



Embedding library collections into courses in the age of Academic AI

Empower faculty instructors while ensuring library resource access and quality

Academic libraries invest heavily in collections that support teaching and learning, yet those resources are not always reflected in course syllabi. Faculty often assemble course materials under tight timelines, working outside library systems and relying on familiar sources rather than licensed or open resources already available through the library. The result is **uneven use of library collections, spotty copyright compliance, higher costs for students and delayed access to required readings.**

Launched in 2015, the Leganto reading list management system was designed to close this gap by connecting course reading lists directly to library collections and learning environments. Now, with

the introduction of responsibly developed academic AI through **Leganto Syllabus Assistant**, libraries can support this work at a scale, actually increasing time for professional review.

Read on to learn about Leganto, its AI-powered Syllabus Assistant and findings from a recent global study conducted in collaboration with Emerging Strategy that show its impact on higher education workflows. (Spoiler alert: libraries report **faster progression from intake to usable records or reading lists, with fewer manual steps required to reach review-ready outputs.**) Outcomes like these point to a practical approach for improving faculty use of library resources while advancing institutional goals around affordability and access.

"Society's pace of change is very high. Academic libraries can't afford to move slowly just because we want to be cautious. We won't keep up fast enough for our patrons."

Jan Waterhouse, Associate Dean for Collections, Discovery and Information Technology Services, Kansas State University

The syllabus as a strategic access point to the library collection

The syllabus is where decisions about course materials are made. It shapes what students are expected to read, how they will access those materials and what costs they may incur. For libraries, it is also the point at which collections either become part of the curriculum or remain disconnected from it.

Leganto provides an efficient, effective connecting point. It seamlessly integrates an institution's academic ecosystem – including library collections, discovery services and the Learning Management System – into a unified, efficient workflow. It provides a structured environment where course readings can be linked to library collections and delivered to students through familiar learning systems. This **positions the library closer to where faculty decisions are made and earlier in the teaching and learning lifecycle.**

"We didn't want materials to get lost or to clog up our learning management system (LMS). We were thrilled to learn that Leganto resource lists could be rolled over in parallel with their courses from semester to semester. What a time-saver!"

Sarah Bateup, Faculty Librarian, Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University

And for students, the library becomes a resource for reducing materials costs, making higher education more affordable. At Georgia Tech University, the library reported that in their first year using Leganto **students saved \$64,000, with that number growing quickly as more professors adopted the service.**

"We're working diligently with our partners across campus to try and bring these savings to more students. It is our sincere hope that we maximize the potential of this tool [Leganto] and make education more affordable for thousands more students."

Dr. Leslie Sharp, Library Dean, Georgia Tech Library

Faculty adoption begins inside existing teaching workflows

Creating a syllabus is a foundational but often time-consuming part of teaching. Tools that require extra steps or separate systems, no matter how powerful, face adoption barriers. Leganto is designed to meet faculty where they already work by **embedding library support directly into syllabus and course preparation workflows**.

With the AI Syllabus Assistant, instructors can upload a syllabus in PDF, Word, or plain text and automatically generate a structured, editable reading list. Using natural language processing, the Assistant identifies references to course materials and checks their availability in the library collection. Whether faculty are starting from scratch or refining an existing list, they can quickly connect students to books, articles, media, open educational resources, and other web-based content, **without changing how they prepare their courses**.

