

“Just the Facts, Ma’am”: RSS and your library

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What is RSS?

- Stands for:
 - “really simple syndication”
 - “rich site summary”
 - “RDF site summary”

- Means:

“[XML] format for syndicating news and the content of news-like sites”

Mark Pilgrim, *Dive Into XML*



XML

(eXtensible Markup Language)

- Next generation HTML
- HTML tags describe how the text should look:
 - i.e., `<i>dive into xml</i>` = *dive into XML*
- XML tags describe what the text is:
 - i.e., `<copyright>Memorial University Libraries</copyright>`
- Sound familiar?



RSS Flavors

There are several versions of RSS

- RSS 0.91 (UserLand):
 - Dead easy!
 - Technically obsolete but still popular
 - Good for basic feeds
- RSS 2.0 (UserLand):
 - Much more complex
 - Actively being developed by UserLand
 - Use for metadata rich feeds
- RDF RSS 2.0:
 - Not controlled by a single vendor (non-profit)
 - Stable & actively being developed.
 - Uses DC tags

UserLand RSS 2.0 Feed

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
- <rss version="2.0">
- <channel>
  <title>RIT Library News</title>
  <description>Rochester Institute of Technology's Wallace Library's News and Happenings.</description>
  <link>http://wally.rit.edu</link>
- <image>
  <title>RIT Library at the Rochester Institute of Technology</title>
  <url>http://wally.rit.edu/rss/librarylogo.gif</url>
  <link>http://wally.rit.edu</link>
</image>
<managingEditor>eadwml@rit.edu (Liz Dopp)</managingEditor>
- <item>
  <title>NEW! Sculpture Exhibition Catalog published by RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press</title>
  <description>Pre-order your copy of Professor Richard Hirsch's ceramics catalog today!</description>
  <link>http://wally.rit.edu/cary/CP_publications/CP_Hirsch.html</link>
</item>
- <item>
  <title>RIT Libraries Celebrate Deaf Awareness Week 2004</title>
  <description>This special week (Sept. 20 -24th) features two special "live" presentations in The Idea Factory at Wallace Library (first floor of Bldg. 5). Stop in any time during the week to view some of the featured STUDENT POSTERS on display, and then please join us at the following times for two special presentations. All events are FREE and OPEN to EVERYONE. THURSDAY, SEPT. 23rd from 11:00 am - Noon Special "LIVE" DRAMA PERFORMANCE by Luane Davis' Drama Group (in The Idea Factory at Wallace Library) FRIDAY, SEPT. 24th from Noon - 1:00 pm * Special Presentation by Pamela Conley; "DEAF LITERATURE" Featuring a discussion and display of student work on deaf autobiographies. (in The Idea Factory at Wallace Library) * interpreters have been requested for Friday's presentation</description>
  <link>http://wally.rit.edu/info/whatsnew.html#DAW</link>
</item>
</channel>
</rss>
```



Address

Google

RDF 2.0 RSS Feed

Go

Links

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
- <rdf:RDF xmlns:rdf="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#" xmlns="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/"
  xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" xmlns:slash="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/slash/"
  xmlns:taxo="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/taxonomy/" xmlns:admin="http://webns.net/mvcb/"
  xmlns:syn="http://purl.org/rss/1.0/modules/syndication/">
- <channel rdf:about="http://www.lisnews.com/">
  <title>LISNews.com</title>
  <link>http://www.lisnews.com/</link>
  <description>Librarian and Information Science News</description>
  <dc:language>en-us</dc:language>
  <dc:rights>Creative Commons Copy</dc:rights>
  <dc:date>2004-09-29T12:13:09+00:00</dc:date>
  <dc:publisher>LISNews</dc:publisher>
  <dc:creator>slash@lisnews.com</dc:creator>
  <dc:subject>Librarian News</dc:subject>
  <syn:updatePeriod>hourly</syn:updatePeriod>
  <syn:updateFrequency>1</syn:updateFrequency>
  <syn:updateBase>1970-01-01T00:00+00:00</syn:updateBase>
- <items>
- <rdf:Seq>
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/1823217" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/1821248" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/1820206" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/1819224" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/2117254" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/2116253" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/1818222" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/163206" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/145254" />
  <rdf:li rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/28/0915216" />
  </rdf:Seq>
</items>
<image rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/images/topics/topicslash.gif" />
<textinput rdf:resource="http://www.lisnews.com/search.pl" />

```



What can RSS be used for?

- Any “periodic” web-based information
 - i.e.,
 - New books
 - Events listings
 - Bibliographies
- Even internal information such as patron information or financial reports
- the 10% of your website that changes frequently



Advantages of Using RSS

- Allows you to scan headlines from several pages at one time
- No ads/spam...yet
- Real time news (feeds are updated constantly)
- You can choose the sites you want to view (pulling info rather than pushing)



How does it all work?

