Leganto – reading list management project

Since Session 2, 2017, Macquarie University Library has undertaken a project to evaluate and implement a new reading list management system called Leganto. The project began with a small pilot in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts and is continuing with larger rollouts in each subsequent session.

Benefits of Leganto:

For Teaching Staff:

• Reading lists are easy to create, annotate, manage and update
• Flexible layout allows organisation of reading lists using a variety of templates, for example by week or by topic or theme
• Allows easy inclusion of multimedia, web resources, blogs and other media types
• Students can actively engage with the reading list by ‘liking’, commenting on, and suggesting additional readings
• Next day student usage analytics allows teaching staff to assess engagement with resources, for example number of likes and full-text access
• Allows easy collaboration with Library staff on acquiring and sourcing content not held at Macquarie, with functionality to record copyright compliance

For Students:

• Provides simplified, consistent access to reading list materials across units via an easy to use, mobile friendly interface
• Readings are closely integrated with teaching as Leganto is accessed through their iLearn units
• Students can engage with and co-create resource lists by ‘liking’, collaborating, recommending resources and sharing views, feedback and questions with classmates and teaching staff
• Allows students to gather resources into a personal repository from MultiSearch, databases, or websites
More about Leganto:

Leganto was developed in partnership with UNSW to ensure it meets the needs of the Australian education market. See an interview with Cath Ellis, Associate Dean of Education at UNSW, where she discusses the benefits of Leganto.

Leganto provides an integrated platform allowing the unit convenor, student and librarian to collaborate in the creation, management and evaluation of recommended learning resources. The positioning of students as partners and co-creators in their formal learning is a key objective (1.2) in the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework: 2015-2020.

Future directions that are currently under investigation by the Leganto development team include using Leganto to predict student success and utilising Leganto as an institutional platform for managing learning materials, with a focus on Open Educational Resources (OERs). There is the potential for this functionality to align with the Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework: 2015-2020 objective of sharing resources and activities (3.2).

The Leganto Project timeframe:

Leganto was initially piloted with nine units from the Faculty of Arts during Session 2, 2017. These units were selected on a voluntary basis. The rollout has continued in each session since with larger numbers.

By Session 2, 2018, Leganto has been implemented in over 200 units. Currently the Departments of Ancient History, English, Security Studies & Criminology and the Macquarie Law School are all using Leganto to provide unit readings for their units. There are also numerous volunteers from seven other departments in the Faculty of Arts as well as volunteers from the Faculty of Human Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

In the lead up to the beginning of session, Library staff provided training and drop-in clinics for unit convenors. Information is also available through a guide on the library website. Many convenors created their own lists in Leganto and others sent their lists to the Library for creation in Leganto by our staff, and follow-up support was provided throughout the session as required. Support was also provided for students of these units through an online guide.

Throughout the session, unit convenors were able to amend their reading lists to suit their teaching and add relevant resources as they were published.

Feedback from pilot convenors:

To date, unit convenors have commented on Leganto's ease of use, the clarity for students, and the time savings. Favourable comment has also been received about Leganto’s eye icon which provides a quick count of how many times a reading has been viewed.

When asked if they would recommend Leganto to their colleagues, responses have been positive, with one convenor responding, “I’d tell them to definitely do it, ... I’d absolutely recommend it.”.
Feedback from students:

Students responded positively to the interface stating, “the functionality is intuitive”. Feedback has also included that it is easy to access the readings in Leganto, providing a better student experience.

Improvements to the system have been implemented to address the main concerns raised by students, such as loading the reading list with the weeks collapsed to minimise the time taken to load the page.

Library’s commitment to Leganto:

The first-year license was a pilot to see that the system would meet the needs of the University.

Stage 1 (Session 2, 2017) of the project was designed to test the systems and its functionality for Macquarie University use. The feedback from Stage 1 of the project was that convenors liked the system, and it met their needs. As the initial pilot stages were favourably received, we proceeded with additional stages to ensure this new system met the needs of the convenors and students.

The Library plans for Leganto to be part of the its strategic initiatives in the support of teaching and learning at Macquarie University on an ongoing basis. For convenors who want to use Leganto, the Library will work with them to create their reading lists in Leganto, including the migration of existing iShare reading list material as required.

We will also be looking at Leganto in light of changes in the Equella support model, to see if Leganto can be employed for any current Equella functions. In the meantime, resources for non-Leganto units will continued to be maintained in iShare (Equella).

Queries:

If you have any questions please contact the Library: lib.reserve@mq.edu.au

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