

A guide to Web2.0...



...for beginners

Turn a new page



Newcastle Libraries

By the end of this guide you will:

- Recognise the different kinds of Web2.0 sites
- Feel more confident about using social networking sites such as Facebook

What is Web2.0?

There is no set definition of Web2.0 but the term has been coined to describe websites with content that is interactive and relies heavily on user participation. For example, anyone can create a listing on Ebay or have their own page on Facebook. It's a concept to describe features on websites such as:

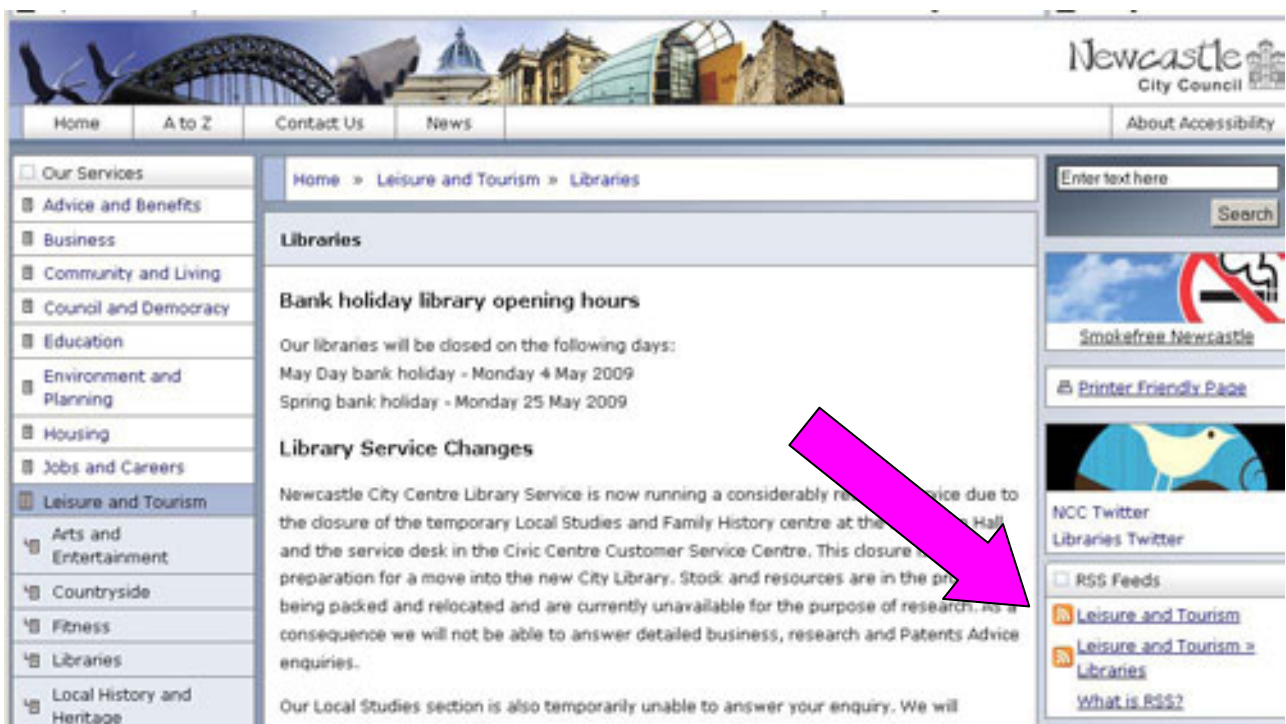
- Blogs
- RSS feeds
- Forums
- Photo and video sharing
- Music sharing
- Social networking
- Virtual worlds and online computer gaming
- Customer reviews

RSS Feeds

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication – but that’s not important! All you need to know is that RSS feeds can help you if you don’t have time to keep checking lots of different websites for new information. Look out for websites that have this symbol:



