



talisaspire

How Okanagan College is Transforming the Online Learning Experience

Implementing a New Resource List System to Enhance the Student and Staff Experience

The problem

Roen Janyk, MLIS, the Web Services Librarian at Okanagan College, told us they were seeing an increase in demand for access to a variety of materials in different resource types and formats.

Roen said “this led to an ever-increasing desire for the library to grow Open Education Resources alongside traditional course materials, which was not something that we could do without some sort of e-reserves system. The library team also noticed a growth in uptake of the institution’s Learning Management System, Moodle. As well, there was an increasing need to monitor copyright compliance on materials posted to online courses.”

“We evaluated a few other systems, but Talis Aspire was the only one that met all of our needs and our desires”



Why Talis Aspire?

Roen said “We looked at some other systems, and it seemed they just did not quite have all of the features we were looking for, and Talis did.”

System access and management

In some systems we examined, we found it was difficult to manage access to resources depending on which group certain individuals were in. For example, we wanted to allow access to some lists for the general public, but we also wanted to limit access to other content to students.

We liked that the Talis system was hosted and we had the ability to have a librarian as an administrator, so we did not need ongoing involvement from the IT services department, which was a big benefit.

Content and copyright

We were looking for the ability to integrate sources of different types and formats, we wanted to be able to have print sources, as well as online sources, integrated together into a single list.

One of the key things that we were looking for are copyright management elements. Talis did not have any kind of maximum file size in terms of document uploads, which was great.

Another key feature was the ability to edit the lists from within the system itself or right from within a course page in the LMS (in our case, Moodle), so you could update a reading and it would update it in the list and vice versa.

System neutral

Talis Aspire is ILS (Integrated Library System) neutral which we really appreciated. We do not have a large-scale library management system and we do not tend to put all of our system eggs into one basket. We like the flexibility of having different systems that can actually work together.

Integrations

Talis had the ability to seamlessly integrate with our other systems, such as our ILS and our discovery system.

Okanagan College's requirements	Talis Aspire
Flexible access (manage resource list access by sub-group of users)	✓
Hosted system (no need for involvement from IT)	✓
Copyright management	✓
Different resource types in a single resource list	✓
No maximum file size for upload	✓
Integration with the LMS (ability to edit the resource from course page)	✓
Integration with Integrated Library System (but not tied to any specific Library Service Platform)	✓
Integration with library discovery system	✓

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The implementation process

“The ability to create lists easily really eased the transition to a fully online environment. It made everyone’s lives a lot easier.”

Winter 2019

Funding confirmed. “We received funding outside of the library budget for this because it had not been part of our long-term plan, and it came in just before the pandemic was declared.”

“The pandemic which was fairly coincidental, incidentally played a major role in the success of the launch of Talis Aspire. The ability to create lists easily, really eased the transition to a fully online learning environment. It made everyone’s lives a lot easier when we moved to teaching online within Moodle. We could integrate resources much easier than we would have been able to without the system, which really proved the library’s relevance at a time when we could have fallen off the radar of many professors and instructors.”

The implementation process began after a demo meeting with the Talis Team and other members of the Okanagan College Library Team.



Summer 2020

Soft launch, followed by a full rollout a few months later.

“Our implementation went well. We took a slow and steady approach. Our timelines were slightly altered because of the pandemic. Talis Services Manager, Laura, had just come to Canada to deliver our training, but immediately had to jump on a flight home before the borders were closed.

In a short amount of time, the Talis Team re-jigged the training to move from an in-person approach to virtual instruction.”

The Talis services team was responsive in terms of support during the transition to the new system, and they were incredibly helpful in addressing any questions that came up along the way. The technical and staff support that Talis devoted to our implementation was evident.



What's different?

1

We can support faculty better

"Professors and instructors are pleasantly surprised that we can now deliver on their requests for digitization or efficient access to content. Before Talis Aspire, we did not have a reserves system, so we could not really provide direct access to resources in the way our faculty and instructors wanted.

Offering faculty and instructors the option to embed the lists into their courses, has provided students with improved access. This has really increased the conversation between faculty and librarians, and understanding on how to support students with learning resources. We have moved to a more embedded librarianship model, something that we had been trying to achieve for quite some time, and it really occurred inadvertently through the creation of Talis lists."

2

We can make better use of the resources we already have (and save students money)

"We have courses that used to require students to buy multiple textbooks as well as supplementary resources for their course. They no longer have to do that because we are able to better flex our Fair Dealing rights, and our Access Copyright license, by loading digital content into lists.

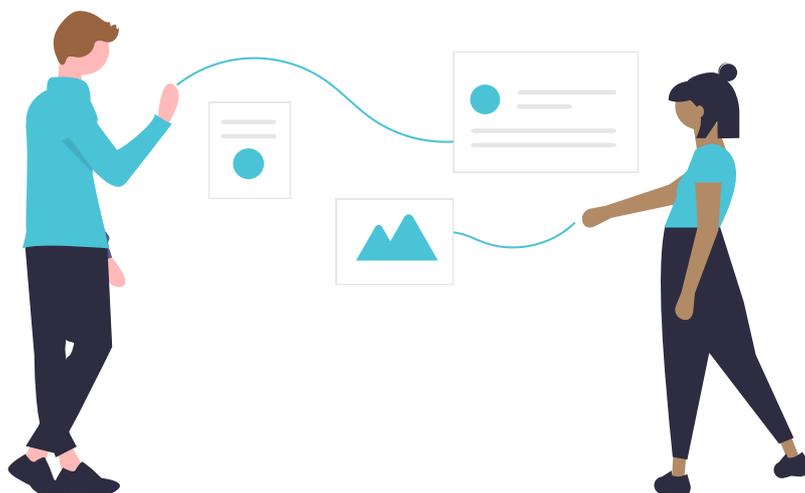
We can now make our library supplied e-textbooks available through Talis Aspire lists. Affordability of course materials for students is important. For example, we've got two political science courses that are running this term and both of them have zero textbook costs for students, whereas previously they would have had to buy two or three textbooks for each course."

3

Analytics tell us more about the library service

"We've been able to get some really good quantitative data on usage, demonstrating the return of investment for Talis Aspire. In our most recent report that came out, we had more than 4,000 visits to lists in the month of January, which is great.

We are better able to keep an eye on the use of copyright of materials posted to our online Learning Management System, and we are able to ensure that we are abiding by our legal obligations while also flexing our educational Fair Dealing rights."



About Okanagan College

Okanagan College is a public, post-secondary institution with over 120 certificates, diplomas, degrees and programs including apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship trades programs.

Its largest campus is located in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Established in 1963, Okanagan College has since grown to be the largest college in British Columbia outside the Lower Mainland and Victoria with over 5,500 FTE students on four regional campuses, and it offers the second-largest trade school in British Columbia. More than 1,000 international students from over 40 countries currently study at Okanagan College.



About Talis

Addressing the evolving priorities of their strategic goals around Teaching & Learning, and learning analytics, global universities & colleges serving over 1 million students, deliver an improved experience and outcomes, through the integration of Talis Aspire into their Learning Management and Library Management Systems.

Separately, Talis Elevate, a universal content player, supports collaboration, engagement and insights into resource usage.



Find out more about Talis Aspire

Visit: talis.com/talis-aspire