MONASH
University

LIBRARY SERVICES UPDATE
Readings to support teaching and learning

The Monash University Library is on a transformation journey to ensure our Library services, both physical and digital, will be more accessible, and its services and resources better integrated into the activities and workflows of students and staff.

Internal Library operations will be automated and streamlined, allowing staffing resources to be redirected to the development and delivery of higher-value services for the University.

To achieve this the Library needs to lift the capacity, expertise and digital capabilities of its workforce through the automation and streamlining of Library operations, that will underpin a primarily digital, self-service model. This transformation underpins some changes to how the Library will support access to course readings for teaching staff and students.

Readings - what you need to know

Seamless access to course readings and learning resources supports a good learning experience, and is a key to student engagement and success.

Through reading lists the Library provides contextualised access to content from library collections that supports university teaching and learning activities. Access to reading lists is organised around:

- units of teaching and learning within courses or programs of study within faculties,

- delivered via the university's primary learning management platform, Moodle,

- wherever possible delivered online rather than making students come to a Monash library to access material on a specific reading list.

From Semester 1 2021, all reading lists will run on a new online platform, called Leganto, and this will replace the Talis Aspire system.

What are 'readings'

Readings are a specific category of learning resources considered essential to the learning and teaching carried out in a specific unit. This includes - but is not limited to - academic texts, journal articles and book chapters. In a contemporary learning and teaching environment, non-text-based learning materials such as videos and podcasts should also be considered 'readings'.

What are 'reading lists'

Compilations of contextualised readings selected by teachers for their students, commonly housed on a presentation platform. In addition to providing access to readings, usually via links, modern reading list platforms also provide other interactive learning features such as annotation and discussion. Monash University is implementing Leganto for this purpose.

What are 'good reading lists'

A good reading list strikes the balance between guided and independent learning. It provides the learner with essential knowledge while also offering enough guidance for them to further their own research and learning on the topic.

Why we are changing to Leganto

In 2020 the Library conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its reading list service to determine whether the existing platform (Talis), and delivery model to support it was aligned with the Library's goal to provide seamless access to users.

The review investigated and evaluated all aspects of the reading list service, including software, processes, policy, usage, and user satisfaction. The evaluation also scanned the market for comparative and competitive products that would deliver an integrated and functional course readings service to support teaching and learning at Monash University.

The review identified improvements that would benefit students and teaching staff, and enable the Library team to deliver a better service.

These included:

- Centralising the Readings Service Team to provide dedicated support, expertise, and streamlined workflows to support teaching staff to curate and manage their course readings;
- Improving communication with teaching staff about the content of their reading lists, and connecting the expertise of local subject librarians who will assist with finding the right resources in the right format
- Introducing smart tools able to generate metrics and reports to teaching staff to monitor student engagement with course readings, and are integrated with the Library's catalogue and acquisitions workflows.

As a result, the Library implemented the Leganto tool to deliver the transformed Readings Service.

Benefits

- The new Readings Service via Leganto offers services that are integrated into the workflows of teaching staff, students, and the Library:

  - Teaching staff can easily build lists of resources that include all material types (including video, websites, and open educational resources),

  - Students can access all course materials in one place and from any device, and

  - Librarians can provide resources more efficiently and scale up to support more courses.

- Using Leganto teaching staff can 'search, select and drag' resources directly from the Library catalogue or from the web into their reading lists, no need to re-key information or save it to a document to send to the Library later.

- Using Leganto, teaching staff can easily identify resources the library already owns, and easily create and share rich, engaging resource lists including all types of materials - print or electronic Library resources, streaming video, websites, textbooks, journals, and more.

- Teaching staff can save time and seamlessly access library expertise through automated workflows for provisioning course materials, and a streamlined workflow that rolls over course resources from semester to semester - as appropriate.

- Leganto is a simple-to-use tool that streamlines classroom management tasks for teaching staff - for e.g teaching staff can annotate specific readings to ensure expectations are clear to students and the ability for student interactions with lecturers and peers directly when accessing lists in Moodle.

- Using Leganto, teaching staff can monitor student engagement through granular usage analytics, and review the number of times specific readings have been read to better-support student engagement and success.

- Leganto provides student-centric, anytime, anywhere access to a collated list of online materials that constructively align with learning outcomes and assessments, and a standardised communication framework for course readings that ensures expectations are clear to students across disciplines

- Leganto provides copyright compliance of digitised resources managed by the Library, prior to publishing to students.

The Readings Service will operate in line with the requirements specified by the university's Unit Delivery Procedure: i.e. Readings should be:

- accessible to all enrolled Monash students regardless of their location and study mode.

- constructively aligned with learning outcomes and its usefulness directly measurable through assessments.

- annotated/guided to provoke thinking.

- sustainable and flexible, and evolve as the learning and teaching progresses.

What teaching staff need to know

- Access reading lists at Readings. monash.edu or via the Library tile on My.Monash

- Teaching staff can connect directly to the Leganto tool via the Library tile in my.Monash to view reading lists and enhance, modify, and create lists relating to their courses in real-time, whenever it is convenient to do so.

- 'Digital/online first' remains the preferred approach to deliver library collections (where available) as it enables anytime, anywhere access to students, and offers more equitable access than print options.

- If teaching staff identify content for Readings the Library does not already own, the Library will source online versions of readings wherever available. Print titles will only be acquired where there is no online option, but the timelines to deliver print resources are slower and may not arrive in time for the teaching period.

- The Library will manage the acquisition of online versions of resources, and digitise selected readings where copyright permits. This supports the online delivery of course materials wherever possible.

- Required titles that are only available in print will be assigned 'short loan' status, to facilitate access to limited print copies

- If teaching staff want the Library to manage their list for them - refer to the deadline dates in the table below.

- The Library aims to make lists available to students prior to teaching and available as long as required.

How the Library Readings Service Team supports teaching staff

- If you have a question about Leganto or reading lists contact the Readings Service team lib-readings@monash.edu who will respond to your query between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

- The Library can assist teaching staff with creation of up to 50 citations for each course reading list received prior to 5 July.

- The Library can help teaching staff identify online content the Library already owns.

- The Leganto tool is open and available for teaching staff to add and modify citations as required.

- Once teaching staff start to use Leganto, you may find it faster and easier to create your list of readings directly in Leganto.

Reading List Deadlines	Timing	
New reading list requests due	2 weeks prior to list published	5 July for Semester 2 2021
Reading Lists published and available to students	1 week prior to teaching period	19 July Semester 2 2021

How Leganto will help students

- Students accessing their course material via Leganto, will have access to a collated list of online readings available anytime, anywhere.

- Students will become familiar with using the same structured interface for each course and have a consistent user experience for each course.

- Students will have a clear view of the required, recommended, and supplementary readings for each course with direct links to the online materials, and links to the catalogue record for print resources.

- Once Leganto is embedded in Moodle (we expect this to be by Q1 2022), students will have assured remote access to scholarly course materials, making it easy for them to find and use the resources they need directly from the course page in Moodle.

Functionality and roadmap update

- Staff associated with courses are automatically connected to their courses in Leganto, via daily loads from Callista and SAP, which gives teaching staff automatic access to their reading lists via Leganto.

- The Library will be working with eSolutions to integrate Leganto into Moodle to further simplify and streamline the delivery of Readings to students.

More information:

- Readings 101 - experience Leganto as a Monash student
- Unit Delivery procedure
- Library guide - eTextbooks
- Copyright limits and advice
- Video: About Leganto - 1:48min