

Reflection: Using Aggregators in an educational setting

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Aggregators seem to be the natural evolution of electronic information sharing.

While in some ways they resemble a "subscription" in the classical sense (as one would subscribe to a newspaper or magazine delivered to your door by a postman), this analogy really only serves to describe the process in layman's terms. In more precise terms, you are creating a tool that retrieves information from a potentially limitless number of sources across the globe. The user is setting up channels that will allow information of interest to flow to them.

That's an amazing thing in itself, but the educational possibilities are also amazing.

For teachers and administrators, aggregators could deliver to them the latest in educational innovations and research from professional journals and blogs. For parents and students, aggregators could cull the latest news from blogs created by the school system, the school, classroom teachers, and other students. I could envision a school newspaper being published entirely online and feeding the student population daily news through aggregators. I could see aggregators pulling the latest assignments from teacher blogs for each class and delivering them in one convenient package. There are really some amazing possibilities.

Aggregators are a great addition to the web 2.0 teacher toolbox and could be used to keep students and educators focused and current on the information being shared.