Linking your Aspire reading list to your module in Moodle

Students can find any online reading list in Aspire just by going to the Reading lists tab on LibrarySearch, on the Library home page, and then searching for the list/module name.

However, to make sure they can’t miss your list, you can also link it to your module’s Moodle page with a few clicks. It may already be linked: look on your module’s Moodle page for a Reading List block in either of the two side columns. If it isn’t there, here’s how to add it:

1. Log in to Moodle, go to the module where you want to add the reading list, and turn Editing on.

2. At the bottom of the left-hand column, find the Add a Block option, pull up the menu and select Talis Aspire Resource Lists.

3. Click on it and a new block should appear linking to your Aspire list. (If it doesn’t work, see below.)

4. By default, the block will be at the bottom of the column. To make sure students can’t miss it, use the Move button in the block to drag it up the column. Make sure it is high enough up the page for students to see it!

5. Your reading list is now available to students via their Moodle course. The block is linking through to Aspire, so Moodle always shows them the current, updated version of the list with no need for you to make separate Moodle updates.

6. Alternatively, you can embed readings from an Aspire list into individual weekly sections of a Moodle course – see our separate guide on Embedding week-by-week Aspire readings in Moodle.

Help, it didn’t work!

7. Talis Aspire Resource Lists didn’t appear as an option in the Add a Block menu… check that you don’t already have a Reading List block in one of the side columns.

8. The block appeared, but it had no reading list in it! If you get a block that says “No resource lists found”, that usually means your list is not linked to the correct module number in Aspire, so Moodle couldn’t work out which list to attach. To check and correct this in Aspire:
9. Go into Aspire (via Reading Lists on the Library home page, or directly via http://resourcelists.brookes.ac.uk), log in with your staff number and password, and find your list by name or module number.

10. Click through to the list and make sure it is linked to the correct module number(s). (Look under the list title at the top for Linked To)

11. If it isn’t linked, or not to the right numbers, pull down the Edit button on your list and select Hierarchy and Student Numbers. Add or delete module numbers as required, then Save.

12. You should now be able to go back into Moodle and start again from Step 1.

What if my list doesn’t have a module number?

You can link non-modular reading lists to non-modular Moodle courses – for example, if you have an overarching course Moodle space with a general course reading list – but you have to do it manually:

13. Go into Aspire, locate your list, and copy its complete URL (Web address) – this will start rl.talis.com/3/brookes/lists/ followed by a long string of letters and numbers.

14. Log in to Moodle, go to the course where you want to add the reading list, and turn Editing on.

15. Go to the Add a Block menu as before, but select HTML.

16. A new, blank HTML block will appear at the bottom of the column. Click on the cog icon within it, and select CONFIGURE.

17. An editing window appears. For the Block title, put Reading list: in Content, type in the name of your list. Then select the list name text, click the Link button, and in the Link box which pops up, paste in the list URL which you copied earlier. Tick Open in new window. Then Create link and Save changes.

18. You should now have a new block called Reading List, with a working link to your Aspire list. You can drag this up to the top of either side column, using the Move button, as before.

Still stuck?

If you need any help, just get in touch with your Academic Liaison Librarian – contact details at http://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/subject-help/