

Expanding the use of resource lists in Talis Aspire by Griffith University



Griffith University has been working with Talis to add support for Music Scores within Talis Aspire.

This project was triggered by a change in the Australian Universities' music licence agreement, which provides individual institutions with the option to pay for the additional rights to digitise scores and upload them directly into resource lists. It will enable a more seamless delivery of digital music scores, reduces manual effort required by library staff, streamlines copyright workflows and improves the student experience.

Griffith University has been using Talis Aspire since 2014, across all departments in the university. It is integrated with their Library Management System Innovative: Sierra, and Learning Management Environment Blackboard.



The problem

The Queensland Conservatorium, one of Australia's leading music and performing arts schools, is part of Griffith University so being able to include music scores into the reading list service is important for the student experience.

We spoke to Team Leader, Scholarly Resource Services **Kelly Johnson**, who told us that;

“Historically, we had used manual workarounds in order to place music scores on our reading lists. It took a lot of time from our staff. Our copyright licence meant that we couldn't scan and upload the music scores in a useful way to students, so it required students to come to the library to source them. This was particularly difficult in recent times.”

The music licence agreement has recently changed, meaning that the music scores can now be made available digitally and distributed to students. Griffith University needed to be able to categorise items on their Talis Aspire resource lists as music scores, and create a workflow for digitising these items, now that this addition to the licence agreement allowed this.

About the tertiary music licence

The Australian Tertiary Music Agreement is an agreement between Universities Australia and Australian Music societies.

It covers all 39 Australian Universities for a broad range of music uses and a new additional print music licence now allows the universities that opt in to reproduce sheet music in physical or digital formats for use by students and staff for educational purposes or performance at a university event.

This allows universities a greater range of options in providing access to full music scores than was previously available.

Finding the solution

Craig Milne, Deputy University Librarian and Head of Scholarly Resource and Library Campus Services told us;

“When the change in licencing came about, we created a business case and presented it to Talis proposing that we work to develop this area of the Talis Aspire product. It will save us a lot of manual work managing hardcopy scores for the Queensland Conservatorium.

We worked closely with Talis to give them a clear understanding of requirements, and communicated often throughout the process, testing and iterating. The frequent communication was great, and Talis had a clear and organised development plan which kept us on track and ensured both parties had the information and requirements covered. We were able to have the functionality live ahead of Trimester 2 which was the goal.”

Griffith University library team’s deep understanding of the requirements of students and staff within the Conservatorium was essential to the success of the project, enabling us to ensure all metadata needs were met.



The benefits

Having music score functionality in Talis Aspire allows Griffith University to provide students with 24/7 access to these materials, which was impossible before.

Kelly explains that;

“Digital capabilities and licencing now allow for easy distribution of digital music scores to students. This will really help us provision content.”

This capability comes at a perfect time. Craig explains that;

“We see students using tablets and mobile devices to review, read and mark up music scores, so it was important that we kept up with this digital shift. The new licencing agreements, as well as Talis’ development of the ‘Music score’ resource type, has allowed us to do this.”

As well as improving the student experience, the library staff will also benefit. It will enable the library to work more efficiently, removing the need for previous manual workarounds as well enabling them to digitise content within a streamlined workflow that can be easily reported on.

Finding the solution

Craig adds;

"This product update is important for Griffith, but will also be useful for other universities across Australia who can make use of the same licence."

Zena Amos, Product Manager at Talis

"It's been a great experience working with Griffith, and seeing how these changes will bring both significant time savings to how Music Scores are delivered alongside enhancing the overall experience of Music Scores by users at all stages of the process. The development has also provided some great additional benefits to the wider community. It not only allowed us to improve the copyright request form and enhance accessibility, it has laid some exciting groundwork which will in future allow Talis to more easily support multiple licences and workflows based on a resource type."

Kelly says;

"We communicated with the library staff and the Queensland Conservatorium staff to make them all aware of the new option. We hope to see strong takeup of this new functionality and we will be reviewing the usage at the end of the trimester."

About Griffith University

Griffith University ranks in the top 2 percent of universities globally with 50,000 students spanning six campuses in South East Queensland, Australia. Formally founded in 1971, Griffith opened its doors in 1975, introducing Australia's first degrees in environmental science and Asian studies. Griffith ranks highly for student satisfaction and has won many awards for University Teaching.



About Talis

At Talis we are focused on helping Higher Education institutions reach their strategic goals around Teaching & Learning, learner and learning analytics, student experience and provision of resources. We work with over 100 institutions globally. We provide two solutions, Talis Aspire; an online resource list solution which closes the gap between the library, academics and students to improve workflow efficiencies around

acquisitions and copyright compliance for the library, whilst providing an improved interface for students and academics which seamlessly integrates with your Virtual Learning Environment. Talis Elevate builds collaborative learning capabilities directly into resources we use in teaching, lowering barriers to entry for students to interact and engage, whilst also providing rich analytical insight into resource engagement, use over the term, annotation activity and student support.