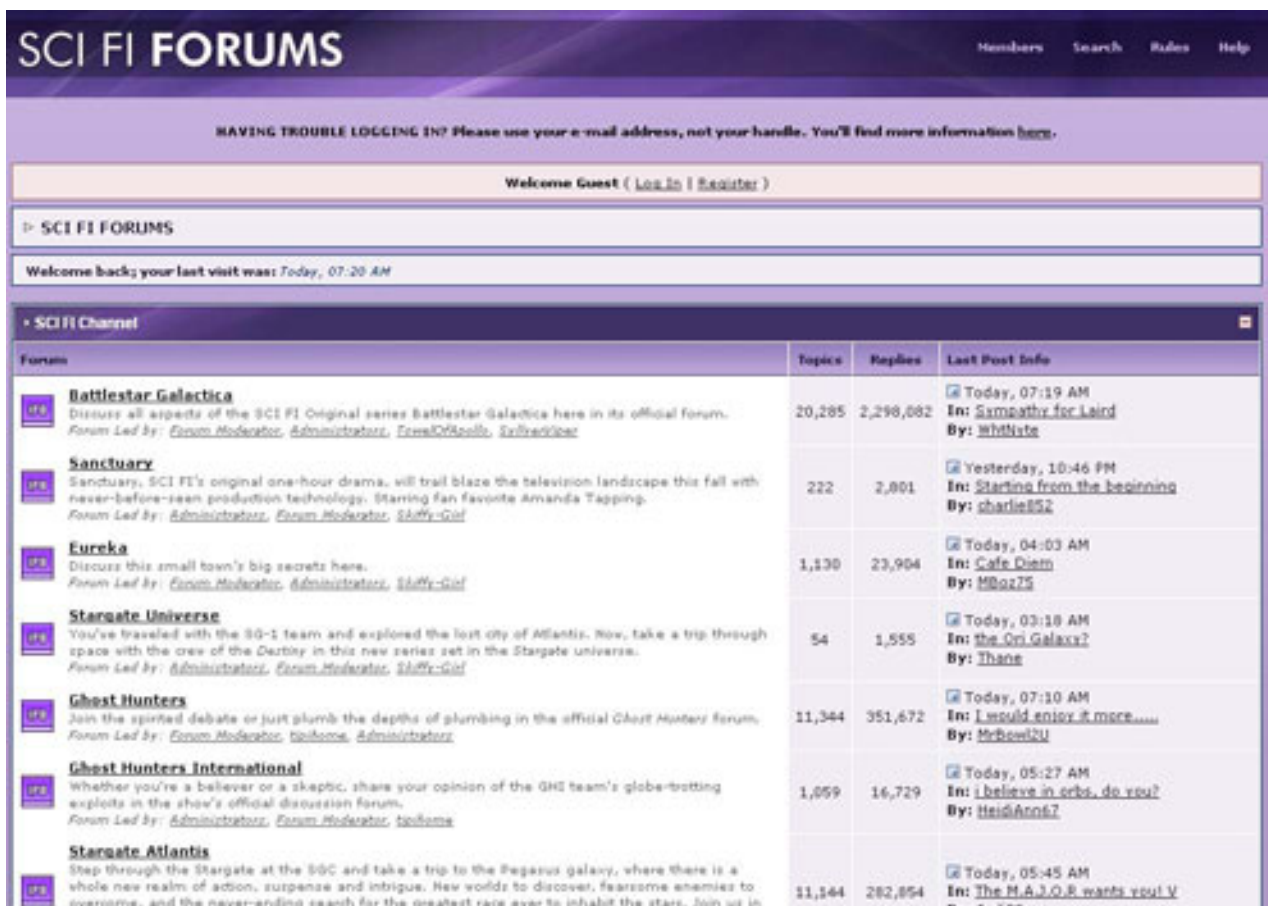
See this screen shot of the Council’s website for example:

