talis aspire

An Ecosystem of Choice

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Integrating community and vendor-based systems at Okanagan College: Talis Aspire (Resource List Management System) and EBSCO FOLIO (Library Services Platform).
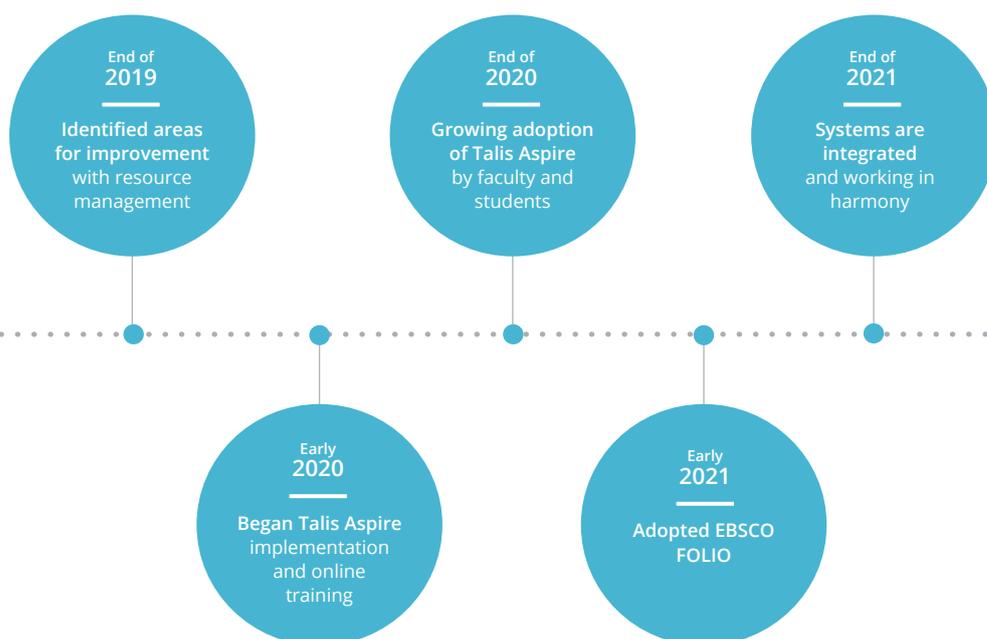
The experience of the Library Services team at Okanagan College during their implementation of EBSCO FOLIO alongside Talis Aspire and how the integration between them has improved their student support offerings.

Adopting Talis Aspire

Ross Tyner, Director of Library Services, shares:
"We identified the need to provide an easier way for academics to manage their course readings and resources, and to allow the library to facilitate more efficient use of print and e-resources. Talis Aspire was the ideal solution to solve this problem. We also saw that it had potential to become part of our copyright management program to provide efficiencies and improve on reporting tasks."

Okanagan College licensed Talis Aspire in early 2020 and began implementation with a goal to soft-launch in the summer. Although closures during the pandemic contributed to a delayed start, adoption rates have been strong since launch, with Talis Aspire being used in more than 150 courses. Talis Aspire is also used by the library to create open resource lists on Hot Topics ranging from Indigenous History and Residential Schools, to Women's History Month, to Freedom to Read Week.

Ross added, "The Talis team offered plenty of support throughout implementation and continued to support us once we went live with the system. We've enjoyed the services of dedicated community representatives to assist us with general questions, along with specialists to address more complex issues."

End of
2019

Identified areas for improvement with resource management

End of
2020

Growing adoption of Talis Aspire by faculty and students

End of
2021

Systems are integrated and working in harmony

Early
2020

Began Talis Aspire implementation and online training

Early
2021

Adopted EBSCO FOLIO

Okanagan College was one of the first two libraries in Canada to adopt Talis Aspire and the Talis team worked closely with them to optimize system functionality to meet region-specific needs.

Okanagan College and Talis worked closely together to identify any region-specific requirements and challenges in copyright to ensure a streamlined workflow and auditing process.

Laura Unwin, Head of Services, Talis notes

"Talis Aspire's copyright management module has been used in a number of geographies, each with specific requirements, for upwards of a decade. Having a partner like Okanagan College helped us ensure the best flows under Fair Dealing and Fair Use paradigms in Canada and the United States, respectively".

Alison Spencer, CEO of Talis adds

"Everything we do at Talis is focused on supporting our users' ecosystem of choice. Our platform-neutral interoperability is fundamental to ensuring the flexibility to work with existing or future library and institutional systems, to deliver an improved student experience and to aggregate data on materials used in classes, providing campus-wide insight into how library investments are being leveraged. Our integration with FOLIO increases breadth of options for our community, giving them the flexibility to choose their preferred systems, with the trust that we will continue to work effectively with them."