Creating RSS feeds

- Most blog software comes “XML enabled”
- RSS feeds can be created from any databasified data using script

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

photos, charts and graphs. Access to the index is unlimited and the full text of the story can be purchased online if desired. However, keep in mind that the QEII Library has every issue of the New York Times on microfilm!

Click here for access instructions

Posted by: Gillian Byrne on Oct 20, 04 | 9:03 am
 [1] **Give us your comments!** (5 views) |

SEARCH

Advanced search

ARCHIVES
 October 2004
 July 2004

View by Date
View by Category

MAILING LIST



- Chemistry
- Classics
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- English
- Environmental Science
- Folklore
- Food
- Forestry
- Geography
- Health Sciences
- History
- Kinesiology
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Medieval Studies
- Microbiology
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Recreation
- Reference
- Religious Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Water Resources
- WaynemTesting
- Womens Studies
- Zoology



Finding RSS feeds

1. Look for the XML logo on your favourite news sites/blogs



XML



RSS



RDF

2. Use RSS search engines
 - NewsIsFree
 - syndic8
 - Moreover
 - Yahoo!
 - Find That Feed

YAHOO! search[Yahoo!](#) - [Search Home](#) - [Help](#)

Advanced Web Search

You can use the options on this page to create a very specific search. Just fill in the fields you need for your current search.

Show results with

all of these words the exact phrase any of these words none of these words

Tip: Use these options to look for an exact phrase or to exclude pages containing certain words. You can also limit your search to certain parts of pages.

Updated

Site/Domain

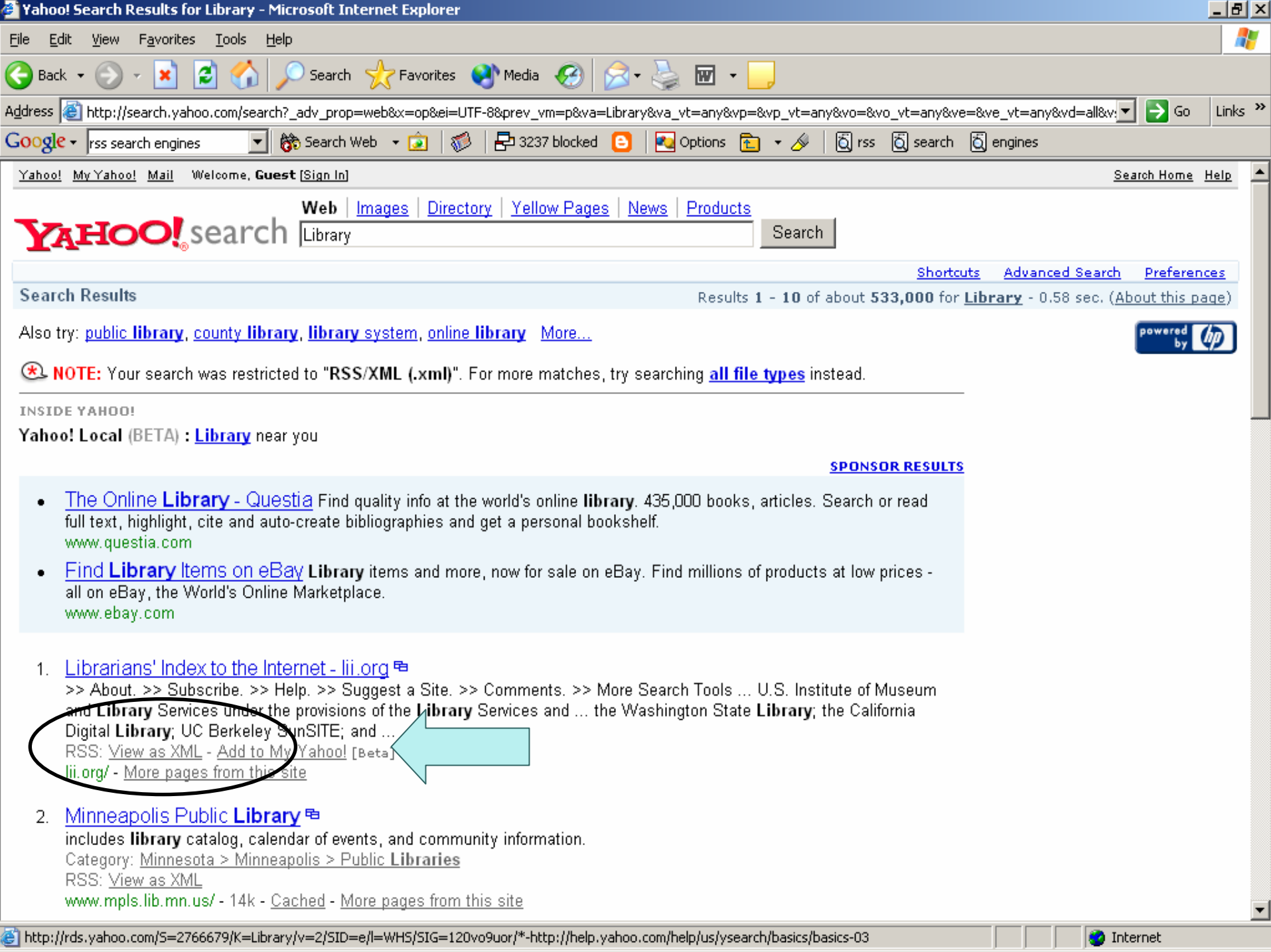
- Any domain
 Only **.com** domains Only **.edu** domains
 Only **.gov** domains Only **.org** domains

