

Oncourse: News, Using the News Tool

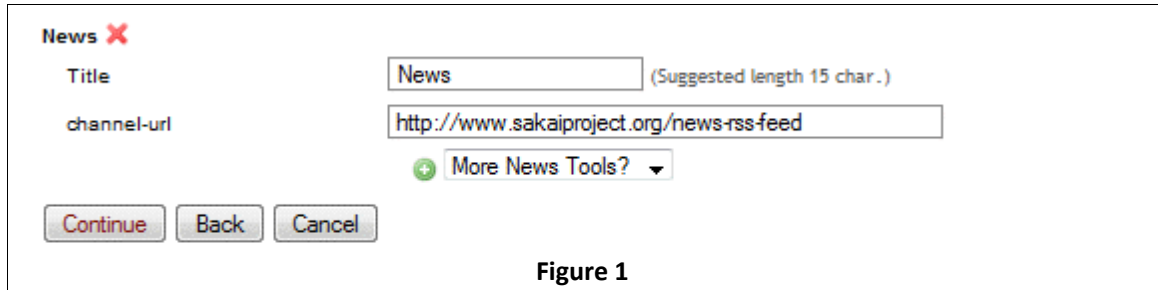
The news tool uses RSS to bring continuously updated remote content feeds to your worksite.

Adding a News Feed

The News tool can be used to automatically retrieve text-based documents and display them within an Oncourse site. Instead of providing links to web sites and asking participants to monitor those sites for new information, the News tool displays those updated items within Oncourse. To set up your worksite to display news, you must specify a URL pointing to an RSS news feed. An RSS news feed is a specially formatted list of news articles. You can find RSS feeds by using an Internet search engine (e.g., Google or Yahoo). Sites that distribute news in RSS format are called “news feeds.” The News tool is an RSS “news aggregator” (or “news reader”) that reads and displays text-based content from RSS news feeds, similar to how iTunes can pull in podcasts and allow you to listen or view them.

1. In the menubar, **Click Site Setup**, and then from the tool function links, **Click Edit Tools**.
2. **Check News**, and **Click Continue**.

The screen will look something like this:



The screenshot shows a form titled "News" with a red 'X' icon. It contains two input fields: "Title" with the text "News" and a note "(Suggested length 15 char.)", and "channel-url" with the text "http://www.sakaiproject.org/news-rss-feed". Below the fields is a dropdown menu labeled "More News Tools?" with a green plus icon and a downward arrow. At the bottom are three buttons: "Continue", "Back", and "Cancel".

Figure 1

3. In the **Title field**, enter a title for the news feed (15 characters or less). This name will show at the left in the menubar.
4. In the URL field, **Type a URL**, or **Copy and Paste a URL from a browser window**.
*Note: You can **Click the More News Tools? Drop-down list** to select up to three additional news tools that you would like to add.*

There are several common icons that indicate whether the site offers an RSS feed:

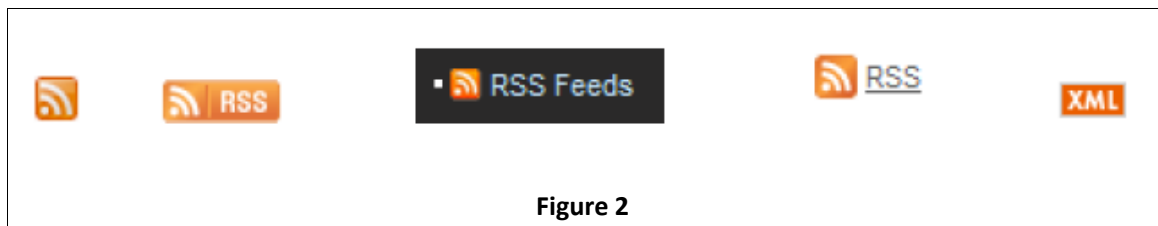


Figure 2

5. **Click Continue**.
6. **Click Finish**.
Note: You can add more than one News tool at any time to a single site. To lessen confusion, rename the title, which will appear on the left in the menubar. Each news feed will be listed as its own tool in the menubar.

Editing a News Feed

A news feed can be easily edited using the options within a News tool.

1. From the list of tools to the left, **Click the title** of the feed you wish to edit.
2. **Click Options** in the tool functions list.
3. **Change the Title and URL fields** as you wish.
4. To save your changes, **Click Update Options**.

Deleting a News feed

You can remove a news feed you added to a site using the Site Setup tool.

1. From the list of tools at the left, **Click Site Setup**.
2. **Click Edit Tools**.
3. From the list of tools, **Uncheck the news feed you wish to delete**.
4. **Click Continue**.
5. To delete your feed, **Click Finish**.