Adopting EBSCO FOLIO
(Future of Libraries is Open)

Okanagan College became the first library in Canada to adopt the FOLIO library services platform, contracting with EBSCO for implementation, hosting and support.

Migration from Voyager and implementation of FOLIO took place in a phased approach between March and August of 2021.

"We chose FOLIO because we needed a replacement for our aging Voyager system. FOLIO offered state-of-the art technology and excellent integration with existing products and systems. EBSCO offered us the support we required to run an open source system because we don't have the capacity to do so ourselves." noted Ross.

He added "At our request, and because of our tight timelines, EBSCO was very hands-on at every stage of the FOLIO implementation. Members of our team and the EBSCO FOLIO team met at least twice a week to discuss issues, solve problems and even work on the implementation itself. EBSCO's specialists in various areas of the system provided invaluable assistance, without which we could never have gone live with phase one on June 1. Thankfully, we were not the first library to migrate from Voyager to FOLIO, so EBSCO was able to rely on some of their experience during our implementation."

"EBSCO's team, which included librarians and veteran ILS consultants, has led the implementations of various systems across libraries and large consortia. The team at Okanagan College was active and engaged throughout the implementation process and committed to ensuring that their system was configured and thoroughly tested prior to go-live. **The EBSCO and Okanagan teams formed an excellent partnership, collaborating to meet a tight project deadline.**

EBSCO FOLIO Services cover all aspects of implementation, including third-party integrations, data analysis, scripting and migration, workflow analysis, strategic and project planning, change management, and organizational consulting & training. EBSCO provides hosting services for EBSCO FOLIO on Amazon Web Services (AWS), software updates, backups, monitoring and security. The team's AWS-certified cloud engineers provide an enhanced version of the FOLIO software by securing and improving the community-released code. **Okanagan College transitioned to the newest technology while avoiding costs typically associated with a traditional ILS migration.**

As a founding member of the FOLIO Community, EBSCO maintains an active role in the development of FOLIO and welcomes adoption by institutions such as Okanagan College as a way to expand the community and continue to develop the extensibility of the FOLIO platform. Integrations such as Talis Aspire enable the college to incorporate real-time insight into library holdings within the Learning Management System, while working seamlessly with EBSCO FOLIO and EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)."

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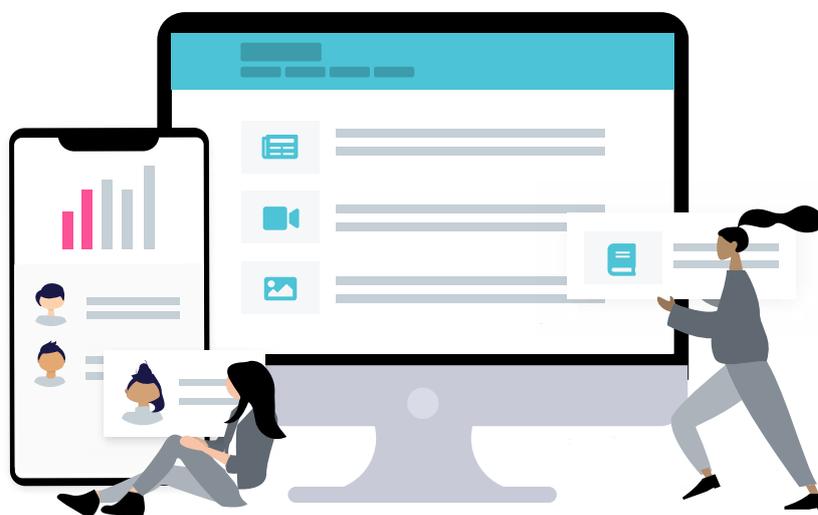
Integrating the Solutions

Talis Aspire, a platform-neutral solution, integrates with many Library Services Platforms (LSP). Expanding the choice available to libraries even further by adding FOLIO to our collection of integrations, is in line with that approach.

Ross explains, "EBSCO has also invested a lot of effort in supporting FOLIO, and were already communicating with Talis prior to Okanagan's move to the FOLIO platform. Once we adopted FOLIO, Talis & EBSCO coordinated to determine the integration points, and the companies apportioned between themselves the steps each would take, to intertwine the two solutions at the most logical junctions."