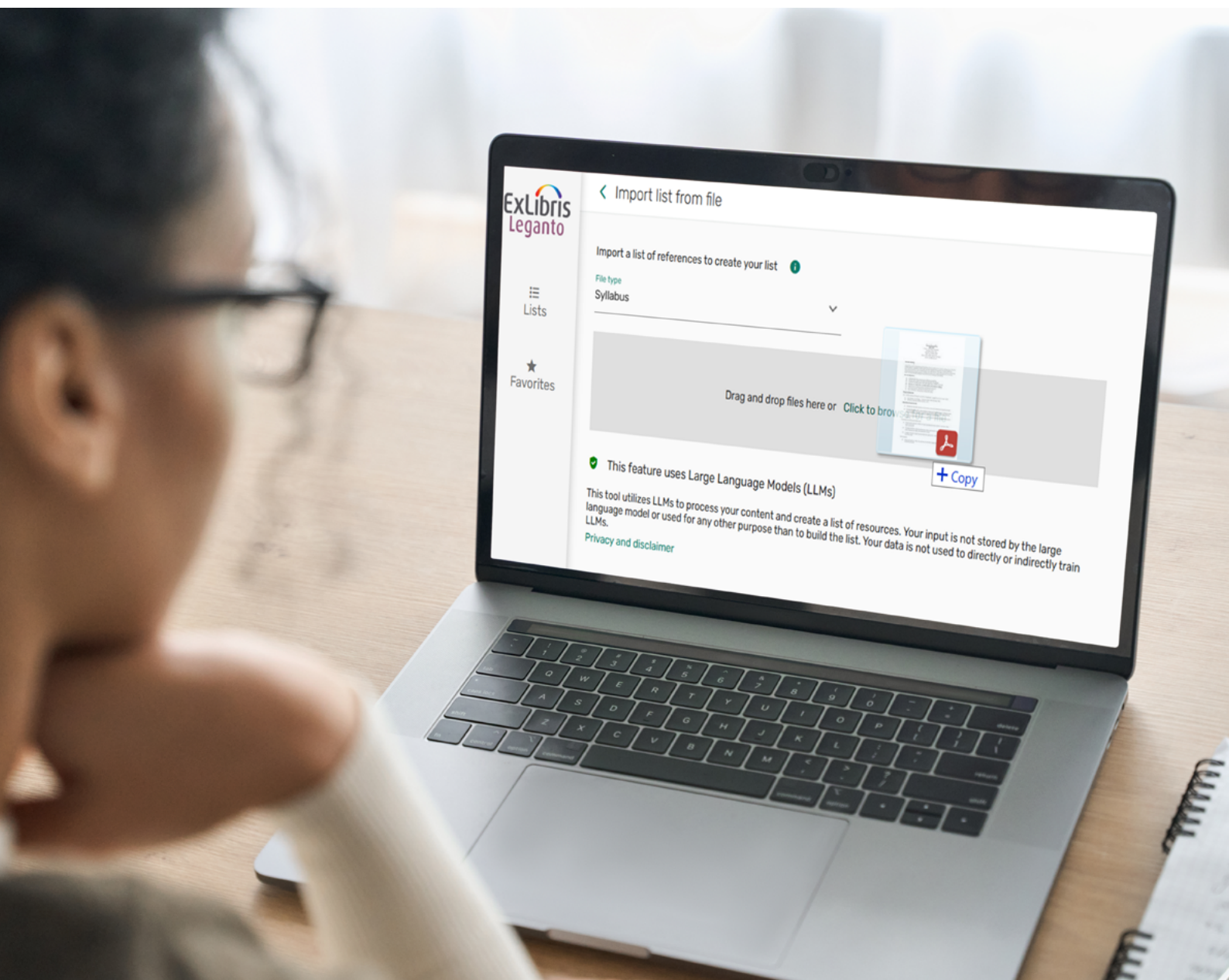
This workflow first approach supports adoption because **faculty do not need to learn a new system or rethink their teaching practices**. Reading lists integrate with learning management systems and align with course structure, **making library resources visible and accessible without adding complexity**. Libraries, in turn, can review draft lists early, ensure materials are accessible and properly licensed, and surface the full depth and diversity of the collection at the point of course design.



Findings from the Academic AI Impact Study reinforce this model. Participating libraries reported that efficiency and consistency gains were closely tied to the fact that Leganto's AI capabilities were introduced within existing workflows rather than as standalone tools. Faculty continued to prepare syllabi as they always had, while libraries gained new capacity to support courses at scale without redesigning service models. The result is a collaborative partnership: instructors retain autonomy and efficiency, and librarians provide proactive guidance on access, licensing and reliability, **embedding the library into teaching from the start.**

"Leganto speaks for itself. Lecturers take one look and get it immediately. It is so much more efficient than what we had before."

Sarah Bateup, Faculty Librarian, Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University



30%

— TO —

60%

reduction in time spent on manual, repetitive work

2x

— TO —

4x

capacity increase of cataloging and course resource readiness, without adding staff

50%

— TO —

60%

of reading lists immediately available after posting

70%

— TO —

90%

of AI-generated output accepted with minor edits

Improving course readiness at scale...

