the library & teaching & learning: reading list systems

University of Staffordshire
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Ken Chad
Ken Chad Consulting Ltd
ken@kenchadconsulting.com
Tel: +44 (0)7788 727 845
www.kenchadconsulting.com
Twitter : @kenchad

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putting reading list systems into context

aren't reading lists one attempt to bring the library and teaching & learning closer together?

some questions
(to which I still don't have the answers)

why don't the major library systems vendors offer reading list systems?

reading list systems are the new 'must have' have for UK academic libraries. So why don't US academic libraries seem interested?
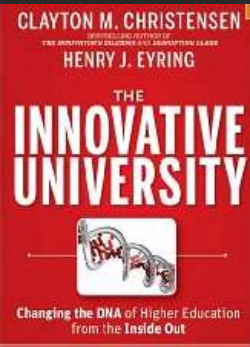
putting reading list systems into context

what's happening in Higher Education?

a US perspective first

(the themes will be common to the UK but adoption rates may differ)

'universities are clinging to a medieval concept of education in an age of mass enrolment. In a recent book, "Reinventing Higher Education", Ben Wildavsky and his colleagues at the Kauffman Foundation, which focuses on entrepreneurship, add that **there has been a failure to innovate.'**

[Higher education] Not what it used to be. American universities represent declining value for money to their students. Economist 1st Dec 2012http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21567373-american-universities-represent-declining-value-money-their-students-not-what-it

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The strategy of universities tends to be one of imitation (of the top ones) rather than innovation. This tends to solidify past educational practice among traditional universities making them more expensive but not fundamentally better from a learning standpoint. This is essentially a 'sustaining' innovation model.

High quality **online learning is the major technological disruptive force**

'The Innovative University. Changing the DNA of Higher Education from the inside out'. Clayton M Christensen and Henry J Eyring. Jossey-Bass (Wiley). 2011

'The broader significance of MOOCs is that they are part of a trend towards the unbundling of higher education. … universities will come under pressure to move to something more like a "buffet" arrangement, under which they will accept credits from each other—and from students who take courses at home or even at high school, spending much less time on campus. StraighterLine, a start-up based in Baltimore, is already selling courses that gain students credits for a few hundred dollars.'

'Almost a third of students these days do not take any courses that involve more than 40 pages of reading over an entire term. Moreover, students are spending measurably less time studying and more on recreation.'

[Higher education] Not what it used to be. American universities represent declining value for money to their students. Economist 1st Dec 2012http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21567373-american-universities-represent-declining-value-money-their-students-not-what-it

Higher Education Technology Trends (Gilfus Education Group 2012)

Prestigious institutions will launch online experiences designed to be as unique as those available to students on campus

'Dynamic and flexible learning experience engines' will emerge to replace learning management systems

Tablets will surge as a means of delivering courses and e-learning media.

Higher Education Technology Trends
(Gilfus Education Group 2012)

E-Textbooks: 2012 will be a banner year for digital textbooks on college and university campuses. Retailers are also getting into the e-textbook game. The trend is towards **not so much e-books, as 'digital learning environments'.**

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Higher Education Technology Trends
(Gilfus Education Group 2012)

Open Educational Resources: Higher education is further along in thinking about open education resources and the kinds of things that can be licensed for use and reuse.

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Higher Education Technology Trends
(Gilfus Education Group 2012)

The Online Classroom: Textbooks won't be the only educational resource that will see increased online delivery in 2012. The classroom itself will also exist online more than ever before.

Higher Education Technology Trends
(Gilfus Education Group 2012)

Campuses move to the Cloud: With so many resources and learning opportunities moving online, and pressed by the need to reduce IT infrastructure costs, more and more campuses will take advantage of the benefits provided by cloud technologies.

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a UK (JISC) perspective

'seven predictions for our technology enabled universities'
Sarah Porter, Head of Innovation at JISC

5. the digital environment will provide more opportunities for institutions to provide an enhanced and customised student experience - Intelligent, data-driven systems will work with the student to support them, to analyse their learning behaviour, to propose resources that may help with areas of weakness or further develop areas of interest.

'Seven predictions for our technology enabled universities'. By Sarah Porter. JISC Inform Issue 33 [Future technologies]. 2012
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/inform/inform33/FutureTechnologies.html

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the library response

'With librarians poised between information and knowledge, libraries have begun to question how they can integrate learning management systems (a.k.a. e-learning)—software that delivers and manages online courses—into their daily operations. ….Moreover, the inadequacies of integrated course reserves modules—similar to the inadequacies of MARC for digital assets or serials modules for ERM—have shown that **the traditional ILS is (yet again) unable to support the management of learning resources'**

'Hot Conference Cool technology'. By Andrew K. Pace American Libraries. August 2004
http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/techspeaking/techspeak2004/Aug2004Conference.cfm

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strategy

'maintaining the library as a vibrant enterprise worthy of support from our campuses':
(a five-part strategy)

4. 'Reposition library and information tools, resources, and expertise so it is embedded into the teaching, learning, and research enterprises. This includes both human and, increasingly, computer-mediated systems. Emphasis should be placed on external, not library-centered, structures and systems'.

