



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

FeedStrap: *A Tool for Environmental Scanning*

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Working Draft, Pre-Decisional, Deliberative Document



What is Feedstrap:

FeedStrap is a web application that gathers links from collaborators and stores them in a searchable user-friendly database.

- It is built and maintained by the Strategic Studies Group
- Enables sharing of news articles, research documents, SME Interviews, and After Action Reports into a single database
- Generates the Weekly Reads Report
- Maintains the “Emerging Strategic Issues List” (ESIL)



Overview

Feedstrap allows users to –

- Save Internet articles directly from the browser
- Tag articles and associate them with Futures and Strategic Analysis papers
- Quickly search the entire database by date, tags, user names, topics, etc.
- Maintain a list of analysis papers – past, current and future found in ESIL
- Easily generate reports, such as the “Weekly Reads Report”
- Monitor trends to help inform VA’s Strategic Environmental Assessment, VA Strategic Plan, and Policy Research Agenda
- Receive feedback on papers and ESIL Topics
- Subscribe to RSS email alerts





SSG Papers: Track, Measure, Read, Comment

Emerging Strategic Issues List							
Name	Description	INTENSITY	RELEVANCE	IMPACT	# Comments	# Links	Attachment
The Future of Education	High unemployment coupled with a tough economy is causing many would-be employees to opt for higher (expand...)	LOW	MED	MED	2	10	
Alternate Futures for Benefits and Services	Fiscal, social and demographic changes are expected to affect how Americans perceive Veteran entitlement (expand...)	HIGH	LOW	MED	0	44	
Cemeteries in a Social Media World	Now that over 50% of adults in the United States are using social media websites, the types of pag (expand...)	LOW	MED	MED	0	19	
Changing Nature of Warfare	Given the probable nature of war in the 20 years, VA will have to continue to adapt a Veteran (expand...)	LOW	MED	MED	0	17	
Ethics	There has always been tension between the balance of ethical responsibility and the needs of individuals a (expand...)	LOW	MED	MED	0	3	
Future of Government Communication	As the Federal government faces declining budgets and the public advocates for more transparency, the (expand...)	LOW	LOW	MED	0	4	
Future of Health IT	Mobile applications will have a significant impact on Health and Health Care Delivery. Continued us (expand...)	HIGH	MED	MED	0	31	
Generational Impact	A generational study between Millennials (those born between 1980 and 1995 and	HIGH	MED	MED	0	46	

Track



Read

Back to Emerging Strategic Issues List

Edit

The Future of Education

Description:

High unemployment coupled with a tough economy is causing many would-be employees to opt for higher education, rather than remain in a tough job market. At the same time, these students are pursuing their education in a field that is changing how it delivers its services. There is a trend for universities to offer virtual classes in lieu of the traditional "brick and mortar" classes in part to meet student demand, but also to lower their costs. For colleges and universities to remain competitive many have started offering various forms of education to include the traditional classroom, the virtual classroom, but also the studio where schools have created a "peer to peer" learning environment where groups discuss and learn to solve problems among the group while a teacher serves as a facilitator. Additionally, many schools are beginning to explore other forms of education to include tele-apprenticeships where students are able to learn from remote locations in an ongoing work setting. VA should consider how education will transform in the future and determine how educational benefits will have to change to accommodate the increase in those seeking higher education opportunities, but also the varying types of education.

Intensity	Relevance	Impact
LOW		MED

Strategic Imperatives

- Be A Pro-Active and Agile Institution**
 - Be forward-leaning and reward innovation
- Be a Trusted Partner**
 - Diversify the way we connect with our clients
 - Know and understand our clients, and our business
 - Do what we do best, and partner for the rest
- Be Recognized for Providing a Quality Experience**
 - Empower independence through support

Comments:

You are logged in as Matt Halbe...

☐ receive replies via email

there are 2 comments...

Thomas - 16 Sep 12

This is an issue which we should track. Recent trends show an increase in virtual education. This article is of note because it shows a decrease in enrollment.

Matt Halbe...

linked below...

Enrollment numbers... It will be interesting to see if this continues into the future.

Maybe in the future, college will be more reserved for the upper echelons of the income bracket and kids will no longer go to college by default after graduating high school?

Measure

Comment



Internet Resources: Post, Tag, Search



FeedStrap - Post It

Link:

Title:

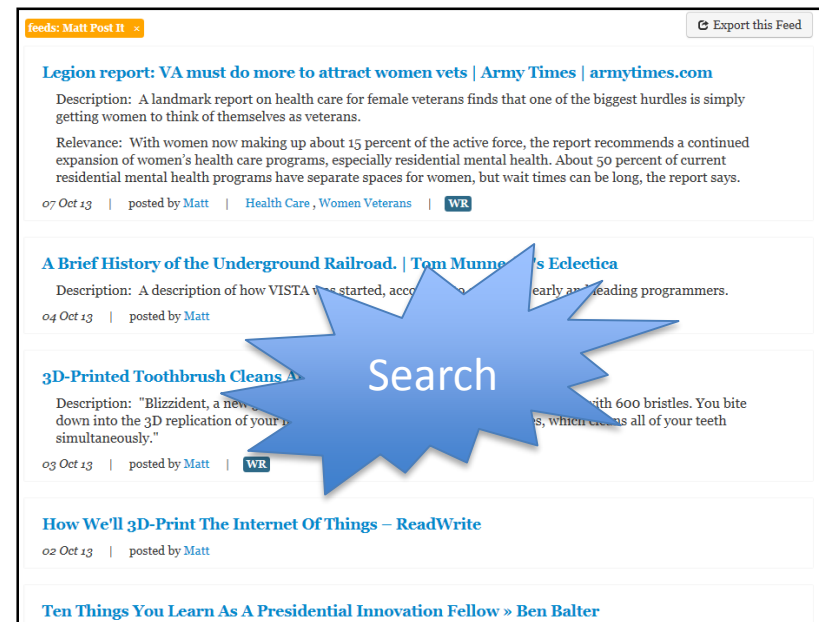
Description:

Relevance:

ESIL:

Tags:

Tag





Feedstrap is located: <http://feedstrap.vacloud.us/>

For Question or Comments, contact:

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