Matching course materials to library collections has long been a bottleneck for libraries, particularly during periods of peak demand. Manual parsing and data entry limit how many courses can be supported and delay student access to materials. Leganto Syllabus Assistant introduces AI at the point where manual effort has traditionally been highest and is intuitive for librarians or faculty to learn. They simply upload a syllabus or any document containing course materials. Leganto automatically builds a complete resource list in just a few clicks. Then, the Assistant identifies citations and matches them to the library's existing collection, creating direct links for student access. If a resource isn't available, it notifies the library for acquisition, ensuring no material is overlooked.

The Academic AI Impact Study found that AI-enabled Leganto workflows reduced time spent on repetitive preparation and increased overall capacity. **Libraries reported a two- to four-fold increase in the number of courses they could support.**

These gains allowed staff to shift focus away from transcription and toward review, instruction and exception handling. Course readiness improved not because steps were removed but because effort was concentrated where it mattered most.

...while keeping professional review at the center

Importantly, the output is designed to support professional review, allowing library staff to validate matches and ensure alignment with local collections before publication. The Academic AI Impact Study found this approach reduced time spent on initial preparation tasks and speeds the transition from intake to usable reading lists. Libraries reported that **50 to 60 percent of reading lists were immediately available to students after AI processing, and that 70 to 90 percent of AI generated outputs were accepted with only minor edits.**

By embedding AI directly into Leganto, libraries increase speed and consistency while keeping human judgment central to the process.

"The Leganto solution has encouraged us to share ideas and best practices and has optimized our collaboration – all of which has made a big difference."

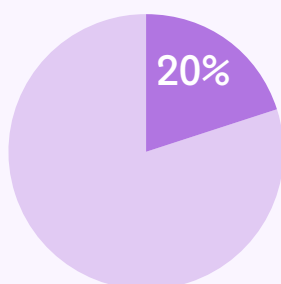
Sarah Bateup, Faculty Librarian, Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University

Making higher ed more affordable and accessible

One of the broad goals of Leganto is to remove barriers to course participation by making required materials easier to find, access and use, regardless of format, device or individual need.

Indeed, Leganto embeds accessibility support directly into the same reading-list workflow students already use to access course materials. When accessible versions of readings are needed, instructors and staff can initiate an “accessible file” request from within Leganto and include notes about specific needs, so the right campus support team can respond without students having to navigate separate processes. This reduces delays and helps ensure that required materials are usable from the start of the term. Access is often impacted by financial pressures. **When library licensed and open resources are embedded into reading lists, students face fewer unexpected costs** and gain earlier visibility into required materials. Centralized access through Leganto also reduces confusion caused by scattered links or personal uploads.

Course materials costs create a wider gap between academic haves and have nots



As course costs go up, student access goes down.

A 2023 Alterline report, sponsored by Ex Libris found that **20%** of students have opted to not enroll in a course because of the cost of course material.

Leganto also makes it easier for students using assistive technologies to find and work with course content, while giving libraries and instructors practical tools to manage accessibility consistently across many courses.

By supporting scale and consistency, **AI enabled Leganto workflows extend these benefits across more courses, not only those receiving intensive manual support.**



Connecting the library with the classroom

Libraries already hold much of the content students need. The challenge has been connecting those collections to the curriculum at scale. Leganto addresses this challenge by embedding the library into the syllabus and course materials process. With the addition of AI through Leganto Syllabus Assistant, libraries can support more courses, reduce preparation time and deliver materials to students earlier, increasing the library's impact.

The result is a clearer alignment between library investment and instructional outcomes. Faculty gain a reliable way to incorporate library resources into their courses. Students benefit from improved affordability and access. Libraries strengthen their role in teaching and learning by providing infrastructure that supports both scale and quality.

Sources:

Alterline (2023) *What students want and need: How to deliver course materials to drive student success*. Commissioned by Ex Libris.

Emerging Strategy. (2026). *Academic AI Impact: Measuring the Impact of AI Adoption on Academic Library Workflows*. Commissioned by Clarivate.

Curious to see Leganto and the Leganto AI Syllabus Assistant in a personalized demo?

Request your personalized Leganto demo and get a guided walk through with one of our library specialists.

[Get in touch here.](#)

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