 only search in this domain/site:

Tip: You can search for results in a specific website (e.g. yahoo.com) or top-level domains (e.g. .com, .org, .gov).

File Format

Only find results that are:



Web Images Directory Yellow Pages News Products
YAHOO! search Library Search

Search Results Shortcuts Advanced Search Preferences

Search Results Results 1 - 10 of about 533,000 for **Library** - 0.58 sec. (About this page)

Also try: [public library](#), [county library](#), [library system](#), [online library](#) More...



NOTE: Your search was restricted to "RSS/XML (.xml)". For more matches, try searching [all file types](#) instead.

INSIDE YAHOO!

Yahoo! Local (BETA) : [Library](#) near you

SPONSOR RESULTS

- [The Online Library - Questia](#) Find quality info at the world's online **library**. 435,000 books, articles. Search or read full text, highlight, cite and auto-create bibliographies and get a personal bookshelf.
[www.questia.com](#)
- [Find Library Items on eBay](#) **Library** items and more, now for sale on eBay. Find millions of products at low prices - all on eBay, the World's Online Marketplace.
[www.ebay.com](#)

1. [Librarians' Index to the Internet - lii.org](#)
>> About. >> Subscribe. >> Help. >> Suggest a Site. >> Comments. >> More Search Tools ... U.S. Institute of Museum and **Library** Services under the provisions of the **Library** Services and ... the Washington State **Library**; the California Digital **Library**; UC Berkeley SunSITE; and ...
RSS: [View as XML](#) - [Add to My Yahoo!](#) [Beta]
[lii.org/](#) - [More pages from this site](#)

2. [Minneapolis Public Library](#)
includes **library** catalog, calendar of events, and community information.
Category: [Minnesota](#) > [Minneapolis](#) > [Public Libraries](#)
RSS: [View as XML](#)
[www.mpls.lib.mn.us/](#) - 14k - [Cached](#) - [More pages from this site](#)



Reading RSS Feeds

RSS aggregators

- Desktop aggregators
 - AmphetaDesk
 - Newzcrawler
 - Newsmonster
- Web aggregators
 - NewsIsFree
 - MyFeedster
 - Syndic8
 - Bloglines



My Feeds My Blog Clippings

Add Edit Reorder/Sort Options
0 Feeds Mark All Read

Extras

- Recommendations | Tips
- Create Email Subscriptions
- Open Notifier | Download Notifier
- Get a Subscribe To Bloglines Button
- Easy Subscribe Bookmarklet
- Tell A Friend

Welcome [gbyrne@mun.ca](#) Account | Help | Log out

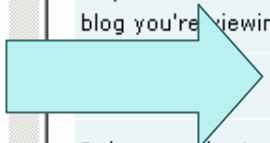
Search All Blogs

Directory Share

Home > [Subscribe](#)

Subscribe

Enter the URL of the blog you wish to subscribe to, and Bloglines will attempt to locate the appropriate feed. An easier way to subscribe to blogs and newsfeeds is to use the [Easy Subscribe Bookmarklet](#), which makes subscribing to a blog you're viewing just one click away.



Blog or Feed URL:

Below are shortcuts that make it easy to subscribe to public Live Journals, Xangas, Google Groups and public Yahoo Groups.

LiveJournal User:

Xanga User:

Google Group:

Yahoo Group:

[Create an Email Subscription](#)



My Feeds My Blog Clippings

Add Edit Reorder/Sort Options

- 1 Feeds
- Librarians' Index to the Internet** Mark All Re...

