our AskALibrarian service, frequently asked questions, tutorials, subject-specific and general research guides, citation style guides (MLA, APA), and more.
- **Services**: Using this dropdown menu, you’ll be able to access many of our services. You’ll find information on how to get a library barcode (great for you or your students), library instruction options, pages for faculty and DE students.
- **Quick Student Links**: This short list is a quick way for students to access some pages, unrelated to the libraries, that they frequently need. Grades, registration, bookstore, financial aid info, and more.

Access to Library Materials

- **Library Catalog**
  - E-books
  - Requesting Books
- **Databases**
- **Access to Other Libraries**
  - TexShare
  - InterLibrary Loan (ILL)

Now, on to how to get access to our great collections! First we’ll look at our library catalog, and focus on two features of high value to DE students - **E-books** and the **Request a Book** feature. Next, we’ll look at our collection of **subscription databases** that enable access to literally hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of articles from magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, reference books and more. Finally, I want to tell you about ways you can get access to the collections of other libraries.

The Library Barcode Number

**Students**-

Students may now login to the HCC Student System to obtain their official HCC library barcode number. They may use the form here, or the sign - in here. Once they have signed in, they can navigate to the **Personal Information** section of the page, and then
select Demographic Data. The HCC library barcode number is located on the page, underneath the student ID number.

Users need an official HCC library barcode number to log in to HCC library databases, to log in to individual HCC library accounts, to place hold requests on materials, to renew items online, and to rate materials in the library catalog. If a student wishes to check materials out of the library, they will need to obtain a picture student ID card, which will have this barcode # printed on the back. If a student is unable to get a picture ID right away, the library may allow an alternative form of picture ID to be used. The library barcode number listed in a student account is their official, permanent number and will be theirs throughout their HCC career.

**Faculty and Staff-**
Faculty and staff members may contact any HCC library to obtain a barcode number. Faculty and staff are generally issued a physical library card so that materials may be checked out. We are hopeful that permanent library barcode numbers will be available through At Your Service at some point in the future.

**Your barcode number is the key to using all of the library's resources!**

**The HCC Online Library Catalog**
- [http://librus.hccs.edu](http://librus.hccs.edu)
- Contains library records for books, videos, DVDs, e-books, print and online journals
- Supports simple or advanced searching options
- Offers Inter-campus delivery with our Item Request feature
- Allows faculty to pre-book videos and DVDs for delivery to the campus of their choice
- Links to other resources from the catalog
- Allow for users to rate items and to send item citations to their cell phones
- Provides citation assistance for MLA and APA formats

The [HCC Library catalog](http://librus.hccs.edu) is the tool you use to find books, videos, DVDs, print and electronic journals, e-books, and more owned by the HCC libraries. It can be searched from the library homepage directly, or for more advanced search options, you can link to the catalog at [http://librus.hccs.edu](http://librus.hccs.edu).
The catalog provides access to hundreds of thousands of items for students and faculty, both near and far.

**Library Item Requests**
HCC has hundreds of thousands of items housed in its libraries over a dozen campus locations scattered throughout the city of Houston. Thankfully, you can request items...
yourself (up to 5 at a time) from our online library catalog and have them delivered to any other HCC library. The service usually takes 2-3 working days.

**HCC Library Subscription Databases**

- **Full-text access to thousands of articles**
  - Magazines, newspapers & journals
  - Reference & e-books
- **The Unexpected**
  - Radio broadcast transcripts
  - Images, audio, & movie clips
  - Streaming videos
  - Census records and genealogy information
  - Music, art, & fashion!
  - Auto repair materials
  - Full-text science journals from the 17th century!

In addition to books and videos, though, we also provide electronic access to indexing and full-text of hundreds of thousands of articles from thousands of magazines, newspapers, academic journals, and reference books. These subscription databases can be accessed from any Internet connected computer. If you're on an HCC campus, you'll connect automatically. If you're off-campus, you'll be asked for your library barcode number.

