

Promoting academic library resources within a course management system: partnering with faculty

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Outline: Undergraduate students often find it difficult to select the most relevant research materials for their courses from the various resources offered through the Library Web site. Many universities use a course management system or CMS. One of the benefits of using a CMS, such as Moodle, is that course materials can be accessed from one Web location whenever and wherever students want. So why not use the course management system to push library resources relevant for specific courses? **Objective:** To promote the use of library resources in first-year courses by integrating a library presence into the campus CMS, Moodle. **Methods:** Nine first-year courses, including Nursing 101 and Psychology 101, were selected as part of a funded pilot for the 2007 fall term. A standard block of four library resources appears by default. In addition, course-specific resources are selected by the liaison librarian in consultation with the course instructor. Course-specific resources include electronic course reserves, databases such as CINAHL or PsycINFO, research guides, and tutorials.

These additional resources are integrated into the courses and dynamically updated using an in-library developed “database of databases”. **Results:** It quickly became evident that the standard set of resources could be useful to all courses through to the 4th year level and was immediately provided in all Moodle course communities. Based on positive feedback from participating faculty and students, the service is expanding to other courses. **Discussion:** Placing direct links to library resources in Moodle provides students with one-click access to a visible set of Library resources. Other resources could include a link to RefWorks, online reference tools, and Web sites. This project expands the use of a database originally designed to manage the Library’s databases on our Web site to include managing library resources in the CMS. Liaison librarians can use this service to partner with faculty in promoting the use of library resources as well as participating in course forums and chats. Bring the Library to the student by using the CMS as a gateway to library resources.