

Understanding the RSS Feed

What it means for the Nigerian Podcast Index (NPI)

The short version

Your RSS feed is your podcast's **official ID card**.

No RSS, no indexing. No indexing, no record. History is unforgiving like that.

What an RSS feed really is

An RSS feed is a live XML file that carries everything about your podcast:

- Show title and description
- Cover art
- Episode titles, summaries, and audio files
- Publishing dates
- Ownership and technical metadata

All podcast platforms read the same feed. The platforms change. The feed remains.

Why the RSS feed matters to the Nigerian Podcast Index

The NPI is not a streaming app. It is a **national catalogue**.

The Index relies on your RSS feed to:

- Confirm your podcast exists and is active
- Identify it as Nigerian (location matters)
- Track longevity and consistency
- Avoid duplicates and missing shows
- Preserve accurate titles, artwork, and credits

RSS feed vs “podcast link” (please don’t confuse the two)

- Spotify link
- Apple Podcasts link
- YouTube link

These are **storefronts**.

The RSS feed is the **supply line**.

NPI follows the supply line.

Finding your RSS feed (the practical bit)

If you're hosted on Spotify for Creators

Spotify now hosts podcasts directly, which is where confusion starts.

How to find your feed:

1. Log in to **Spotify for Creators**
2. Go to **Settings** → **Podcast availability**
3. Look for **RSS feed** or **Share RSS feed**
4. Copy the feed URL (it ends in `.xml`)

Important note:

Spotify's RSS feed works, but it is **platform-controlled**. You cannot fully edit advanced tags like `<podcast:location>`. For indexing, it's acceptable, but not ideal long-term.

Think of it as renting, not owning.

If you're hosted on Afripods

Afripods provides a proper, independent RSS feed, which is good news.

How to find it:

1. Log in to your **Afripods dashboard**
2. Open your podcast show settings
3. Locate **RSS Feed URL**
4. Copy the full feed link

This feed is stable, portable, and designed for distribution across platforms, exactly what indexing systems prefer.

If you can't find your RSS feed at all

One of three things is happening:

1. You're uploading audio to a platform, not hosting a podcast
2. Your host hides the feed by default (rare, but possible)
3. Your podcast hasn't been properly published yet

No RSS feed = no podcast in the technical sense.

A word on workarounds (when your host falls short)

If your hosting platform:

- Doesn't expose your RSS feed clearly
- Doesn't support important tags like podcast location
- Limits feed portability

You have two realistic options:

1. **Request support** from the host (sometimes pressure works)
2. **Migrate to a host** that treats RSS properly

Migration is not betrayal. It's maintenance.

Why this matters for Nigerian podcasts

Without clean RSS feeds:

- Nigerian podcasts get mislabelled or erased in global data
- Local voices disappear from research, reports, and archives
- The ecosystem looks smaller than it actually is

The Nigerian Podcast Index exists to fix that, but it can only work with what your feed provides.

Final word

Your RSS feed is not a technical inconvenience.

It is your podcast's **paper trail**.

If your podcast deserves to be remembered, start with the feed.