In addition to the more common types of content, we've also got some more unusual things tucked away in here. **Opposing Viewpoints** has transcripts of programs like NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. **Auto Repair Reference Center** has auto repair information! **Jstor** has old, old articles -dating back several centuries in some cases! **Heritage Quest** has searchable census records and full-text local history books. You can learn more about these unexpected library treasures [here](#).

**Access to Other Area Libraries**

**TexShare** gives faculty and students access to library services at many local academic libraries:

- UH
- TSU
- HBU
- UST

**InterLibrary Loan (ILL)** at the HCC Libraries

In addition to access to the rich collections that HCC owns or subscribes to, you also have access to other libraries collections as well, via the **TexShare** program and **InterLibrary loan**.

All members of the HCC community whose library accounts are in good standing can apply for a TexShare card which allows them to check out books from several libraries
across the state. Locally, TexShare enables you to check books out from the University of Houston, St. Thomas, Texas Southern, Houston Baptist, and more. Unfortunately, Rice does not participate in the program. Many of the TexShare participating libraries impose stricter borrowing rules on TexShare patrons than they do on their own patrons. So, you may not be able to check out as many books, or to keep them as long. You can get your TexShare card by visiting any HCC Library, or by going to our TexShare link.

InterLibrary loan (ILL) is great for getting more obscure books that these TexShare libraries may not own. ILL can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks to deliver a book or article to you, so it's always a good idea to get your request in as soon as you can. The ILL process begins at the program link. Just contact any HCC librarian for help.

Services For Faculty
At the HCC Libraries, we want you to think of us as your partners in teaching. Here on our For Faculty page, we've collected a few things that may be of interest to you. Included is information about:

- **Help with designing research assignments**: Sometimes, students are sent to the library with assignments that don't take full advantage of our resources. Talk to a librarian at your college, and see if we can help refine a few points to make the process more enriching for your students. A common point of confusion is that sometimes an instructor will tell students that they cannot use “the Internet" or “websites" for their research. Usually, the instructor would be happy to see students using scholarly research articles - which we have available via the internet in our electronic databases - but students don't think they can use them, because they're available online. With a little help from the libraries, this sort of confusion can be easily avoided!

- **Suggest purchases for library collections**: Our collections are growing organisms! Your recommendations for book and media purchases are our best tool to cultivate them. Please let us know what we can purchase to better serve you and your students.

- **Citation style and plagiarism tools**: This is definitely one area where our students could use a hand! Citation styles can be confusing, and not understanding them can lead to unintentional plagiarism by our students. The tools linked here can help you help your students get a grip on these tough concepts.

- **Library instruction**: HCC Librarians at every campus are available and willing to visit your classes to teach your students how to effectively use library resources. Stop in and schedule a session this semester! Most libraries require that scheduling be made at least one, sometimes two weeks in advance. We'll talk about the type of instruction opportunities we offer for online classes when we get to LibLine in the next section.
**Course Reserves**

- Any location/multiple locations- where are your DE students? They might be all around town!
- Printed articles, course notes, study aids, books, etc.

Reserves are items that remain in the libraries for short-term student use. They are usually housed behind the circulation desk, You are usually responsible for furnishing them to the library and for picking them up at the end of the semester and researching rights/permission issues, etc. Reserves are generally not designed to be used over and over again, semester after semester, without obtaining permission from publishers. Most materials are limited to one semester in the print reserve system before you need to seek further permission and/or pay licensing fees. We may be able to suggest alternatives that allow for longer use, such as the use of durable/persistent links to the same or similar articles in our subscription databases.

**For DE Students**

- [Logging into HCC Library Resources](#)
- [LibLine](#)
- [AskALibrarian](#)
- [Database access](#)

We've also included a page on our site especially for our DE students that brings together many of the links that our DE students will find most helpful. See the [HCC Libraries DE Students' page here](#). Here, students can find an access point for LibLine—the HCC library blog which is targeted for our DE community, a link to our [AskALibrarian](#) service, access to our database pages, and tips about how to access those pages from off-campus.