Extras

- Recommendations | Tips
- Create Email Subscriptions
- Open Notifier | Download Notifier
- Get a Subscribe To Bloglines Button
- Easy Subscribe Bookmarklet
- Tell A Friend

Welcome gbyrne@mun.ca Account Help Log out

Search All Blogs

Directory Share

2,299 subscribers related feeds mark all new unsubscribe edit subscription

Librarians' Index to the Internet



New and newly-discovered Web sites for librarians and everyone else, updated every Thursday morning. See more resources on our site, http://lii.org/.

10 Items | Sort Oldest First | Updated Thu, Sep 23 2004 2:02 PM

Reporting Civil Rights

"This site ... presents the reporters and journalism of the American Civil Rights Movement." Find writer profiles, a timeline for 1941 through 1973, and "Perspectives on Reporting," which features personal recollections from reporters active in that era. A companion to the two-volume set from Library of America, "Reporting Civil Rights."

Posted on: Thu, Sep 23 2004 2:02 PM | Email This | Clip/Blog This Keep New:

Sacred Ground

Companion site to a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) Frontline program that "tells the inside story of the first stormy year in the struggle to design the Freedom Tower, the signature skyscraper to rise on the site where the World Trade Center once stood." Provides essays and slide shows on the designs, profiles of stakeholders, information about the architects, a chronology of the project, video clips, a bibliography, and related links.

Posted on: Thu, Sep 23 2004 2:02 PM | Email This | Clip/Blog This Keep New:

Schlage: History of Locks

A brief illustrated history of locks, including information about knotted ropes, padlocks, treasure chest locks, and key locks. From the Schlage lock manufacturing company.

- Subscribed Feeds (111/130)**
- Librarians' Index to the Internet** (36)
 - Tame the Web: Technology and Libr...**
 - ESPN.com** (13/18)
 - ESPN.com - NFL** (10/18)
 - Luke Hutteman's Weblog** (5/5)
 - Wired** (12/12)
 - CNet News.com** (5/5)
 - Slashdot** (8/10)
 - Scripting News** (8/8)

Title	Date	Author	Subject
... LI: This Week's Batch, September 30, 2004	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
ABAG Earthquake Maps and Information	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Aesop's Fables Online	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Ancient Sea Creature Sucked In Prey	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Asteroid 4179 Toutatis	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Aurora Forecast	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Chicago Renaissance	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Commission on Presidential Debates	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Deliberately Concealed Garments Project	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Documenting Bush's Military Records	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Eighteenth-Century E-Texts	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Evolution and Analysis of the Toothbrush	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Extreme Oil	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Ferrets Anonymous: Promoting California's Awareness of the Domestic...	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
Find a Flu Shot	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
H.H. Bennett: Photographer Extraordinaire	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		
How Americans Use Instant Messagin...	10/1/2004 4:33 PM		

Feed: Librarians' Index to the Internet
Title: Ancient Sea Creature Sucked In Prey

Article about the Dinocephalosaurus, a "marine reptile [that] used a neck nearly twice the length of its body to capture its prey, 230 million years ago. Fish saw only its small head in murky waters and, when they came too close, the animal quickly expanded its formidable throat to suck in its dinner." This creature belongs to a "little-known group called protorosaurs." Includes links to related sites. From the online version of New Scientist magazine.



The Future

- ATOM
- Intranet implications
- Portal integration
- Hacks?

MUN Daily Events

Memorial University's Daily News System today.mun.ca

Events for October 22, 2004

- Battle of the Bands**
Location: Breezeway Bar **Time:** 6 p.m.
Come hear the latest from Memorial's up and coming bands. Prizes include a \$500 first prize and a feature on CHMR 93.5.
- Faculty/Staff Social & BBQ**
Location: The Backlot, Grenfell **Time:** 3 p.m.
End your work week and kick off your weekend with a relaxing faculty and staff get-together.
- Reading from new novel**
Location: SN-2101 **Time:** 4 p.m.
Governor-General's Award-winning author Greg Hollingshead will read from his new novel, Bedlam. All welcome.

the muse

The Muse

MUN Portal Feed

- International student develops tuberculosis**
If bacteria don't have a sense of irony, they certainly have good timing. Newfoundland typically has only six cases of tuberculosis every year, but a recent high-profile case was diagnosed the day before...
- Memorial student found dead in United States**
Most of us are familiar with hearing about missing persons and homicides in the United States, but last week's national news struck a chord close to home.
- Open Terry**
Environmentalist, MUNSU councillor, but most of all entertainer, Terry McDonald has gone from playing in front of six people downtown to hosting one of the most successful open mic's in the city.
- Pandemic?**
A Janeway pediatrician warns there is a moderate risk that