A screenshot of the Newcastle City Council website. The page is titled 'Libraries' and features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Our Services', 'Advice and Benefits', 'Business', 'Community and Living', 'Council and Democracy', 'Education', 'Environment and Planning', 'Housing', 'Jobs and Careers', 'Leisure and Tourism', 'Arts and Entertainment', 'Countryside', 'Fitness', 'Libraries', and 'Local History and Heritage'. The main content area displays 'Bank holiday library opening hours' and 'Library Service Changes'. A pink arrow points to the 'RSS Feeds' section in the right-hand sidebar, which includes links for 'Leisure and Tourism', 'Leisure and Tourism > Libraries', and 'What is RSS?'. The top of the page features the Newcastle City Council logo and a search bar.

In order to read updated information on lots of different sites without having to visit them, you need an RSS reader which is available free online. You can register to use them at sites such as www.igoogle.co.uk and www.bloglines.com. Then you just copy and paste links from your favourite website’s RSS feed into the reader and you never have to check more than one website again!

Forums

An online forum is a message board with an initial topic posted by one person and responses by other people. For example, you could go to a DIY forum (www.diynot.com for example) and post the question 'how do I fit laminate flooring?' You would then get replies to your question from other people. There are forums on every subject imaginable! Here's an example:



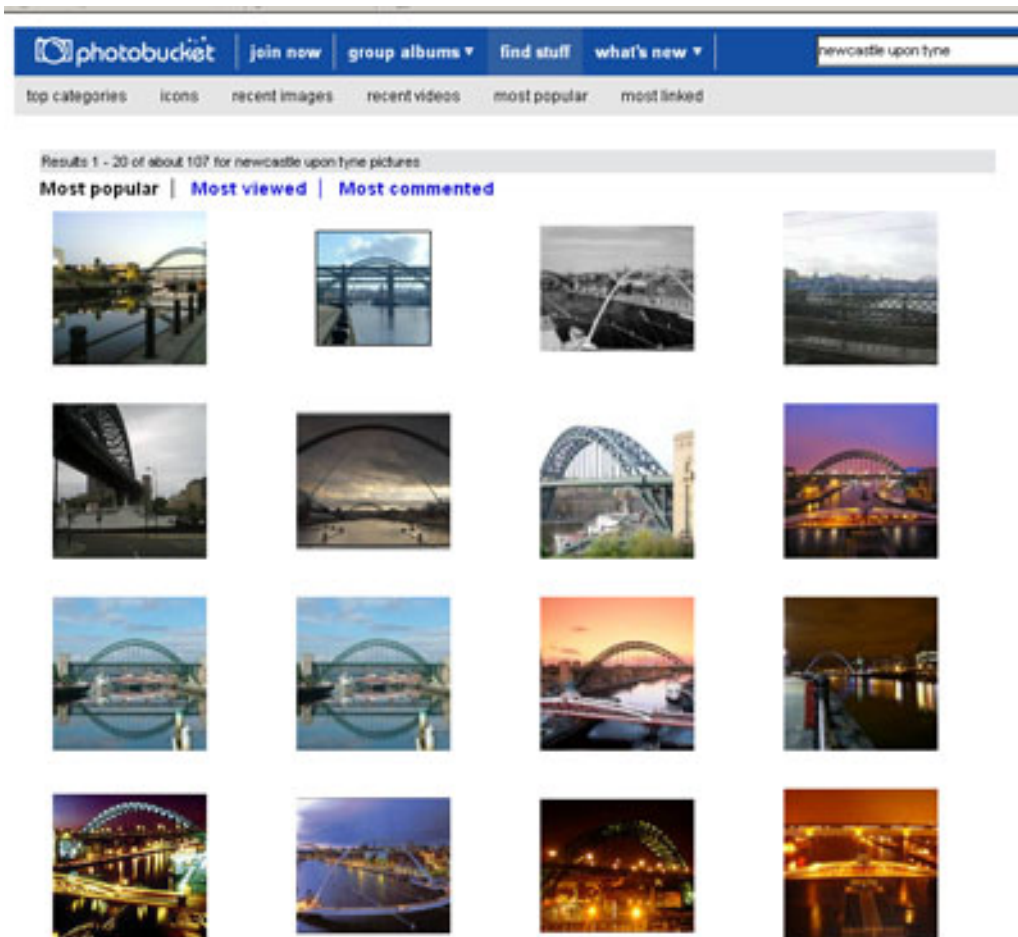
The screenshot shows the SCI FI FORUMS website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Members', 'Search', 'Rules', and 'Help'. Below this is a login prompt: 'HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING IN? Please use your e-mail address, not your handle. You'll find more information [here](#).' A welcome message for a guest user is displayed: 'Welcome Guest ([Log In](#) | [Register](#))'. The main content area is titled 'SCI FI Channel' and contains a table of forums.