**AskALibrarian**

- Expanded options for today's students and faculty
- Phone & in-person, of course! We'd love to meet you!
- Email responses within 24 hours
- Live chat instantly throughout the week
- Instant Messaging: hccslibrarian at AIM, Yahoo!, Hotmail, and GoogleTalk
- Or use our embedded chat window
- Texting services have been offered since the summer of 2009!

A tool that our DE students, and even some faculty, seem to love is our ever-expanding [AskALibrarian](#) service. For years, of course, students could get our help in person or over the phone - and they still can. We've also been answering email reference questions for a few years, too. On email, we usually have about a 24 hr turn-around time, though that's a little longer over weekends and holidays. In addition, in the past couple of semesters, we've added instant messaging, live chat, and texting options as well. Students can add our screen name to their buddy lists at AIM, GoogleTalk, Hotmail, or Yahoo! messaging, and they'll automatically know when one of us is immediately available to answer their questions. For those not using IM, we also have an embedded...
chat window, which allows visitors to chat with us without an IM account. Hours for the live chat and IM, as well as all the necessary info for contacting us, are all posted on our AskALibrarian page, which is linked from the upper right hand corner of all HCC Library pages.

The LibLine Blog- HCC's Library Lifeline for Online Learning

- [http://libline.blogspot.com/](http://libline.blogspot.com/)
- Instructional posts appear throughout each semester
- Subscribe via email (or subscribe your students!)
- Use our chat window. Is AskALibrarian online?
- Instructional screencasts and tools are included as links
- News feed readers for EdTech, DE, and copyright news.
- Code snippets are included that you can use to add library features like the LibLine post widget or the AskALibrarian chat window to your DE course.

**LibLine** is a blog designed by a group of the HCC librarians dedicated to serving distance students. However, as we've built and expanded it, we've come to realize that while we target DE students, the site is of great use for all HCC students and faculty. The primary component of **LibLine** is the center section where you see the blog posts. These are brief instructional articles about library related tools and services that your students need to know about to take full advantage of the resources available to them through the libraries. We cover things like using the library catalog and our subscription databases, finding help at ask a librarian, and more. You'll notice that in the upper left of the screen, there's an option to subscribe via email. You can ask your students to subscribe, or if you'd like, take the time to subscribe them yourself. Once subscribed, your students will receive all new LibLine posts in their inbox as they're published! The sidebars contain links to things like AskALibrarian, the library catalog, the library homepage, a chat window, and more.

Other Places to Find Us- We're on Facebook!

At [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HCC.LibLine), you can see us under the profile name HCC LibLine.

At [Twitter](https://twitter.com/hcclibline), we are hcclibline. Follow us for library news items and announcements!

Pulling Library Services into Eagle Online and RSS

Now that you've seen all the services the HCC libraries provide, let's take a look at the techniques that you can use to integrate them easily and quickly right into your Eagle Online courses. You can add our content quickly with just a few library-related links, or use more advanced methods. Distance education students can take our online library introduction from within Eagle Online (a great extra credit opportunity- hint, hint!). You can incorporate our AskALibrarian chat window into Eagle Online's HTML Block feature or into any HTML page (your Learning Web page, for example). We give you the code and instructions that you need! Then, we'll discuss RSS technology more in depth. This technology works behind the scenes to quickly and automatically move information
from one place on the WWW to another. You can use it to pipe automatically updating library information to your students, but it is useful for so much more!

**Here's a Handout!**
Before you go on, you might want to print a copy of the handout found here as it provides step-by-step instructions for some of the techniques described in this section.

