



READING LISTS

Delivering what students need to read

ANLTC NUI Galway

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Delivering what students need to read

- Key Role for Academic Libraries in supporting teaching and learning
- Simple!
- Right?
- Not quite so simple...

Many Challenges arise!

- Finding out what students have been asked to read
- Guesstimating real likely demand as opposed to academic hopes
- Balancing delivery of sufficient copies with space and budget constraints
- Knowing when a title is no longer needed
- Keeping track of what modules are live in a given Semester and who's teaching it

Also controversial!

- Are reading lists actually a form of spoon-feeding?
- If we make it too easy for students to get at the material are we ‘dumbing down’ their learning?
- Are we being ‘cheeky’ if we give academics guidance on reading lists?
- What about supporting research? Can we justify spending significant portions of budget on undergraduate textbooks?

Many challenges – many solutions

- Today let's discuss some of the solutions libraries are adopting:
 - *7 speakers presenting 5 libraries' solutions to these challenges*
 - *2 speakers giving us the academic perspective*
 - *3 systems vendors available during the breaks to demonstrate their solutions*
 - *2 workshops and 36 attendees – let's learn from each other*

Support from the vendors

- Support for tea/coffee
- Sponsored speakers
- Please make sure to go and speak to the vendors and find out about their reading list management systems



Workshop 1: The what and why of reading lists

- What are the purposes of a reading list?
- Do they still have a role in our digital world?
- How can a reading list benefit learning?
- Can a reading list hamper learning?
- Does it impact on students' information literacy skills development?
- What makes a good reading list?
- Is it the library's place to give guidance on best practice – length, currency, quality of reading lists?
- Are reading lists just lists of books? What about other content?

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP 1



Workshop 2: Library workflows and solutions

- How do reading lists impact on selection and collection development decisions?
 - *Loan periods*
 - *Number of copies relative to class size*
 - *E-book vs Print*
- How do reading lists integrate into library workflows?
- How to get reading lists off academic staff?
- Can a reading list system help with workflow efficiencies?
- What's involved in implementing a reading list system?
- What impact do reading list decisions have on book budgets?

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP 2