Forum	Topics	Replies	Last Post Info
Battlestar Galactica Discuss all aspects of the SCI FI Original series Battlestar Galactica here in its official forum. Forum Led by: Forum Moderator , Administrator , TweeO'Apolly , Sylvester	20,285	2,296,882	Today, 07:19 AM In: Sympathy for Laird By: WhiNyte
Sanctuary Sanctuary, SCI FI's original one-hour drama, will trail blaze the television landscape this fall with never-before-seen production technology. Starring fan favorite Amanda Tapping. Forum Led by: Administrator , Forum Moderator , Staff-Girl	222	2,801	Yesterday, 10:46 PM In: Starting from the beginning By: charlie852
Eureka Discuss this small town's big secrets here. Forum Led by: Forum Moderator , Administrator , Staff-Girl	1,130	23,904	Today, 04:03 AM In: Cafe Diem By: MBQZTS
Stargate Universe You've traveled with the SG-1 team and explored the lost city of Atlantis. Now, take a trip through space with the crew of the Daedalus in this new series set in the Stargate universe. Forum Led by: Administrator , Forum Moderator , Staff-Girl	54	1,555	Today, 03:18 AM In: The Ori Galaxy? By: Thane
Ghost Hunters Join the spirited debate or just plumb the depths of plumbing in the official Ghost Hunters forum. Forum Led by: Forum Moderator , talkome , Administrator	11,344	351,672	Today, 07:10 AM In: I would enjoy it more.... By: MrBowl2U
Ghost Hunters International Whether you're a believer or a skeptic, share your opinion of the GHI team's globe-trotting exploits in the show's official discussion forum. Forum Led by: Administrator , Forum Moderator , talkome	1,059	16,729	Today, 05:27 AM In: i believe in orbs, do you? By: HeidiAnne2
Stargate Atlantis Step through the Stargate at the SGC and take a trip to the Pegasus galaxy, where there is a whole new realm of action, suspense and intrigue. New worlds to discover, fearsome enemies to overcome, and the never-ending search for the greatest race ever to inhabit the stars. Join us in	11,144	282,854	Today, 05:45 AM In: The M.A.J.O.R. wants you! By: Tas678

Yahoo Answers (<http://answers.yahoo.com>) is a website where you can post any question and someone will give you an answer. If you're an expert in a particular field (television, knitting, gardening, physics, relationships...anything) don't forget to share your knowledge and answer questions yourself! Staff from Newcastle Libraries also answer questions on the site as part of the Enquire service (see <http://www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/enquire/about.html> for more information).

Photo and video sharing

You can share and store photographs on websites such as Flickr (pronounced Flicker - www.flickr.com) and Photobucket (www.photobucket.com). You can limit who is allowed to see your pictures, for example just your family, or you can tag your photographs with keywords so they are easier for other people to search for.



You can do the same thing with videos – you’ve probably already heard of YouTube (www.youtube.com). Newcastle Libraries have there own profile on YouTube where you can watch a time-lapse video of the demolition of the old city library. There’s also Video Jug (www.videojug.com) which offers instructional videos on subjects like cooking, painting, installing RAM...the list is endless!