**The Quick & Easy Way - Linking in an HTML Block!**
Provide web links to HCC library websites and services within *Eagle Online*. You could simply post these or email them to your students, but consider using the tools that *Eagle Online* gives you.
You could include links in an HTML Block that could be displayed in your course sidebar.
Suggested library link URL's include -
- The HCC Libraries' homepage- [http://library.hccs.edu/](http://library.hccs.edu/)
- The HCC Libraries' Online Catalog- [http://librus.hccs.edu/](http://librus.hccs.edu/)
- The HCC Library Databases- [http://library.hccs.edu/articles/atoz.php](http://library.hccs.edu/articles/atoz.php)
- AskALibrarian- [http://library.hccs.edu/learn_how/askalib.php](http://library.hccs.edu/learn_how/askalib.php)

**Or, Link Inside a Topic!**
Or, you could use Eagle Online's *Add A Resource* feature to add a web site link to any topic area.

**Extra Credit, Anyone?**
Empower your students with library knowledge! Even with so many electronic resources easily available to them, we know that DE students need assistance in choosing, accessing, and using them. To this end, we have made a helpful set of learning modules that cover basic library research skills that students may access from within *Eagle Online*. Topics covered include the following-
- HCC Library FAQs
- Starting your Research
- Choosing your Topic
- Using the Library Catalog
- Finding Articles
- Using the Web
- Citing Sources
Most modules are followed by a short quiz. The modules should take 4-6 hours for most students to complete.
*Note- this course is only available for students enrolled in DE courses. We urge on-campus and hybrid class instructors to schedule face-to-face instruction at a [campus library](http://library.hccs.edu/).
We send instructions about enrolling students in Empower each semester to the HCC DE email lists. You may email Jennifer Stidham at jennifer.stidham@hccs.edu and she would be happy to give you access as well!

You Can Find Us In Many Places These Days!
Let your students know about other websites that have library information and tools including-
- Facebook- Our Facebook name is HCC LibLine at http://www.facebook.com/hccs.library and we would be happy to add you and your students to our friends lists so that you can receive library information and announcements.
- Twitter- http://twitter.com/hcclibline
- And at http://twitter.com/HCCLibraries

Moving Content with RSS
This next part of the course deals with a behind - the - scenes technology called RSS that allows magic to happen!
RSS allows frequently updating content like blog and news posts fed to be piped into various locations, outside of the original source. RSS allows you to "pull in" external content and display it within your Eagle Online course. Once you do the initial set-up, new content will appear automatically, whenever the source (blog or website) sends it out using RSS.
There is a helpful, brief (under 4 minutes!) video, RSS in Plain English on YouTube that provides a great introduction to this technology.

RSS- What Is It?
RSS- Really Simple Syndication-
A lightweight XML (Extensible Markup Language) format for automatically distributing news headlines and other content on the Web.
RSS powers services such as -
- Blogs
- Podcasting
- Newsfeeds
- All sorts of social software - MySpace is one example
- Portal Pages like iGoogle, My Yahoo!, or My MSN or Netvibes or PageFlakes
Okay - did you catch that? Automatically distributing. For example, every time we update our LibLine Blog with a new post, the Eagle Online area within your course that you will soon learn to set up to receive the posts gets updated automatically, too. Once you do the initial configuring, those future updates will happen without any more work from you. That is because of the magic of RSS. Now, we're going to play around with that technology and look at ways you can use it to enhance your online classes and to stay on top of your own online reading.
The Magic of RSS
Do you currently use or have you used a personalized page or service - maybe iGoogle, MyMSN or MyYahoo?
Portals like this are pretty familiar examples of RSS in action.
Here is an example of an iGoogle homepage, customized using RSS technology. What you can see in the iGoogle screenshot linked below is a collection of the 3 most recent headlines from some of my favorite news sources. Many of them you may recognize - The BBC, Slashdot, NPR, local traffic and weather reports (under the blue Local tab), a New Books List of materials added to the Northline campus HCC library, etc. Remember that the headlines displayed will be updated automatically if any of these sites have published new content. Most news websites change very frequently.