'A Model Academic Libraries 2005 to 2025'. By David Lewis. 2006 (Paper to be presented at 'Visions of Change,' California State University at Sacramento, January 26, 2007)
https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/665/A%20Model%20Academic%20Libraries%202005%20to%202025.pdf?sequence=6

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EDUCAUSE

Organizing content to support research and learning is at the heart of the library's institutional role.

A growing collection of technologies and tools can be used to more granularly organize, customize, and personalize the online information environment to fit professional, learning, and research activities.

'What Technology? Reflections on Evolving Services'. By Sharon Collins (EDUCAUSE Review online). October 30, 2009 http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/what-technology-reflections-evolving-services

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integrate with the VLE

'it was time for librarians to figure out a way to **be where the students are**.One place that is nearly universal to the academic experience at Duke, however, is the university's learning management system, Blackboard'

'Embedding library resources into learning management systems
A way to reach Duke undergrads at their points of need' By Emily Daly
College & Research Libraries News vol. 71 no. 4 208-212 April 2010

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'Given the decentralized academic environment, faculty independence and the abundance of web tools commonly available today, the vision of a single course management system approach is waning. However, there are significant drawbacks to an ad hoc approach: individual faculty course web pages often don't conform to accessibility standards, and students lack a course portal that automatically provides all of their course information through a single sign on'.

Queen's University [Canada] Library. Course Readings Working Group Report. May 2009
http://library.queensu.ca/files/coursereadingsreport10June09.pdf

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'There remains then a perceived need to deliver an institutionally coherent approach to students that also feeds into the library back-end processes'

A Perspective on Resource List Management By Ken Chad, Ken Chad
Library & Information Update (p.39-41). CILIP June 2010
http://www.kenchadconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Perspective_on_Resourcelist_Manageemnt_CILIPUpdate_June2010.pdf

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reading list systems

reading list systems: what are they?

Reading list systems give the user a 'course/module' (or even week by week or the course) view on library resources. They allow citations to be annotated (e.g. 'Read chapter 4' or 'essential reading'). In an increasingly electronic/digital age links will be made from the reading list citation to the full text. For academic staff they allow the maintenance of reading lists (with the ability to pull in new citations) and ability to automatically link reading lists to library resources (in the catalogue/discovery system).

Getting academics to use the 'library' reading list system has often proved challenging and it is not uncommon to find that library manage the reading lists. For a library manager point of view links to the acquisition process will be helpful (e.g. suggestions of what to buy, or where more copies are needed and usage statistics).

The reading list will typically be closely linked (e.g. embedded) in the institutions learning environment/VLE.

Reading List systems as described above appear to be a peculiarity of the UK academic library scene. They are unlike (US centric) 'Course Reserve' modules of a typical US ILS (LMS)

Higher Education Library Technology (HELibTech) wiki
http://helibtech.com/Reading_Resource+lists

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reading list systems:
what is available?

some fell by the wayside...

Learnbuild

List8D
'Open source reading list system.List8D was part of the Information Environment Programme funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

some are home grown

LORLS (Loughborough University)
LORLS (Loughborough Online Reading List System) developed by
the Systems Team at Loughborough University Library and made
available as open source. LORLS has been in use since June 2000
and recently has gone through a complete redevelopment.

MyReading
'MyReading is a Computing & Library Services project to at the
University of Huddersfield' (in development)

EARL (Easy Access to Resource Lists) York University (in
development)

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some take a library oriented perspective

Talis Aspire (Talis Education Ltd.)
'Talis Aspire is a cloud-based system with over 30 customers in the UK and Australasia'.

rebus:list (PTFS Europe)
'rebus:list is designed to manage all kinds of reading lists. Fundamental to the design is the concept of complete reading list management aimed at supporting the entire workflow of generating, maintaining, and managing reading lists'.

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others.....

unilibri
'unilibri is launching in Semester 2 of the 2012/13 academic year. unilibri is a software as a service, hosted in the cloud, meaning that we are able to offer it for free to institutions.'

Studentreadinglists
'Staff and students can create reading lists which are then made available on the studentreadinglists web site. The website provides a central platform to 'compile, validate and share course resources. Students .. purchase their course media from different providers The sales commission is shared with your University'

Readinglists.co.uk (Blackwells)
A Blackwell's service that enables lecturers and others to submit reading list details and as a result enable ordering of books on the list from Blackwell

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themes to watch

content

digital, fragmented, open, embedded pedagogy

infrastructure

cloud, big data, analytics

consumption

mobiles/tablets, social, personalised

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