Music sharing

The way we listen to music has been changing for a number of years. Now you can download and listen to songs as well as review and discuss music online. You can listen to most radio stations online and you can hear a sample of a song or album before you buy it.

A good website to try out is LastFM (www.lastfm.com) as you can listen to personalised radio stations based on your tastes, listen to individual full length tracks for free (up to 3 times/track) and it will even recommend new bands to you based on what you've listened to before.



Other sites to try:

www.amazon.co.uk/music

www.ilike.com

Social networking

You have the ability to create your own personalised profile pages with websites such as Facebook and MySpace. You can set up your profile page for free on these sites – list your interests, join groups, post photos and video, play games and chat to friends. Even meet up with long lost school friends. Businesses and local councils are becoming more accessible through these social networking websites. To get a bit of practice, try searching for the Newcastle Libraries' pages on Facebook (www.facebook.co.uk) and Myspace (www.myspace.co.uk) - start discussions about your favourite books/films and keep up to date with events.



Social networking has also enabled people across the world to share information about their family tree and reunite lost family members on sites such as www.genesreunited.co.uk.

Virtual worlds and online computer gaming

You may have heard of Second Life (www.secondlife.com) in the media already. This is an example of a virtual world where you can create a computerised version of yourself called an 'avatar' and walk around a computer generated landscape interacting with other people. It's free to set up and wander around but there are monthly fees if you want to buy 'Linden dollars' to spend on items like new clothes, a house or a plot of land within Second Life. Virtual worlds don't have to be as in depth and complicated as this, some are just made up of a forum or chat area of a website where you can use a photograph or picture as your avatar.



Another popular use of virtual worlds is in 'massively multiplayer online role-playing games' or MMORPG for short! An example is World of Warcraft where you can roam around a fantasy world, fighting and casting spells playing characters such as dwarfs, trolls, and orcs. There's also a virtual world called Spore (www.spore.com) where you can be responsible for the evolution of a creature, have it take over a planet and then fly into space to take over the planets of other people's creatures! A lot of MMORPG games are free to play online but some are only available if you have bought the game in store for a PC or games console and some charge a monthly fee.

Customer reviews

Most online shopping websites offer the facility for customers to leave reviews of the products they have bought. This is a great way for you to be better informed before you buy, especially as you can't physically handle the product as you can in a high street shop. Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk) sells books, DVDs, CDs, toys, jewellery and clothes – and anyone can review an item they have bought.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

***** **Brilliant album, but what are they like live!**, 6 Jun 2009

By [A. C. Patrick](#) (Newcastle upon Tyne) - [See all my reviews](#)

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My partner and I have been hooked on Royworld since hearing the track 'Man in the Machine' in April 08. Since then we've seen them live at Leeds and Newcastle and they were absolutely brilliant!

We had the privilege of meeting these guys (Duff, Rob & Tim) following their gig at Leeds. 'Cockpit' and we can only describe them as humble, down to earth gentlemen. Keep your feet on the ground lads and enjoy further success!

If you like Man in the Machine, Duff and Electricity, then you'll love this album! And if you get the chance to see them live - make the effort - you won't be disappointed! Check out their 'my space' for a further taste of Royworld!

[Comment](#) | [Bookmark](#) | Was this review helpful to you? [Yes](#) [No](#) [Report Abuse](#)

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful:

***** **Royworld - breath of fresh air**, 12 May 2009

By [G. Goldman](#) (USA) - [See all my reviews](#)

[Help](#) [View](#)

Royworld are like a breath of fresh air for the UK music scene! First time I heard them was on Radio 1 with Man in the Machine. I think Jo Wiley played this and have been hooked ever since. Duff is their latest single and on the strength of those two songs (plus brakes, which is on their Myspace) I've pre-ordered the album! Not long until it arrives in the letter box!