RSS Fills Pages with Content- Quickly and Easily!
Now, there isn't an IT person at Google that scans all of my selected sources and rewrites this page for me when that happens. What's happening here is that all of these sources publish what are called RSS feeds, and this page is built to read those feeds, and that allows it to rewrite itself, automatically, when updates are made to the information sources.
RSS feeds are built into a variety of web-based tools and their presence allows the content from those tools to be syndicated.

"Radio RSS"
My favorite analogy for RSS is that of radio. We all have a general idea of how radio works, right? A DJ plays a CD in one place, usually the radio station, and that station then broadcasts the song being played over radio waves. Then, throughout the city, anybody with a receiver can listen to that song by tuning into that radio station. Your receiver may be your car stereo, or a set of radio headphones - that is up to you.
RSS works in a similar fashion, but now the information being sent is not a song (or at least, not usually). It's usually a discrete chunk of information (like a blog posting or a baseball score or a news headline). The "transmitter" is no longer a radio tower, but the webpage where that info originated. The radio waves are now RSS feeds. And then you have tools that act as receivers like iGoogle personal homepages that can capture those feeds and display those chunks of content.

RSS Feeds are Sent and Received
• RSS Broadcasters are -
  o News sites (most have RSS feeds now)
  o Blogs (like LibLine)
  o Journals and other publications
  o Ebsco and other subscription databases
  o Podcasts
• RSS Receivers are -
o Portals (like iGoogle). I find myself using this, and Google Reader more and more.
o Aggregators (like Bloglines)
o HCC's Learning Web or any other webpage
o Email and newsgroups
o Add-ons, plug-ins, and built-in features of most web browsers
o Increasingly included with software packages like MS Outlook
o Often integrated into web browsers like Mozilla Firefox
o Eagle Online and other course management packages
o iTunes for podcasts

Here are some sites that help you learn more and choose between aggregators/readers-

• SimpleHelp.com's Reviews of 20 Free RSS Readers
• RSS-Specifications.com's page on Selecting a News Aggregator
• Wikipedia's Comparison of RSS Aggregators

Cool, but...?

So, how does this relate to teaching and learning? Students, like everyone else, tend to like convenience. If they have to run down to the local coffee shop to read the paper every morning, they may not always get around to it. But, if they could get a daily subscription - for free - then they just might become more regular readers. RSS is the web approximation of those free subscriptions.

The wealth of sources offering RSS feeds is staggering. We're not just talking about blogs and sports scores. You've got things like CNN, The Economist, NPR and on and on. In addition, a lot of library tools are RSS enabled, too. Right now, we've got RSS feeds coming out of the library catalog which allow you to see the most recent additions to our collections by subject or by location, and book and film reviews.

RSS Adds Value to Our Subscription Resources

As RSS tools become more robust, we're able to do more and more with them. For example, while it's not quite refined yet, Ebsco (HCC libraries subscribe to several of their full-text databases like Academic Search Complete) is working on generating feeds on demand for your searches. So, for example, you can go to any Ebsco database that the HCC libraries subscribes to from the A-Z listing of databases here (Academic Search Complete is a popular Ebsco choice), run a sophisticated (or simple!) search, and make that an RSS feed, so that you can have new results from that search piped into Eagle Online or other RSS receiver. I currently have several Ebsco feeds coming into my iGoogle homepage and to my Google Reader account. One shows me when book reviews that I have had published in Library Journal appear in the Ebsco database Academic Search Complete. Other alerts feed new issues of journals' tables of contents right to my page. It is a great help in keeping current with my professional reading. Here is a great tutorial on setting up Ebsco's RSS alerts.
Ideas for Using RSS Feeds for HCC DE

Now, I'm going to show you first how you can add HCC library news and information to your online courses using RSS technology. We'll use Eagle Online's Remote RSS Feeds tool to add outside feeds and display them in your Eagle Online classroom. The following procedures are all included on this handout. It may be helpful to print a copy now if you haven't already.

