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Comparison of Leganto and Reading-List Capabilities in Learning Management Systems

Academic institutions often use their learning management system (LMS) to disseminate course reading lists and the resources associated with them. This document explains why that approach is less than optimal and outlines the advantages that the modern, easy-to-use Leganto reading-list solution can offer beyond those of a learning management system.

The main purpose of a dedicated reading-list solution is to enable institutional stakeholders to create, maintain, and use reading lists. In addition, the features of the Leganto reading-list tool have a positive impact on teaching and learning practices, student engagement, and library collection development.

The Leganto reading-list solution offers the following major advantages:



- Provides instructors with explicit and implicit feedback regarding the resources in their reading lists
- Presents recommendations of additional or alternative materials
- Facilitates the handling of copyright compliance






Leganto offers further benefits that surpass those of a learning management system’s reading-list capabilities.




The Leganto solution:

- Boosts student engagement
- Serves as a collaborative platform for instructors
- Streamlines the creation and maintenance of reading lists
- Enables instructors to easily reuse reading lists
- Involves the library, which seamlessly delivers course materials to students
- Provides students with easy access to reading lists
- Offers insights and services generated through reading-list analytics

By deploying Leganto, universities improve teaching and learning, boost student engagement, avoid copyright infringement, and save on costs for themselves and their students.

Activity	Traditional Practices	Leganto Practices
<p>Explicit and implicit feedback regarding the resources included in reading lists</p> 	<p>There are no tools that are specifically designed for enabling students to evaluate course materials or comment on them. Furthermore, when instructors upload materials to a learning management system, usage information cannot be logged. As a result, instructors, libraries, and information providers do not know which items have been used and to what extent.</p>	<p>Students evaluate materials and comment on them. Furthermore, Leganto logs the usage of course materials and provides the data to instructors and the library. Student feedback and usage data help instructors evaluate and improve their reading lists. Usage data also helps the library develop its collections and demonstrate its value to the institution.</p>
<p>Recommendations of additional or alternative materials</p> 	<p>The lists that instructors upload to the learning management system contain materials that the instructors know about. The system does not provide any guidance or suggestions and does not check the uploaded materials.</p>	<p>Leganto helps instructors create an optimal, up-to-date list by providing automated recommendations of related materials and enabling librarians to suggest materials.</p>

Activity	Traditional Practices	Leganto Practices
<p>Copyright compliance</p> 	<p>When instructors use a learning management system as a platform for distributing materials such as PDF files of articles and scanned texts, institutions (and instructors) run the risk of copyright infringement.</p>	<p>With Leganto, librarians can provide a link to the appropriate copy of an item, verify that copyrights are not being infringed, and handle copyright clearance when necessary.</p>
<p>Student engagement</p> 	<p>Reading lists are static and do not actively engage students.</p>	<p>By enabling students to evaluate materials, add comments to a reading list (for instructors and peers to see), suggest additional materials, and build their own collections, Leganto encourages student engagement and collaboration.</p>
<p>Collaboration among instructors</p> 	<p>A learning management system does not support collaboration and sharing among instructors.</p>	<p>Leganto provides a platform where instructors can work together to build a reading list, suggest items to their peers, exchange reading lists or sections of lists, and follow reading lists of other instructors to learn from their experience.</p>
<p>Creation and maintenance of reading lists</p> 	<p>Instructors bypass the library altogether or inform the library, typically via email, of the specific materials needed for a course (for example, books and book chapters). No systematic workflows support the transfer of information from instructors to the library. As a result, the library does not always make course materials readily available to students.</p>	<p>Leganto is integrated with the library management service and supports cross-system workflows that enable instructors to add materials to their reading lists from a variety of sources, such as the library's collections, scholarly databases, websites, online bookstores, and the instructors' reference manager. An instructor who has a reading list in a Word, PDF, or Excel document can simply upload the document to Leganto for processing by the library.</p>
<p>Persistence of reading lists</p> 	<p>When instructors disseminate course readings via a learning management system, the readings are associated with only that course during that specific term. When the term is over, a reading list usually ceases to exist, so the instructor must spend time and effort reassembling the resources for the following year.</p>	<p>Once an instructor has created a reading list in Leganto, the list remains in the Leganto repository, available for editing and reuse in the future.</p>

Activity	Traditional Practices	Leganto Practices
<p>Provision of course materials</p> 	<p>Instructors inform their students about course readings through one or more methods—for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By uploading a Word or PDF list to the learning management system; students must find and obtain the materials themselves • By uploading materials (such as scanned book chapters and PDF files of articles) to the learning management system • By sharing materials through channels such as Dropbox and email <p>The materials are then available through any of various channels, such as the library discovery system or OPAC, a learning management system, Dropbox, or email; or even as physical printouts. Students do not have a complete, structured list of all course resources or an easy way to access them.</p>	<p>All materials that an instructor puts into a reading list are registered in the library management system. When relevant, the library makes these materials available to course participants physically, digitally, or electronically, without any extra effort on the part of the instructor. The list and the materials on it are provided to students through Leganto—all in one place.</p> <p>Instructors decide whether their lists should be made available to anyone, at any time, or only to course participants.</p>
<p>Access to reading lists</p> 	<p>Students do not have one central place where they can see their reading lists for all their courses; rather, the students must look for each course’s reading list on the specific course page in the learning management system. Furthermore, only course participants can access the reading lists, and only during the term in which the course is given.</p>	<p>All of a student’s reading lists are available in one place, helping the student save time and effort.</p> <p>Learners who are not enrolled in a course may access its reading list if the instructor has opted to open the list to the public.</p>
<p>Analytics-based insights and services</p> 	<p>A learning management system does not provide analytics regarding the usage of reading-list materials.</p>	<p>The Leganto Analytics module is designed to generate insights and services from a global repository of open reading lists.¹ Services include, for example, automatically generated recommendations of additional course readings.</p>

¹ Instructors decide whether to restrict their lists to course participants or open the lists to anyone.

About Ex Libris

Ex Libris, a ProQuest company, is a leading global provider of cloud-based solutions for the management, discovery, and delivery of the full spectrum of library materials, as well as mobile campus solutions for driving student engagement and success. Ex Libris solutions are in use by over 5,600 institutions in 90 countries, including 43 of the top 50 universities worldwide and more than 40 national libraries. Powered by Ex Libris, institutions lower operational costs, increase efficiency, deliver a unified digital experience, and add value through diverse new services and collaboration with other organizations.

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