

Course Management Systems: Integrating Library Content

Library (Course) Tools at NCSU

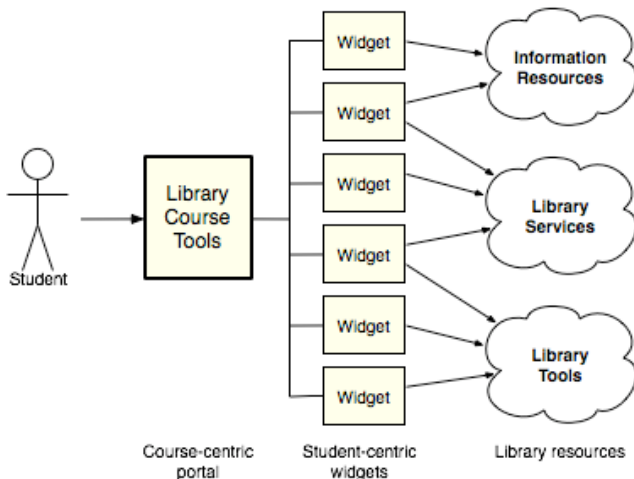
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What is Library Tools?

The Library Tools application dynamically generates student-centric views of library resources and tools for all courses taught at North Carolina State University. Library Tools is designed to stand outside the learning management system environment while allowing integration into multiple LMS's. Library content is contextualized to the course wherever possible by exploiting existing and new library resource mappings to NCSU course department codes and course numbers.

Architecture

NCSU Library Tools is built on top of the concurrently developed Library Widget system. Both systems provide RESTful APIs that allow intuitive and consistent interactions. The Library Tools system passes a request for a course on to several widgets, each of which receives the course descriptor through the generic Widget handler interface and returns the most specific content available. The Library Tools system then assembles, enhances, and styles the widget content before returning a page to the user. The widgets return consistent HTML stubs to ease styling and reuse in diverse systems.



Achieving Scalability

The LT widgets are sensitive to various course contexts and can display content at varying levels of specificity – i.e. course section (BIO 101 001), course (BIO 101), curriculum (BIO), college (Life Sciences). The LT system is “smart” in that it seeks out the most customized content available on a widget by widget basis. In order to balance scalability with librarian customization we leverage preexisting data sources wherever possible while integrating librarian-created content.

How Users Reach Library Tools

Our goal is to provide course-tailored access to the Library Tools system in as many venues as possible. The current points of integration include:

Learning Management Systems:

- BlackBoard Vista - automated request / access process. Library staff must insert links.
- Moodle "block" – Instructor-added blocks that are served by the Widget System; likely to be automatically added to course pages in the future.
- WolfWare (NCSU course locker system) – automated course-level links

Library Website:

- Library Website front page
- NCSU Libraries “QuickSearch”
- Learning Commons website

Collaboration

The Library Tools development team consists of staff from the library’s **Research and Information Services** and **Digital Library Initiatives**. Additionally, the success of Library Tools depends on collaboration with a variety of stakeholders:

Students: Focus groups with students in spring 2007 and fall 2008 impact the design, content, and functionality of Library Tools.

Faculty: Faculty interest in library resources integrated into LMS’s prompted the development of Library Tools. Recommended content can be adapted to the specific requirements of course assignments. Integration into online learning environments depends on the support of faculty.

Subject specialist librarians: Reference librarians add value to Library Tools through providing “Recommended for...” resources at either the curriculum (ENG), course (ENG 101), or section (ENG 101 sect 001) levels. Subject specialists control the mappings between curricula and library resources.

Campus Partners: The library collaborated with learning technology partners on integration into the LMS’s and to promote Library Tools to faculty, staff, and students.

Learn More

Library Tools

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/course>

Project Overview

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/dli/projects/courseviews>

Contact Us

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Library Tools

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/course/ENG/219>

Course Reserves:

Customized to the course.
Student selects their section.

Course Look-up:

Easily switch to Library Tools for other courses.

NCSU Libraries - Learning Commons - Hours - Webmail - Send Feedback

Switch course: ENG 219 Go

ENG 219: Studies in Great Works of Non-Western Literature

Course Reserves

ENG 219
Fosque (001)
Fosque (003)

Citation Tools

Citation Builder
RefWorks
APA Citation Guide (Purdue)
MLA Citation Guide (Purdue)

Project Tools

Study Room Reservations
Writing Resources
Presentation Toolkit
Paper Writing Toolkit
Poster Toolkit

Technology Lending

Articles **Catalog** **Google Scholar**

Quick Article Search

What am I searching?
Humanities Search for Articles
Example: "global warming" and legislation

Databases by Subject

Literature
Film Studies
Communication & Media
Linguistics
Browse Databases by Subject

Recommended for ENG courses

Never Written a Literary Essay Before?
Guides to help you get started.

Find Background Information on Authors
Information about the life of a literary author can provide insight into the writing of the author as well as the author's time period

Find Criticism on Literary Works
Tips for finding criticism written on literature and authors

Find Helpful Reference Materials
Specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries are great resources for overviews of topics and background information

Resources for Writing and Citing
Tools and tips for helping you write your paper

Get Help:
Cindy Levine
Humanities Librarian
Ask Us
Get help 24 hours a day via phone, IM, or email.
Available
Type here to chat. pop out

Citation and Project Tools:

Links to popular resources for students. Static content which appears in all courses.

Search Options:

Quick Article Search – targets database clusters from single vendors (ex. EbscoHost, CSA)

Databases by Subject – links to recommended disciplinary databases are mapped to curriculum codes.

Catalog – single box keyword search for access to catalog.

Google Scholar – proxied search context students to library's subscriptions in Google Scholar.

Technology Lending Ad:

Click-through widget highlights the library's popular service for borrowing laptops, camcorders, iPods, and more.

Recommendations from subject specialist librarians:

Customized to curriculum, course, or section.

Get Help:

Contact info for subject specialist.

Link to library's 24-hour Ask Us virtual reference service.

libraryh3lp widget - chat with a librarian at the reference desk.