Where is the library in course management software?

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Where is the Library in Course Management Software?

OCLS Conference / May 5-7 2004

Marianne Buehler
RIT Library
Presentation Contents

- RIT DL student profile & who uses what CMS product
- Library information in CMS - Why?
- Library information in CMS - How?
- Working with RIT faculty / staff
- Prometheus & FirstClass resources
- Evaluation & selection process for a CMS
- Library-Influenced CMS Standards – Why?
“The lines between on and off-campus students and courses are blurring as technology is incorporated into all aspects of education.”

RIT DL Student Profile

- RIT On-Campus DL classes – 25%
- RIT Distance Learning – 75%
- RIT Blended – new-ish trend
  (35 official courses)
- RIT Distance Learning courses using:
  - FirstClass - 50%
  - Prometheus – 50%
Library Information in CMS

Why?

Non-Traditional Profile

- Entire course content is in the CMS
- Library sites can be cumbersome
- New resources / how to use them?
- DL students study nights / weekends - available research assistance?
- Library information – relevant starting point…
Library Information in CMS
How?

■ Partner with faculty
■ Engage university staff
■ Work with tech or DL department

*Bank of Boston, AP Photo Archive. 10 April 2003.*
Partnering with Faculty

- Offer inputting of library resources
- Show faculty what resources / where to input
- Create/offer course on integrating library resources
- Teach classes on using CMS

*Middle East Peace Talk, AP Photo Archive. 10 October 2001.*
Engage University Staff

- Support staff for faculty:
  - Other librarians
  - Office administrators
  - Teaching assistants

provided specific resources for students in **Prometheus**:  
- Created a course content module: *Navigating the RIT Library*  
- Librarian contact info specific to course number ranges  
- DL/OL librarian listed with subject specialist
Phone: 585-475-HELP (4357) or 585-475-2810 TTY

In Person: Gannett Building, Room 7B-1113


Navigating RIT Library:

Need to do research for a paper or project? Here are RIT Library resources & services to get you the information that you need:

- ...From Your Librarian are recommended databases (by subject & college), library catalogs, research guides, select websites, & recently added materials to the collection. Research databases encompass full-text articles / electronic books / abstracts & citations / images
- more! - no full-text available in a database? Click on the MORE button to see where you can get the full-text.
- Doing Library Research - includes how to: find & evaluate materials, use databases (4 minute Flash presentation), employ citation formats, and more...
- Research Guides & Tutorials - course & subject-specific guides, career guides, database tutorials-also check out the avoiding plagiarism resources
- E-Content Finder - another tool to locate online full-text journal articles & books
- Einstein-RIT Library's online catalog - includes on-site library materials, electronic resources, such as online journals / books...
- Connect NY - another book resource with over 3,000,000 more titles you can borrow
- WorldCat - bibliography of over 48 million books, journals, internet resources
- Information Delivery Services (IDS Express) - Order books, journal articles and more if you cannot locate them in Einstein, ConnectNY or in databases at no cost to you. Distance Learners must order all materials thru IDS Express.

Marianne Buehler is your CAST library liaison and is also the Distance/Online Learning librarian. Contact her at: mabwml@rit.edu or 585.475.5589 or Room 05-1450 or one2one live chat.
“By integrating and linking the Library’s catalog and online databases [and more] into the courseware environment, students and faculty are only a click away from accessing many of the information resources relevant to their course assignments from within courseware.”

Work with Tech or DL Departments

- Provided specific resources for students in FirstClass:
  - Wallace Library Conference on every desktop
  - Link to DL/OL student resource page [http://wally.rit.edu/userservices/dl.html](http://wally.rit.edu/userservices/dl.html)
  - Subject-based / DL course pathfinder
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E-Reserves in Prometheus & FirstClass

Automatic Authentication

- Prometheus – has existing request template
  - E-Reserves easily incorporated

- FirstClass – had to be created
Evaluation & Selection Process for a CMS

Informal

- Ongoing feedback opportunities
  - Online suggestion box
  - Spring / other faculty/student surveys
  - Other manifestations…
Evaluation & Selection Process for a CMS

Formal

- OL / Info Tech Services/ Library team
  - Choose RIT CMS – create RFP
  - Faculty / staff input
- OL - main contact with CMS companies
  - Request modifications
  - Modifications made with open source product
- Academia needs to encourage/pressure CMS companies to incorporate the library as a prominent feature.
Library-Influenced CMS Standards – Why?

- Best use of librarian expertise
- Best use of library collections
  - Physical & online
- Minimum - link to library / librarian
- Maximum – collaboration with faculty in delivering class, equal access to CMS, add customized links, lead chats, discussions, OR monitor a message board related to research queries.
Library-Influenced CMS Standards – Why?

- Student awareness of expensive purchased / leased research tools
- Librarians – expertise & time collecting authoritative resources / organizing info
- Essential to get maximum value from institutional $ and expert investments
Including a library component will enable DLs and other online students to realize the importance of reliable sources and equate their academic research success with the Library that resides in close proximity to where their courses are located.
Necessary Features in CMS

- E-Reserve component
- Clickable library icon
- Library as menu item, populated with:
  - Research information
  - Online instruction
  - Librarian contacts
  - And more…
By focusing on the interests of faculty and students who utilize the Library, librarians can succeed in producing and maintaining a relevant courseware presence.