RSS Feed URL- Not the Same as Website URL

When working with RSS feeds, it is important to know that an RSS feed's URL (or address) is NOT the same as the accompanying website's URL. You can usually distinguish a feed URL from a website URL because it will include RSS, XML, and/or Atom somewhere in it.

There are a few different tactics for locating RSS feeds. Here are some tips. There are some common icons that you see on the web that indicate the presence of feeds. The most common one you see today is this orange logo.

On individual webpages, feeds are often grouped on a separate page called Feeds, RSS, RSS Feeds, News Feeds, or something similar. A website may have multiple feeds for different categories of content.

For example, The Economist magazine's website URL is- http://www.economist.com/

Their page for United States news is http://www.economist.com/world/united-states

But, the URL for The Economist's RSS feed for United States news is http://www.economist.com/rss/united_states_rss.xml

The Economist offers several different feeds, each with its own unique address. Usually, you can find feed URL's by looking for the orange RSS logo, or a text link that says something like Alerts, Feeds or RSS. For The Economist, you can click on the orange RSS logo near the top of the page to see a listing of all the publication's feeds at http://www.economist.com/rss/

Then, clicking on the orange logo next to the name of the feed will cause the feed URL to appear in the browser address bar. You might see subscription options appear on the page as well.

Depending on your computer's settings, an RSS logo may appear in the address bar of your browser, or somewhere on the webpage. You can generally click on the logo for subscription options.

Pushing LibLine

Okay, let's take a closer look at LibLine being pulled into a virtual classroom.

Remember that students can receive the helpful LibLine information by visiting the blog directly at http://libline.blogspot.com/. We also know they can get it via email. Using RSS, they can also get the LibLine posts from right within your online course.

Whenever LibLine is updated, the page will reflect that. You do not need to add the new posts yourself. They appear automatically!
We'll use the LibLine blog as a good example of a site that has frequent posts that your students will find helpful. Now, we'd love it if every single instructor had library related posts coming straight into the classroom, so we are offering a ways to do just that with RSS. Let me show you how you go about adding LibLine posts to a sidebar area inside your course.

- In your Eagle Online course (with editing turned on!) - choose to Add a Remote RSS Feeds block type from the Blocks tab
- Go to your new Remote RSS Feeds block
- Click on the Configuration option
- If you see LibLine* listed here, just check it and then skip down to the Configure this block option step below. If you don't see LibLine listed, continue with the next step
- Choose the Manage all my feeds option
- For Add a new feed URL, enter this feed url- http://libline.blogspot.com/feeds/posts/default
- Other options can be left as they are
- Click the add button
- Choose the Configure this block option
- Check the box in front of the LibLine option
- Enter a Title where indicated- Library News is a good choice
- Change the Max number of entries to show per block if needed (10 or 12 entries is a good option)
- All other options can be left as No
- Save changes at the bottom
- Your block should now show the LibLine blog posts and will update automatically when new posts are published

*Note- had previously added the LibLine feed to my own Eagle Online courses and made it shareable to all HCC instructors, so that is why you may see it already listed as a feed choice. Consider sharing your feeds as well under the Manage all my feeds option.

Or, Just Add the LibLine Widget!
This widget is a more attractively packaged and compact option to deliver LibLine posts to your students from within Eagle Online. To use it, just-

- Go to Libline at http://libline.blogspot.com/
- Click on the Get the New LibLine Widget page link at lower right
- Click on the link to go to the widget code page (link is labeled- Click Here)
- Choose the Narrow size option as shown below (best for sidebars like the one in Eagle Online)
- Click on the blue Embed button as shown below On the next screen, as shown below, you can leave the choice set as JavaScript and choose Copy
- Back in Eagle Online (make sure you have editing turned on!) - from the Blocks tab, choose to add an HTML block
- Go to the new HTML block
• Click on the Configuration option
• Type in a Block Title- Library News is suggested
• Click on the Toggle HTML Source button on the editor's toolbar (like this- < >).
• Paste (Ctrl-V) in the code snippet
• Save changes at the bottom
• View the results! Your HTML block should now show the LibLine Blog widget
• Note- the same code snippet can be used to add the widget to any HTML page you wish! You can go back to the widget's main webpage and customize it to work in many different places.

