

The Reading List Challenge: Implementing the Loughborough Online Reading List System (LORLS)

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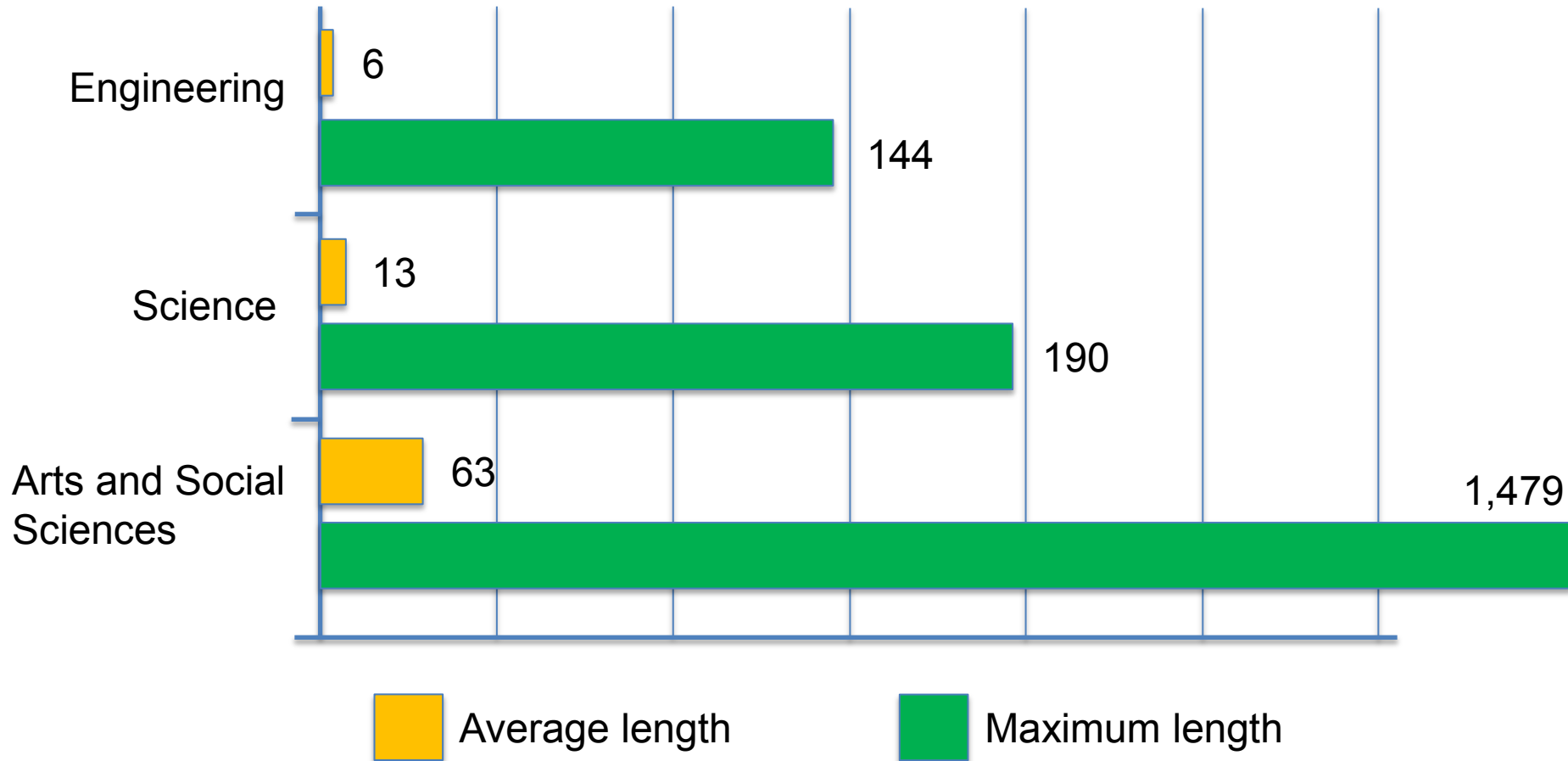
Content

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 - How they vary and what are the issues with them
- Developing a solution
 - What we did at Loughborough
- Sharing our solution
 - Can bring benefits to all
- Implementing at Dublin Business School

What is a Reading List?

- A list of resources (books, journals, AV material, websites, etc.) compiled by an academic to support students in their studies
 - Available in print, electronically or both
 - Typically organised alphabetically, chronologically, by subject or a combination of these
 - May include annotations from the academic (e.g. stating why a given resource should be read)

Can vary dramatically in length!



Data generated December 2013 at Loughborough University

Issues with Reading Lists

- Students struggle to locate resources on Reading Lists
- Academics aren't aware of how (or even if) their Reading Lists are being used
- The Library can only provide access to resources it knows about
- The institution's reputation may suffer if Reading Lists aren't doing their job!

