

Integrating Library Resources Into Learning Management Systems

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Rochester Institute of Technology Library Resources Link Server

Even though the **Library Resources Link Server** is a separate application, on a different server, it displays in a frameset – completely integrating library resources into the Learning Management System and making the library and library resources important LMS assets.

All course shells at RIT have a “myLibrary” link in the Navigation bar.

Contact Information for subject specialist librarians is displayed based on the College or Program.

If the user is a faculty member the **Library Resources Link Server** will display special links just for faculty – including web forms for placing material on reserve. Distance Learning sections have special links about using the library from a distance.

If the course number exists in the course reserve module of the library's online catalog, it pulls the titles, creates links, and displays them on a **Reserves** tab. If there are no reserves for the course, the reserve tab is not displayed.

The **Find Articles**, **Subject Guides**, and **Select Websites** tabs present links to appropriate content from the library's website for the college or program. Because the application links to existing content at the library's website, there is very little maintenance to the application itself. Library staff can continue to update and maintain library web pages without having to concern themselves with the **Library Resources Link Server**.

Contacts:

General info: **Susan Mee** (samwml@rit.edu) 585-475-2568; Library Coordinator for Distance/Online Learning and College of Applied Science Librarian
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A six-minute flash video overview, streaming presentations (with audio), and sample code, and this handout is available at: <http://library.rit.edu/desire2learn/>

The myLibrary link in RIT's Learning Management System passes the “CourseNumber” and “Role” as parameters to a **Library Resources Link Server**.

Here is a sample URL, with the parameters filled in:
<http://ellie.rit.edu/d2l/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=577>

The **Library Resources Link Server** parses the course number and role to determine what information to display.

Here is a sample RIT course number:
CourseNum=**400357101.20051**

40 = College of Information Technology & Computing Sciences
03 = Software Engineering Program
571 = Course Number
01 = Section number
20051 = 1st Quarter of 2005 (Fall, 2005 quarter)

Role=**577**

577 = faculty view

The integration of library resources into course shells is scalable for each program and department. Each individual subject specialist librarian can decide how far and at what level they want to supply resources at the college or program level.

Feel free to visit the following URLs and see the application in action. If you were viewing these from within Desire2Learn course shells, you would see them in a D2L frameset. (These are actual URLs with real course content as of April, 2008)

Student view of a course with library managed reserves:
<http://ellie.rit.edu/d2l/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=575>

Faculty view of the same course:
<http://ellie.rit.edu/d2l/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=577>

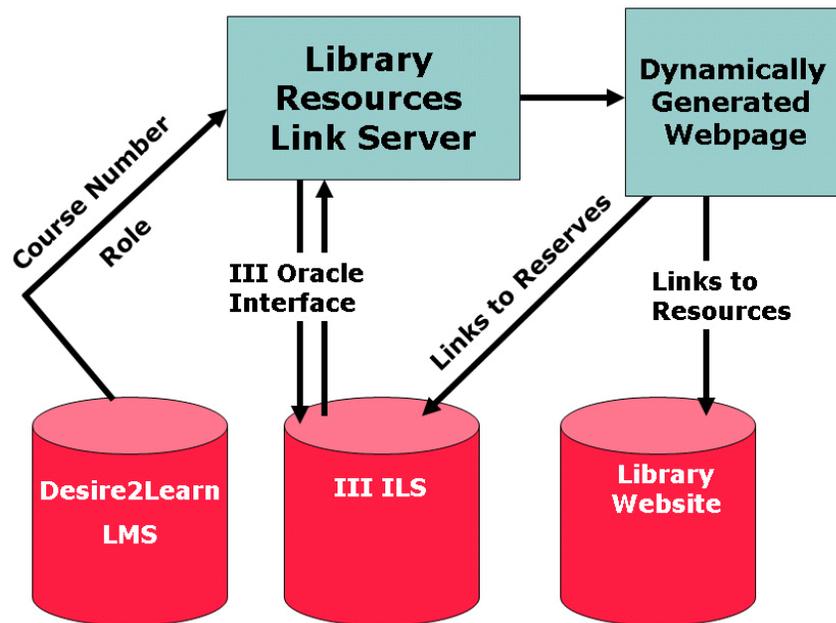
Student view of a course without library managed reserves:
<http://ellie.rit.edu/d2l/course.cfm?CourseNum=052210101.20051&Role=575>

Student view of a distance learning course with reserves:
<http://ellie.rit.edu/d2l/course.cfm?CourseNum=068832590.20054&Role=575>



The myLibrary link is present on the navigation bar by default in all course shells and accessible from every page within the LMS.

System Architecture



Similar in concept to an Open URL Link Server, the **Library Resources Link Server** sits outside of all three systems – the LMS, the ILS, and the Library website.

The dynamically generated web pages are links to existing library resources and services on either the ILS or the Library website.

Features

- Integrates customized library resources into the LMS at the college, program and course level.
- Includes both Macro level resources (Library catalog, citation and research guides, and interlibrary loan) and Micro level resources (course reserves, course specific contact information).
- Links to existing library content. Very little new content was written for this application. Librarians can continue to update the library website independent of this application.
- Individual Librarian contact information is provided in each course.
- Appears by default in the navigation bar of all course shell navigation bars. Faculty do not have to add it to the course page. Librarians do not have to be added to the course shells.
- Harvests links to reserve material from directly from the Integrated Library System. The workflow for electronic and traditional reserves is unchanged.
- Resides on a library run server that is independent from the LMS. If we should migrate to a different LMS, the Link Server should be able to function with the new LMS, too.
- Includes information specifically for certain groups of users such as graduate students, distance learners, and “first year experience” students.
- Is available in both a faculty and student view. The faculty view provides additional resources including links to requesting a class consultation with the librarian, an online request for course reserve materials, copyright information, and Interlibrary Loan requests.