Reading List Management Software

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CAREER

- 20 years experience in the library and information sector.
- Head of Library Services at DBS for seven years.

Prior to this I held positions in the libraries and research services of:

- Kings Inns Library
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- South Eastern Health Board
- Welsh Office
- University College Dublin
- Oireachtas
DUBLIN BUSINESS SCHOOL - ABOUT

- DBS has 100 programmes in arts, business and law. Level 6, 7, 8 and 9 programmes are accredited by Quality Qualifications of Ireland.
- Accreditation partners include, King’s Inns, ACCA, CIMA, Psychological Society of Ireland and the Irish Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- Partnerships with ISEG France (comprises 7 prestigious business schools), ECG France (a network of 28 business schools) and IHM Business School Sweden.
- DBS acquisitions, LSB College, Portobello College and European Business School.
- DBS was acquired in 2003 by Kaplan, Inc. a world leader in education, serving more than one million students per year in over 600 locations in 37 countries.
ANNUAL LIBRARY SEMINAR – WHY?

- Showcase developments at DBS Library
- Showcase developments on the MSc in Information and Library Management/synergies with DBS Library
- Network with the library profession
- Inclusivity- external speakers
- Continuing professional development
- Kick start departmental publishing activity
DBS LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS 2014/
SEMINAR THEMES

- DBS IR eSource (dSpace software). Migration from Enovation to @mire.
- Register of scholarly activity for the college.
- Research classes on getting published & measuring research impact.
- Migration to Koha open source library management system.
- Installed reading list management software.
- Launched assignment planning software.
- Software implementation/hosting internally versus hosting on the cloud.
- Collaboration with University of Loughborough and NCI.
READING LIST MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

I will discuss the following:

- Do reading lists matter or have they had their day?
- Rationale for reading list software at DBS
- Reading list software analysis
- Where we are to date
- Future aspirations
READING LIST MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Gary Brewerton will discuss:

- Development of Loughborough Online Reading List System (LORLS)
- Features of LORLS
- Challenges and benefits of implementation
- Collaboration with DBS
- Live demo of the software
- Stations set up in the library during lunch showcasing Gary’s software as installed at DBS.
“In wider teaching and learning research, there has been considerable work undertaken in recent years in relation to better appreciating cultural, sociological and behavioural aspects of higher education. Yet, reading lists have been largely overlooked, acknowledged only in the briefest manner as functionally valuable in the face of enhanced technology. If we begin to develop a more complex appreciation of reading lists, then a range of issues can be seen to be at play for both tutors and students.”

Stokes and Martin (2008) pg. 123
READING LIST CONCERNS

- Do they make learners passive/spoon feeding?
- Learners focused on a narrow range of texts. Work best when lecturers advise students to also read outside of the list. Annotated lists helpful re contextualising relevancy of texts to module.
- Core text dependency syndrome!
- List creation-lecturer subjectivity/bias/ego?
- Out of date/excessively long or short
- Strain on Library budget -core texts, multiple copies.
DO READING LISTS MATTER? YES!

- Jones (2009) pg. 4 suggests that for libraries reading lists are a major driver of circulation policies and collection development.

- Reading lists are closely scrutinised by accreditation/regulatory bodies. Swain (2006) pg. 18 refers to the Quality Assurance Agency in the UK who have strict reading list stipulations, “lecturers who had relied on blowing the dust off the same old lists for each fresh intake of students had to spring-clean their recommendations”.

- Reading lists are still an important tool for library stock management. Less inclined to weed a text from the collection that is on a reading list.
THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS

• In a study of tutor attitudes to reading lists Martin and Stokes (2008) found that reading lists were ‘... generally regarded as having a role in moving students from dependent to autonomous learners’. Unfulfilled expectations in relation to reading lists can result in academic disengagement.

• In the IRIS report (Edwards-Waller, 2009), 10 percent of student body at Cambridge University was surveyed. Finding: 97.4% of students use readings lists to find resources.

• Students highly discerning about the currency, length and quality of reading lists. Brewerton, (2014). Qualitative views from students on reading lists (1106 student responses to the survey).
WHAT IS READING LIST MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?

Typically:

- It enables lecturers or librarians to create, edit and display reading lists electronically.
- The software draws on references from the institution’s library management system giving real time availability.
- Articles from databases along with web links can also be incorporated.
- Individual URLs to the reading lists are displayed in programme related modules on a VLE.
HORIZON REPORT, 2014
HIGHER EDUCATION

Key trends
• Social Media
• Integration of online, hybrid, collaborative learning
• Learning Analytics
• Evolution of Online Learning

And more
WHY READING LIST SOFTWARE AT DBS?

- Reading list is often a learner’s first direct encounter with learning support services. *Paper based format is out of touch in today’s digital learning environment*. Lost opportunity to link students more directly to the Library’s online resources and to the institution’s VLE.

- A central repository for reading lists in the college.

- Platform to improve business processes around reading list management. Capture reading lists to ensure items are in stock for students when required. *Audit tool*.

