

# **FemFinder**

## **Functional Specification**

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### **Overview**

FemFinder is a desktop RSS reader for the Mac OS X platform that displays only news articles relating to women and women's issues. Often popular news websites make users search to find articles or designated sections that pertain to women. This digging makes it difficult for anyone interested in women's issues to keep up with relevant news. FemFinder allows users to input an RSS feed URL from any website and, using a text analysis algorithm, the application will identify and display only articles related to women.

### **Scenarios**

This section provides hypothetical scenarios of FemFinder users.

#### **Scenario 1: Julie**

Julie is a junior studying at a large private university on the east coast in a region that contains many different higher education institutions. She declared her major in women's studies as a freshman and is an activist and self-identified feminist. On campus she leads or participates in many student organizations that address issues related to women, such as Students Against Sexual Assault, Feminist Student Union, Women's Leadership Program, and Take Back the Night. In her free time, Julie either organizes or attends political rallies and volunteers with her co-ed community service fraternity. Julie likes to keep up to date with news regarding women's issues, but finds it difficult with her busy schedule to search through all of the news outlets she reads just to find articles related to what she cares about. She has even tried standard RSS readers to see if that

would eliminate some of the hassle. While having all of her news feeds consolidated into one place did help, she still finds herself combing through and deleting a lot of irrelevant articles.

While expressing these concerns at the office hours of one of her women's studies professors, Julie learns about FemFinder and how it extracts out and displays only articles related to women. That night Julie downloads the application and adds all of her favorite news websites. Soon she sees an entire feed composed of nothing but articles about women and women's issues. Using FemFinder, Julie saves valuable time every day and is able to stay on top of breaking news stories, which ultimately helps her to contribute more effectively in class discussions. Additionally, having such a concentrated amount of information relating to women's issues has helped Julie identify an underutilized network of awareness and support in her region. Based on this information, Julie founds an organization that operates across all of the different higher education institutions in her area to raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence on campus.

## **Scenario 2: Antonio**

Antonio grew up in Oregon in a household and town that were both fairly liberal. He graduated from college with a degree in political science, and immediately went on to participate in the White House Internship Program. Afterwards, he returned to his hometown where he became an elected precinct committee person. Among Antonio's duties were facilitating absentee ballot access and voter registration, distributing campaign and party literature, heading get out the vote efforts, and addressing voter concerns. While this position may be fairly low ranking in terms of political office, Antonio saw it as an important job nonetheless because to him it was on this direct level that elections are won. Therefore, he became concerned when he could not address some voter concerns having to do with women's issues as sufficiently as other issue areas he was better versed in.

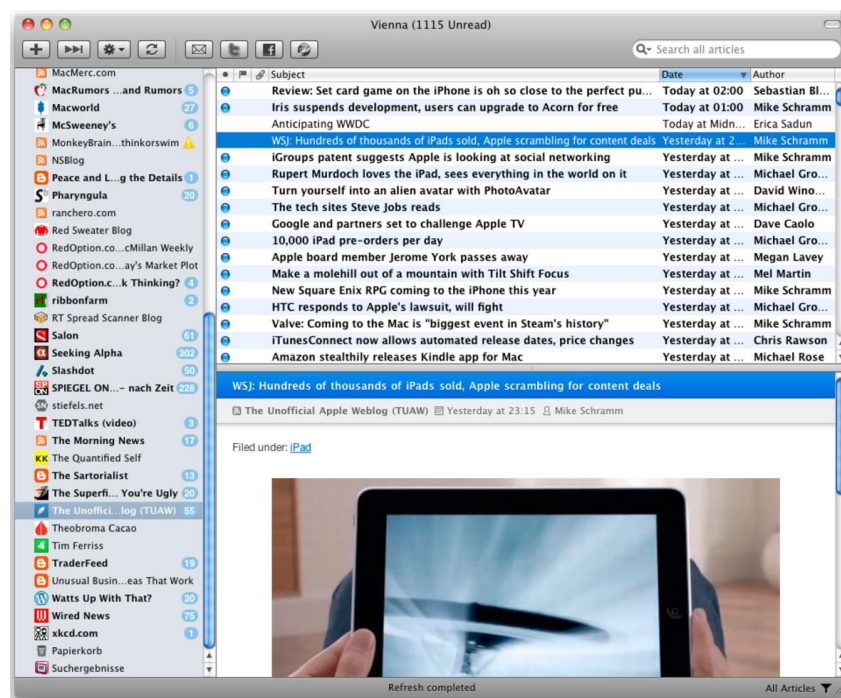
After a quick online search he found FemFinder. Antonio liked that it combined a bunch of different news sources, and therefore perspectives, altogether in one convenient desktop application that focused specifically on women's issues. It was just what he needed to be able to speak more intelligently with women voters. So every morning before going to work he would eat breakfast and read any new articles on FemFinder. That year, the Democratic Party won elections at both the local and state levels. Antonio felt a sense of accomplishment knowing that he likely contributed to these wins by spending more time learning about women's issues using FemFinder.

## Non Goals

This version will not support the following features:

1. Automatic article recommendation system
2. Donation plug-in that suggests non-profits related to the theme of an article

## FemFinder User Interface



Source: <http://www.vienna-rss.org>

## **Toolbar**

The toolbar at the top of FemFinder has several features that are critical to the user experience. There are two main groupings of buttons; the first deals with directly manipulating the content while the second set is used to export content to email or social media. The most important button is the plus button that is used to add new RSS feeds to the reader. When pressed, the application brings up a modal where the user can input a URL for an RSS feed. There is also a button in the toolbar that allows users to refresh all of their feeds so they can make sure they have the latest content. Both of these are in the first grouping of buttons. All the way to the right hand side of the application is a search bar that can be used to query the news articles.

## **Sidebar**

At the left hand side of FemFinder there is a sidebar that contains all of the RSS feeds that a user is subscribed to. When a user first downloads the application, there will be some preset folders in the sidebar, one of which will be for favorites that a user can add articles to. Then whenever a new feed is added using the plus button, it will appear in the sidebar. Feeds that contain unread content will be shown in bold with a number to the right of it denoting how many unread articles there are in that feed. A user can also customize the organization of the list by clicking on the title and dragging it to reorder.

## **News Article List and Display**

This section of FemFinder is where all of the articles of a particular feed are displayed when a user clicks on the title in the sidebar. The articles displayed can be sorted according to any field at the top, such as date, subject, or author, and unread articles are denoted by bold text and a blue dot on the left hand side. When a user single clicks on an article it will appear in the display directly below

the article list. Along with plain text, this display shows any kind of HTML or video content embedded in an article for easy viewing. If the selected content is a podcast there will be a file in the MP4 format that a user can listen to. Double clicking on an article will bring the article up in an internal browser, which appears in a tabbed format with the original article list and display being in another tab. On the tab will be a button with an 'x' on it so that the user can close the internal browser and continue reading other news articles in the list and display view.