

University of Sydney

Exemplary Rollout
of the Leganto Solution



For the University of Sydney Library, the search for greater efficiency led to a hugely successful rollout of the Leganto resource list solution, a more intuitive experience for all stakeholders, and an increase in collaborative relationships with the broader university.

“We found that Leganto integrates with our other library systems on many levels.”

Adi Piersol, Associate Director Site Services, University of Sydney



About the University of Sydney

Ranked number four in the world for graduate employability, the University of Sydney is home to Australia's top programs in fields such as oncology, veterinary science, arts and humanities, and sports-related subjects. The library supports the educational effort with ten locations across the school's five campuses and the largest academic library collection in the southern hemisphere.

Deeper Integration for Greater Efficiency

More than 70,000 students and thousands of courses draw on the University of Sydney Library's collection for course resources. At that scale, any extra efficiency has a huge impact.

In 2019, the Library implemented the Ex Libris Alma® library management platform and Ex Libris Primo® discovery solution. It made sense for the Library to take a serious look at the Ex Libris Leganto® course resource list solution. The library's goal, as summarized by Associate Director of Publishing and Data Services Katrina McAlpine, was "efficiency and automation. We did a feasibility study to find where we were having challenges and how Leganto could solve them."

McAlpine's co-investigator on the feasibility study was Associate Director of Site Services Adi Piersol. "There were many things we had to check," explains Piersol. "For example, we examined the way Leganto integrates with Canvas and how Leganto streamlines the course loading process. We realized that Leganto integrates with our other library systems on many levels, and the interface is easy to use."

As part of the study, McAlpine and Piersol engaged with other universities. "We wanted to see what Leganto was like for them," notes Piersol. "It was important to understand what we would need to watch out for in our implementation, given the size of our university, the size of our collection, the number of academics using our resources, and any possible issues with our staff. We wanted to learn from other universities' successes, which we could then highlight to our academics."

Planning for a Successful Rollout

In preparation for the rollout, numerous people joined forces, including representatives from the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) department and team members from Educational Innovation.

Michael Arndell, Associate Director of Academic Services, explains that the entire university transitioned to Leganto at the same time, prompting a publicity blitz that got the full attention of the academic leadership. Furthermore, stakeholders from many channels across the university, including Associate Deans of Education, agreed on standard terminology and best principles for managing reading lists.

The project team carefully designed a communications plan to help prepare and engage with academics, unit coordinators, education support staff, students, and Library staff for the launch of Leganto. "It started with talking to the teaching staff, which we did very, very early," reports Piersol. "We created a project page on the Library website to communicate status updates. All our communications directed people to this page. We worked with our library staff on engaging people on Live Chat (the Library's on demand chat service) if they needed help with Leganto. We also worked with the central university marketing team to promote Leganto. We put it on Yammer. We put it on Staff News. We put it on Facebook."

All the communication planning paid off with swift uptake and adoption. During the first term with Leganto, almost 47,000 students were accessing reading lists in nearly 1,000 courses.

Easier and More Intuitive for All

In her role as Manager of Digital Projects and Programs at the university, Kriselda Samson served as Project Manager for the Leganto implementation. "The seamless integration really helps us because we have all of our resources in Primo or Alma," she explains. "It's easier to find items, collect them, and add them to reading lists. That's one of the main efficiencies that Leganto brings to our process in the Library."

"Academics and students see Leganto as part of Canvas, the university's Learning Management System. They saw the old solution as separate, and now they see one system and one library. We noticed right after the implementation that it's easier for students and faculty to understand and get the information they need."

Adds Piersol, "The better user interface has made a positive impact. For me, it's very intuitive to load lists and work on them, and I've never received one-on-one training. The feedback from the academics is that it's easier for them, too."

Arndell agrees: "With Leganto, rolling over a list is a simple process, and the academics can carry it out themselves. We also noticed the absence of complaints during the initial rollout. Normally any action that results in change at the university leads to noisy complaints. Leganto was rolled out in such a way that there was minimal resistance, and I think that's quite a positive outcome."

Building Better Relationships

In Arndell's opinion, "the move to Leganto has enabled us to build on our good relationships with the Educational Innovation team. The Associate Deans of education are on the same page as we are in terms of establishing good principles around reading lists. They have invited us to speak at their education committee meetings to continue that discussion."

"In addition, the academic staff are eagerly awaiting the release of the analytic reports that the library is already getting from Leganto. Using information from the Leganto reports, we'll create integrated education, statistics, and analytics reports for faculties throughout the university."

For the Library, a Present and Stronger Voice

According to Piersol, "The relationship between the Academic, Access and Site Services divisions within the Library has been strengthened. That's definitely been a win. The Library and academics worked together on the Leganto project much more closely than in the past. We've been able to make recommendations that are going to be implemented. I think that the Library has done very well in demonstrating a present and strong voice in the community."



About Ex Libris

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