The MyReading Recipe for a Successful Reading List System

The Recipe: The MyReading Project Objectives

- Ensure that the provision of reading lists is a managed, positive experience for students and academic staff.
- Improve the student experience and student achievement by giving easy access to reading lists and their contents, including direct linking to full text wherever possible.
- Optimise the intellectual input of lecturers by enabling them to easily create and update their own reading lists and present them in a pedagogically effective way.
- Automate existing manual systems to complement the input of teaching staff when creating their reading lists.
- Create a standardised format with the flexibility to suit individual lecturer’s requirements.
- Enable integration with the university’s existing software and information resources.
- Facilitate copyright compliance by developing guidelines for teaching staff and appropriate workflows for legal digitisation.
- Enable teaching staff to highlight essential texts for students whose reading speeds are impaired.
- Provide automatic integration with the book ordering process to ensure optimal numbers of library copies, maximise access for students and enable library staff to work smarter.

The Proof of the Pudding: Progress so far

- A bespoke system has been developed in-house by CLS.
- To date, 70% of the 2,300 active modules have reading lists attached, containing over 35,000 references.
- Since the system went live, over 52,000 reading lists and over 41,000 references have been viewed.
- A programme of training has been rolled out to staff.
- Consultations with teaching staff have fed directly into the development of the system.
- The system is integrated with ASIS, UniLearn, Summon, the Library Catalogue and book ordering systems.
- Adding references is facilitated by importing bibliographic information from existing resources.
- Customisable templates enable teaching staff to create their own layout and establish priorities for reading.
- Four categories of reading have been established: Recommended for Purchase, Essential, Recommended, and Background.
- Streamlined processes for book ordering and copyright compliant digitisation are nearing completion.
- A marketing drive is being aimed at staff and students.
- A ‘wish list’ of future developments, nominated and voted for by staff, has been drawn up to shape ongoing development.
- Next steps for development will include personalisation options, creating a ‘Living reading list’ with the option to add comments.