Tackling the issues

- Loughborough University's Learning & Teaching Committee were keen to address these issues
 - Library seen as central to providing a solution
 - In 1999 a web-based system was conceived to:
 - Allow academics to create and maintain online Reading Lists
 - Alert Library staff to changes made to Reading Lists
 - Enable students to browse and search for Reading Lists and link to related Library holdings

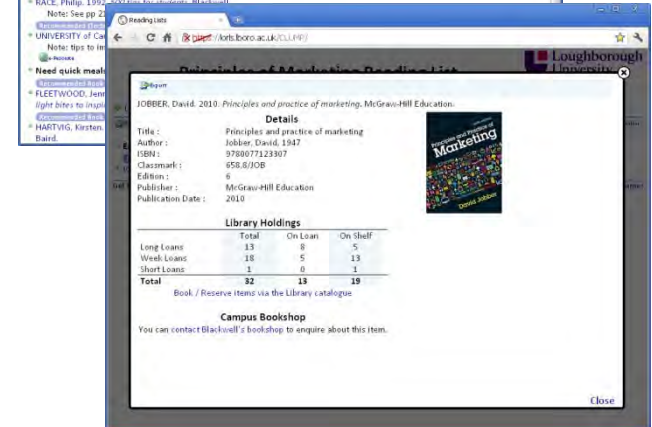
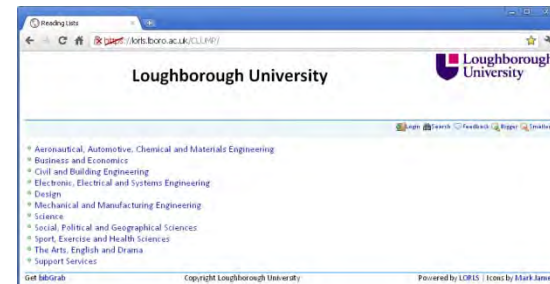
Developing a solution

- 2000
 - Web-based system launched at Loughborough
- 2002
 - Finally gave it a name: **LORLS** (Loughborough Online Reading List System)
 - Made it available as open source after other institutions expressed interest in it
- 2007
 - Decided to re-develop the system
- 2010-14
 - Launch and ongoing development of latest versions

A brief view of LORLS

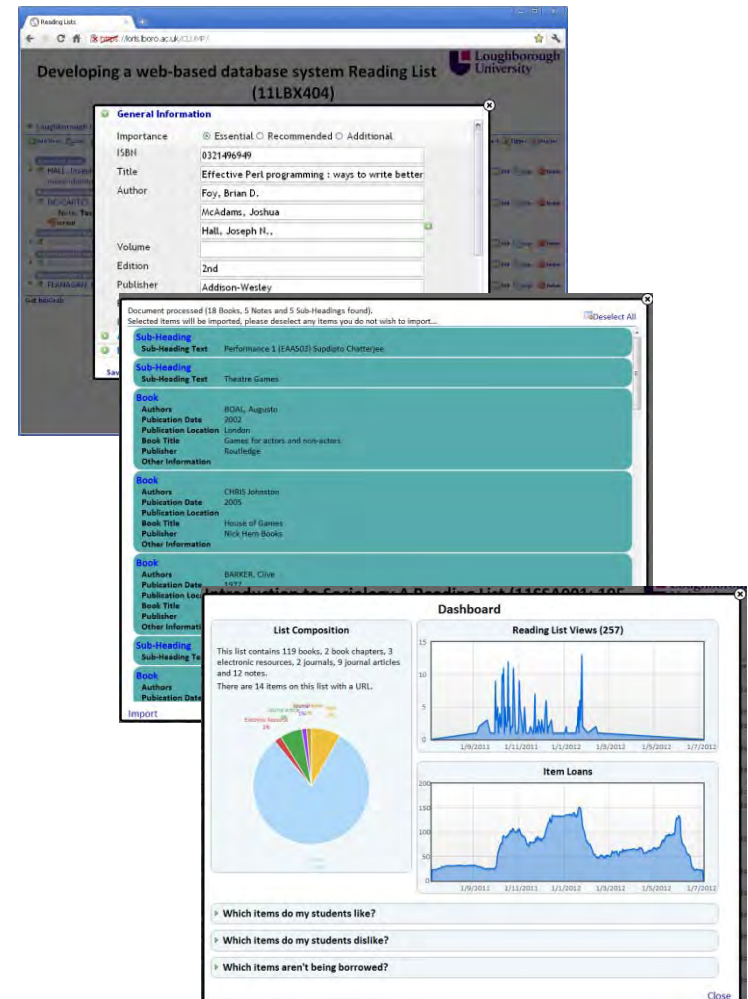
Student view of LORLS

- Browse or search for Reading Lists
- Standard citation format (Harvard UK)
- Library holdings displayed
- Book covers via GoogleBooks
- Can like/dislike items