[Comment](#) | [Bookmark](#) | Was this review helpful to you? [Yes](#) [No](#) [Report Abuse](#)

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***** **Made me smile straight away :)**
I first heard them on Radio2 and have been waiting with bated breath ever since for the album.

It doesn't disappoint - it is truly uplifting and heartfelt stuff... [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by Mr. S. R. Holt

***** **Gathering 'bout'**

I bought the cd on the back of the singles 'Duff' and 'Man in the machine' but unfortunately these two tracks are as good as it gets really. [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by S. Knight

***** **Watch out, Royworld have arrived!**

I had never heard of Royworld until browsing music on iTunes, when a link suggested people who liked Coldplay might like 'Royworld'. [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by J. Fuller

***** **Journey meets Adkins with the gang of Queen!**

Saw this band supporting (I think!) the Scorpions and I was well impressed! The vocalist actually sounds better and more prominent in the live as opposed to the cd! [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by Mr. J. L. Turner

***** **Excellent Debut**

This year saw the release of the debut album by Royworld and excellent stuff it is!

Normally I listen to debut albums with an air of caution, knowing full well that... [Read more](#)

Published 8 months ago by Leigh O'Shea

***** **Royworld are going to be BIG**

Tripadvisor (www.tripadvisor.co.uk) is dedicated to reviews about travel. So if you've been on holiday and found a nice beach, or a bad experience in a hotel,

you can post your thoughts and photographs for the world to see. Note: If you are interested in finding out more about online shopping please see our 'Introduction to shopping online' internet taster guide.

Other sites to try out:

www.reevoo.co.uk

The screenshot shows the TripAdvisor website interface for searching hotels in Orlando, Florida. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Destinations', 'Fun & Games', and 'Holiday Ideas'. Below that, a search bar is visible. The main content area is titled 'Orlando hotels' and includes a search filter for 'Hotels (110)', 'B&Bs (5)', 'Specialty Lodging (14)', and 'Vacation Rentals (102)'. A search box for 'Orlando Hotels' is present, with fields for 'Check-in', 'Check-out', and 'Adults'. To the right, there's a map showing hotel locations in Orlando. Below the map, a 'Recommended Hotels' section highlights 'Fairfield Inn & Suites Orlando International Drive' with a 'TripAdvisor Traveller Rating' of 4.5/5 based on 139 reviews. The average price is listed as £82 (£117). A 'Best deals: Orlando hotels' section is also visible, listing various offers and deals.

Jargon Buster

Aggregator	Also called a feed reader. A website which collects RSS feeds from lots of sites and makes them readable, usually in the form of a list
Avatar	A virtual personality that you can create for yourself.
Blog	A blog (short for "web log") is a type of web page that offers a series of posted items (short articles, photos, diary entries, etc.).
Forum	A place where people can leave comments and reply to each other.
Mashup	An application or website that combines two or more elements of other applications. For example an estate agents using GoogleMaps to display the locations of properties.
RSS or RSS feed	Short for Really Simple Syndication. Any website can issue an RSS feed. By subscribing to an RSS feed, you are alerted to new additions to the website since you last read it. In order to read RSS feeds, you must use an aggregator/feed reader.
Scrobbling	When you use a website such as LastFM and listen to a song, the name of the song is sent to LastFM and added to your music profile. This helps them to recommend music to you, create personalised music stations and meet other users with similar tastes.
Social Bookmarking	A way of saving and sharing favourite webpages that you can access from any computer with the internet.
Tags	A keyword which you can add to a photo, website or similar which will help you better find that information. For example, tagging people who appear in photographs on Facebook.
Web 2.0	A concept used to describe new web based services which allow anyone to create their own content on the internet.
Wiki	A term meaning "quick" in Hawaiian. A website which allows people to add and change information on a particular subject.
Virtual	Something which exists online, for example, a virtual store in Second Life.