Adding Other Library Services to Eagle Online
DE students can also use our AskALibrarian chat window from right inside your online course. They can see when HCC librarians are online and available on popular instant messaging (IM) programs such as Yahoo! Messenger, Google Talk, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), and MSN Messenger. It is common for IM'ers to use more than one IM program, they keep up with all of them by using services such as Pidgin and Meebo. Many students keep their IM programs open whenever they are online and the HCC libraries want to be there when they need us!
You can learn more about Instant Messaging at these websites-
How Instant Messaging Works from HowStuffWorks.com
College Student IM Not All Acronyms

You could simply provide students the link to the HCC libraries' AskALibrarian services at http://library.hccs.edu/learn_how/askalib.php
but consider making it even easier for students to find and use by including it in your Eagle Online course sidebar. Keep reading to find out how this is done.

Adding AskALibrarian to Eagle Online
To add the HCC Libraries' AskALibrarian chat window to your Eagle Online course, just follow these steps-
• Go to Libline at http://libline.blogspot.com/
• Click on the Add the AskALibrarian Chat Window page link at lower right
• Click on the link for the needed code snippet (link is labeled- Code found here)
• Select the entire code snippet
• Choose to copy your selection (right-clicking works well for this, or Ctrl-C)
• Back in Eagle Online (make sure you have editing turned on!) - from the Blocks tab, choose to add an HTML block
• Go to the new HTML block
• Click on the Configuration option
• Type in a Block Title- AskALibrarian or Chat with a Librarian are suggested
• Click on the Toggle HTML Source button on the editor's toolbar. It looks like this- < >
• Paste (Ctrl-V) in the code snippet
• **Save changes** at the bottom
• View the results! Your HTML block should now have the AskALibrarian chat window visible and ready for your students to use
• Note- the same code snippet can be used to add the window to any HTML page you wish!

**Finding More RSS Enabled Sources: Where are all the feeds?**

You can add multiple outside feeds to *Eagle Online*. The process is the same as adding the *LibLine* feed as you just did, except that you first have to find the feed you want.

For example, the *New York Times* has dozens of separate feeds (and **podcasts**, too!) that allow you to specify exactly what stories you want from them. No more hunting through headlines and links! And if you pipe in a category-specific *New York Times* feed right into your online courses, it will be difficult for students to claim that they couldn't find the right website, the link you provided was broken, or that they couldn't find the specific story on the site. Some web browsers such as *Firefox* and *Internet Explorer* allow you to easily view and subscribe to feeds with their built-in services.

Then, there are feed-specific search engines and directories such as-

- **Google Blog Search**
- **Technorati**
- **Search4RSS**
- **RssSearchHub**
- **RssMicro**
- **Syndic8.com**

Many feed aggregators and readers include directory services and many websites will link you right to your favorite one! For example, *Google Reader* gives you a helpful list of popular feeds to choose from or you can add by feed URL. Many services will recommend feeds for you based on your current subscriptions and reading habits.

**Getting Fancy**

There is a lot more that you can do with this technology!

- You can make a feed from any website with **Page2RSS**
- You can convert RSS feeds into other formats, such as Java Script, HTML and PHP that can be used in webpages with services like **WebRSS** and **Feed2js** and **RSS Include**
- Combine feeds together with **Feed.Informer** or **Yahoo Pipes** or **Feed Rinse** and build custom news digests or filtered searches
- Use the Learning Web's RSS Portlet to add a feed to your page
- Receive your RSS feeds as email with **Feed My Inbox** or as text messages with **smsmyrss**
- Send RSS content to your Kindle with **Kindle Feeder**

So, RSS is a very flexible and useful technology. Take advantage of it!