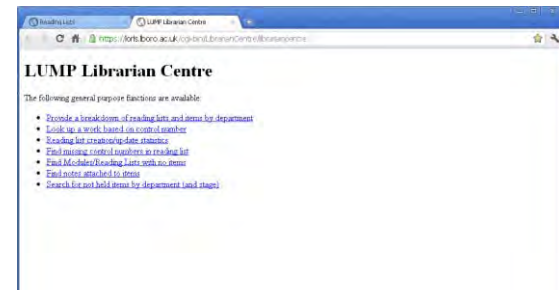
Academic view of LORLS

- Input items manually, via ISBN/ISSN, from the web or by importing them
- Hide, edit, copy or delete items
- Sort and annotate Reading Lists as required
- See how the Reading List is being used



Library view of LORLS

- Items flagged if not held or with private notes attached
- Email Library staff with changes made to Reading Lists
- Various online reports available (e.g. show all the Reading Lists an item is on)
- Purchasing predictor to suggest items for acquisition (beta)



The screenshot shows the 'LUMP Departmental Status Report' table. The table has the following columns: Department, Number of Modules, Number of Lists, Total Items, Book, AY, Electronic Resource, Journal Article, Book Chapter, and Journal.

Department	Number of Modules	Number of Lists	Total Items	Book	AY	Electronic Resource	Journal Article	Book Chapter	Journal
Computer Science	71	71	400	392	0	6	1	0	0
Physics	70	70	289	281	0	3	4	1	0
Chemistry	74	74	739	699	0	35	4	1	1
Chemical Engineering	74	73	333	322	0	0	0	0	2
Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering	81	81	399	384	0	12	1	0	2
Social Sciences	211	232	17960	11890	0	822	2771	2376	91
Mathematical Sciences	91	91	766	685	0	18	40	20	3
Business School	416	419	5632	3171	0	207	1092	415	147
The Arts	122	122	2644	2375	0	17	18	146	88
English and Drama	135	136	13007	11471	0	169	849	449	69
Geography	74	87	9432	3860	0	222	4268	1849	73
Information Science	76	76	2521	1704	0	336	306	53	122
Automotive and Automotive Engineering	70	70	397	367	0	18	11	0	19

The screenshot shows the 'Purchase Predictor' tool interface. It displays a table of purchasing suggestions with the following columns: Title/Author, ISBN, On Reading List, Existing Copies, Total Copies Potentially Required, and Dept Breakdown.

Title/Author	ISBN	On Reading List	Existing Copies	Total Copies Potentially Required	Dept Breakdown
Kvale, Steinar, Interviews : learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing	978-0-7619-2542-2	12558006 12059106 12CVF350	0	3	DS buys 1 costing £40.99 CV buys 1 costing £40.99 SS buys 1 costing £40.99
Jasanoff, Maya, Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World	978-1-4000-7547-8	12EUA703	0	4	EU buys 4 costing £47.16
The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edn.	978-0-226-10420-1	12EAP010 12EAC009	2	7	EA buys 1 costing £42.00
McCuen, Jo Ray, and Anthony C. Walker, From Idea to Essay: A Rhetoric, Reader, and Handbook, 10th edn.	978-0-321-16339-4	12EAC009	0	5	EA buys 5 costing £194.95
Kennedy, John, MBA, The dynamics of business communication : how to communicate efficiently and effectively	978-1-84285-139-5	1218A011 1218A024	1	2	

Sharing our solution

- We maintain a website about LORLS (<http://blog.lboro.ac.uk/lorls>) including:
 - Development diary
 - Online demo
 - Documentation
 - Download source code under a GPL
- Meeting the Reading List Challenge
 - Host annual event that brings together librarians, developers and suppliers to discuss the issues around Reading Lists (<http://blog.lboro.ac.uk/mtrlc>)

Benefits of open source

- There are many benefits to using open source (e.g. cost, flexibility, adherence to standards) but there are also benefits in providing open source
 - Prestige (especially for the developers' institution)
 - Trip to Ireland to talk at Library seminar
 - Gain valuable insight from other users to inform future developments

Working with DBS

- We were approached in September 2013 about DBS using LORLS
 - Great to work with another institution and our first one outside the UK
 - Opportunity to integrate LORLS with the Koha open source Library Management System
 - Received constructive and helpful feedback that will allow us to develop LORLS further

Example DBS feedback

- Since 2010 LORLS has shown Library holding
 - It shows total number of copies held, those on loan and the remainder listed as “On shelf”
 - But as DBS pointed out this could be misleading
 - Copies “On shelf” may be reserved and therefore not available to students
 - What about copies on order?
 - We agree! So we’ll be taking a good look at the display of Library holdings in the coming months

	Total	On Loan	On Shelf
Long Loans	13	8	5
Week Loans	18	5	13
Short Loans	1	0	1
Total	32	13	19

[Book / Reserve items via the Library catalogue](#)

So that's the software sorted

(Other systems such as Rebus:list, Talis Aspire and Telstar are available)

Now comes the hard part!

- Embedding into institutional workflows
 - Who uploads/maintains the Reading Lists?
- Advocacy
 - Use every opportunity you can
 - What works for one group may not work for another
- Training and support
- Keep monitoring progress with Reading Lists