Okanagan College does not have a typical catalogue with Discovery Solution. EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) is the primary access point. Within EDS, students, faculty and librarians are able to see whether a resource has been added to any Talis Aspire resource lists, and to access their list directly from the Discovery Service.
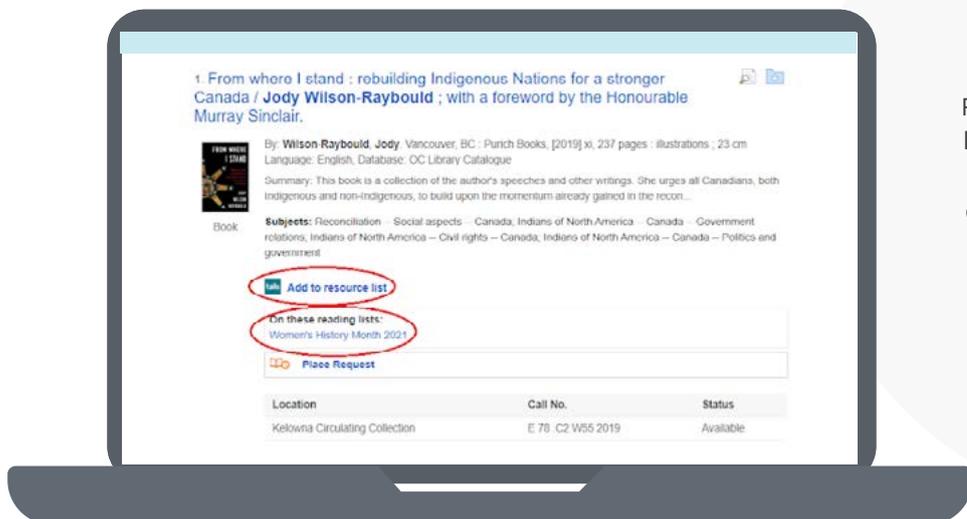
This integration saves time for faculty and librarians. They are able to add the resource to a new or existing list without navigating between the systems.
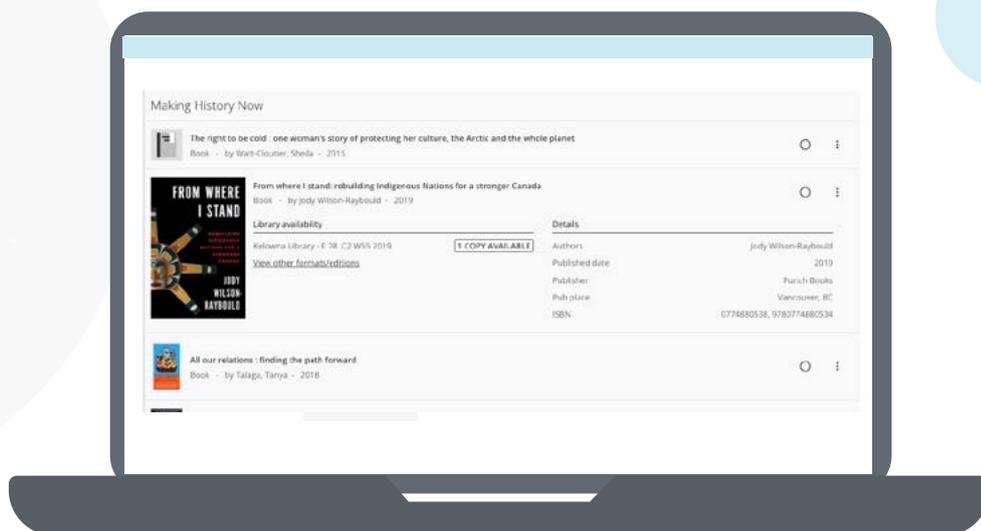
Integration Examples

Streamlined List-building

Faculty, instructional designers and librarians can readily access library holdings within Talis Aspire, or directly from the Discovery Service results, making the process of list-building streamlined and intuitive.

Real-time library availability

Within Okanagan College's Learning Management System (LMS) Moodle, Talis Aspire displays the real-time library availability of print holdings plus direct-links into EDS to offer other format options.

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Discover how Talis Aspire could fit into your university's ecosystem

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Reach out to the Talis Team, who can help you explore how resource lists are making an impact on student experience and digital learning across the world, and how Talis Aspire can work with your existing tools to help your library meet your institution's strategic priorities.

Email us to learn more at **info@talis.com**
Visit **talis.com/talis-aspire** for more information

Talis is part of Technology from SAGE

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