

Adelphi University

How Adelphi University
Has Transformed Course
Reserves to Improve
Learning and Faculty
Engagement



ADELPHI
UNIVERSITY

Adelphi University Libraries recognized that they had cumbersome, inefficient processes for course reserves. Leganto helped them improve faculty experience and streamline their processes, turning the library into a significant partner in teaching and learning.

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“Faculty who are using Leganto see the value of the Libraries in building curriculum.”

Jason Byrd, Associate Dean, Research and User Engagement



About Adelphi University

Founded in 1896, Adelphi University is the first private, coeducational university on Long Island. Today, the main campus in Garden City and the three dynamic learning hubs serve a population of nearly 8,000 students from 43 states and 64 countries.

As a modern metropolitan university with a uniquely personalized approach to learning, Adelphi is dedicated to transforming students' lives through world-class academics, a focus on student success, and a warm and inclusive community.

Hoping to meet the needs of faculty and students more effectively, Adelphi Libraries transformed their course reserves process with the help of [Ex Libris Leganto](#). Now, students have easier access to course materials, faculty see the Libraries as an essential partner in teaching and learning, and the Libraries have shown their value to the institution.

At many colleges and universities, faculty don't think of the library as a key resource in choosing materials to use in their courses. In fact, a [recent survey](#) commissioned by Ex Libris found that academic libraries ranked sixth among sources used by faculty to find new course materials, after web searches, recommendations from peers, and looking at what others in their field use for course content.

If faculty do think of the library as an instructional resource, it's often for help in making materials available to students through course reserves. However, at Adelphi University, a mid-size institution in New York, many faculty weren't even using the library for this purpose, because the reserves process was too cumbersome.

Librarian Jason Byrd, who also teaches a first-year seminar on misinformation, discovered this problem firsthand. When he tried to reserve materials for his seminar, he realized that he had to type each individual citation by hand into an online form. He would also have to do his own scanning to create digital files, and these files would reside on the library's website as opposed to the course page within the university's learning management system (LMS). What's more, he learned that he would need to reenter this information from scratch every time he taught the course.

“I said, I'm not doing that,” he recalls. “Even as a librarian who should be promoting this service, I didn't see the usefulness of it.” When Byrd became Associate Dean for Research and User Engagement at Adelphi University Libraries in February 2019, he set out to improve the course reserves process.

“Libraries demonstrate value to their institutions when they address particularly thorny problems for faculty and students, even if that means changing longstanding policies and practices,” he observes.

“Leganto has been an accelerant to help us establish the Libraries as partners in learning.” Jason Byrd, Associate Dean, Research and User Engagement

Supporting Library-Faculty Collaboration

Under the university's old process, once an instructor filled out the online form, it was emailed to a library employee whose job was to handle course reserves. This person would print the form and add it to a notebook that kept track of requested reserves. He or she would then process physical items and email the instructor to ask for digital copies to put on e-reserve.

“There were so many redundancies in the process that increased turnaround time,” Byrd notes.

In fall 2019, Adelphi adopted [Ex Libris Alma](#) as its new ILS and [Ex Libris Leganto](#) to help manage course materials. Byrd saw this as an opportunity to review the existing course reserves process and rethink the role of the library in supporting faculty. “This was a chance for us to engage in a transformative shift from our previous model of reserves to something new that served our faculty and students better,” Byrd says.

Leganto is a tool that instructors can use to organize course materials and share them with students. Instructors can easily add resources from the library through an integration with the Ex Libris discovery services, [Primo](#) or [Summon](#), as well as bookmark resources on the web, upload files, or import references. Built-in functionality within Leganto automatically identifies materials from the library's collections and adds library inventory to the selected materials. This helps faculty construct their lists and makes them aware of the resources the university already owns or subscribes to. It's a much easier process for instructors than manually filling in forms, and it provides an opportunity for the library to increase the use of its collections.

Leganto integrates seamlessly with Alma, alerting librarians when an instructor has created or amended a course resource list so the library can help provide access to these resources. In this way, the system facilitates collaboration between library staff and faculty — while highlighting the value that the library can provide to teaching and learning.

Serving Faculty and Students More Effectively

Adelphi's implementation of Leganto began in June 2020 with a small pilot project. Because students were still learning remotely at the time, Byrd and his team knew that online learning would require an online solution.

“We wanted to think beyond printed media and our digital collections to include streaming media, websites, and images when creating these lists,” he says. “We knew our students would be out of the classroom and learning in an LMS, so we wanted a direct link to this material in the LMS.”

To assist with digitization, library staff set up new socially distanced scanning stations. They also traded the print notebook for digital workflows in Alma and Leganto. “This allowed us to eliminate redundancies and create some efficiencies in our staff work,” Byrd says.

For the pilot program, Byrd and his team recruited a cadre of highly motivated faculty members who weren't happy with the previous course reserves process. The pilot went well, with participants finding the interface to add materials to their reading lists very simple and intuitive to use. They also appreciated not having to scan articles and chapters by themselves.



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Improving Access to Course Materials

During the fall 2020 semester, use of Leganto expanded to 70 courses. “Much of this came by word of mouth from pilot faculty who shared their positive experiences,” Byrd says.

An end-of-term assessment revealed that the program was meeting its intended goals, which included simplifying workflows and improving efficiency, lowering the barriers to participation by faculty, giving students easy access to course materials directly within the LMS, and improving the turnaround time on digitized materials. Comments from the faculty assessment included:

- “The library was fast in creating high-quality digital documents.”
- “Students can find Reading Lists all in one place.”
- “Now that I’ve made a [Reading List], it’s done and easy to access from semester to semester.”

Bolstered by this success, Adelphi Libraries rolled out the program university-wide for the spring 2021 semester.

“Leganto has been an accelerant to help us establish the Libraries as partners in learning,” Byrd concludes. “Faculty who are using the [service] see the value of the Libraries in building curriculum. We’re hoping this can help change the narrative that we’re the fourth, fifth, or sixth option for finding course material. Showing the Libraries as a flexible partner on campus also helps us open the door to act on bigger strategic initiatives we want to work on.”

Learn more about Adelphi’s journey with Leganto [here](#).



About Ex Libris

Ex Libris, a ProQuest company, is a leading global provider of cloud-based solutions that enable institutions and their users to create, manage, and share knowledge. In close collaboration with its customers and the broader community, Ex Libris develops solutions that increase library productivity, maximize the impact of research activities, enhance teaching and learning, and drive student mobile engagement. Ex Libris serves over 7,500 customers in 90 countries. For more information, see our [website](#) and join us on [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

