

Beyond e-Reserve: Implementation Of A Repository-Based Reading List Management System At The University Of Western Australia

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Abstract:

Developments in online teaching and learning have required academic libraries to rethink how they deliver course materials. An "electronic Reserve" to manage high demand digital materials is quickly becoming superseded by the need for electronic resources to be integrated into every aspect of online learning.

The University of Western Australia has implemented an online repository to manage the course materials offered to students via unit reading lists. The repository is based upon HarvestRoad's Hive learning content management system. Hive allows University Library staff to store digitised extracts from books and journals, or URLs to online material such as articles offered via subscription-based services. Hive allows the Library to manage access control to this material, and includes mechanisms for managing digital content within the limitations of Australian copyright law.

In order to display items in a "reading list", HarvestRoad developed the Resource List Management System (RLMS) for UWA. Prior to this, digitised readings were served to students via the Library catalogue's Reserve Module in a service called "Course Materials Online (CMO)". The RLMS goes beyond the traditional "e-Reserve", allowing staff across campus to "take control" of their unit's CMO lists themselves. Items can be added to a list from Hive or from the Library catalogue, and then arranged into groups according to a structure defined by the unit. Individual citations or the entire list itself can be set to appear and disappear automatically on dates chosen by teaching staff. The system has been designed to assist staff embed the use of online reading materials in the everyday teaching activities of their unit, whilst assisting the University comply with the edicts of Australian copyright law.

The implementation of both the Hive repository and the RLMS presented the Library with the opportunity to review the workflows and activities associated with delivering course materials and examination papers online and to put in place a new organisational model.

This paper will outline why UWA implemented Hive and the RLMS, gives an overview of how the systems function together, and describes the impact these systems have had on the Library and University as a whole.