- Focused conduit for academic staff, student and library communication.
DBS REQUIREMENTS

- Academics and library staff can create and edit lists
- Draws references from LMS, Discovery tool, web
- URL links for insertion into module content on the VLE
- Import and export features
- Usage analytics, what lists are getting used etc.
- Provides academic staff with the opportunity to annotate lists
- Generates reports to alert library staff to new or edited reading lists.
- Web 2.0 functionality. Students can rate books that they like etc.
“The emergence of collaborative resource list tools that support the development process and user tagging will transform the utility of the resource list from a static reference tool to a scaffolded learning support activity. The availability of user generated information such as perceptions of the relevance of the resources and the status of engagement (intention to read, reading, etc.) will provide a rich information framework for users and librarians” (Masson 2009 p.223).
WHAT HAS DBS HAD TO DATE?
READING LISTS KOHA.
## THE CONTENDERS FOR AN ONLINE READING LIST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Management System</td>
<td>Heritage, Koha</td>
<td>Time consuming to create records for non book items. Difficult to give logins to staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Tool</td>
<td>Ebsco</td>
<td>Ideal location to create lists. In development. Wider web content?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-house solution/VLE connector</td>
<td>WIT Moodle Plugin</td>
<td>Good product. Rolled out locally. Early days of implementation. A lot of support and customisation to implement at DBS?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media bookmarking sites</td>
<td>Bookmarking sites e.g. Delicious.</td>
<td>Standalone. Not linked to the LMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprietary</td>
<td>Rebus, Talis Aspire,</td>
<td>Impressive products, financial outlay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open source</td>
<td>Telstar – (OU) LORLS</td>
<td>Open source. No cost. Quick installation, easy to customise.</td>
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</table>
LORLS THE WINNER, WHY?

- Most closely matched our criteria.
- Impressive import and export function (via Zotero) which meant that we can pre-populate the platform with 600 reading lists. Academics will maintain reading lists going forward.
- LORLS in operation since 2000
- Gary Brewerton, a reading list champion. Holds events and speaks widely on reading list management software. He has written extensively on LORLS in the academic literature
- LORLS functionality continues to expand and evolve. Gary will elaborate on newer aspects of functionality.
INTERESTING REPORT BY
CALEB DERVEN

Excellent overview of reading list software landscape

ANLTC/ SWETS Research Fund

Evaluating Services and Specifications for Reading List Systems


31 August 2011
REPORT FINDINGS IN RELATION TO LORLS

“Brewerton and Knight (2003) sketch a brief history of the Loughsborough Online RL System (LORLS), perhaps the longest standing and most pervasive of the UK-based open source systems. Derven (2011) Pg 12

‘Though a number of open source implementations do exist, Loughsborough“s LORLS is the strongest open source option.’
Derven (2011) P 22
"To date reading lists have not generated an expansive or potent literature, yet they merit one."

Stokes and Martin (2008) pg.124

This is changing..
PUBLICATIONS: GARY BREWERTON

Implications of Student and Lecturer Qualitative Views on Reading Lists: A Case Study at Loughborough University, UK
New Review of Academic Librarianship
February 12, 2014

Implementing a Resource or Reading List Management System
Ariadne
June 17, 2013

Automating Library Stock Ordering from Reading Lists
D-Lib Magazine
March 2013

Providing Information About Reading Lists via A Dashboard Interface
Code4Lib Journal
January 15, 2013

Above articles sourced from Library Science Source.
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- Senior management approval was obtained to progress the project. *Business case* - impact reading list software can have on academic retention and performance and in showcasing teaching excellence. Brewerton, (2013).

- **Project team** comprising Head of Library Services, Systems Librarian, Acquisitions Librarian, IT Manager and the Systems and Network Administrator was formed.

- LORLS was then downloaded to an internal server (works best on Linux).

- **Customisations** were made to link LORLS to Koha.

- **Implementation** We are currently preparing reading lists for export from Koha via Zotero. We have 600 reading lists in total. Easier to engage academic staff when some of the work is done.
WHAT’S NEXT?

- Complete **pre-population** of LORLS- summer 2014.
- Finalise **authentication** procedure for staff logins
- Produce **institutionally agreed workflows**, policies and templates around reading list management and LORLS.
- Produce training materials.
- **Training of academic staff** to expand content to include websites and articles. Academic staff engagement critical/they are the subject experts.
- Integration with VLE
- **Launch** in Sept/advocacy
- **Student training**
- **Publish paper** with Gary Brewerton
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brewerton, see previous slides


BIBLIOGRAPHY


READING LISTS – THE CINDERELLA OF LEARNING TOOLS…
SHALL GO TO THE BALL (THANKS TO LORLS)!
Gary Brewerton: Introduction

- Manager of the Middleware and Library Systems Team at Loughborough University.
- Over twenty year’s experience in higher education and libraries.
- Involved in the UK’s first web based library catalogue and is the project manager for LORLS reading list management software.