A Prudent Approach to Fair Use Workflow

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Background

This poster outlines a new highly efficient workflow for the management of copyright materials that is prudent and accommodates generally and legally accepted Fair Use limits. The workflow allows academic, library or copyright staff an easy means to create reading lists, manage their copyright obligations and licenses and review and adjust schedules for material availability. This poster details opportunities for future speed and efficiency gains for professors and library staff while reducing copyright risk.

A staged approach was undertaken where eReserve Plus was setup and connected to the Moodle Learning Management System. Development was then undertaken to integrate the library catalogue (TLC) with eReserve Plus. Stage 1 and 2 have been released. Library staff have been managing reading list creation on behalf of professors during initial deployment. It is expected that once training of academics has been conducted that professors will be able to self service and manage reading lists themselves.

Objectives

Formerly reading list creation and copyright management practices required a lot of manual work for academic and library staff. Copyright review, materials management and timely compilation of reading list materials created a lot of busy work that delivered limited value to the academic experience.

Project goals include:

• Significantly less time and resources spent on reading list creation, review and copyright management;
• Much faster workflow for academic and library staff;
• Integration with existing eco-system (Learning Management System, library catalogue, copyright permissions or licensing system and better utilisation of subscriptions;
• Reduced effort in managing reading lists in the future;
• Greater transparency on materials use and student engagement with resources.

Staged Implementation

Previously library staff had to discover materials in the LMS and undertake a manual review of whether materials could be used (via copyright clearance check and QA). It was decided that a staged implementation would focus on system setup, integration with the Learning Management System deliver some immediate benefits in the standardization of the distribution method and presentation of materials in reading lists.

Professors and library staff could now use a consistent and easy to use process for adding readings that is centrally managed and that will detect potential copyright conflicts as soon as materials are requested, allowing scheduling and negotiation to minimise copyright issues and ensure availability of materials at key times.

Challenges

A second stage of implementation focused on integration of the catalogue and database subscription systems used at Denver Seminary with eReserve Plus. The second stage integration was more complex to develop, to test and deploy than anticipated. The complexity in testing the integration work delayed the release of the integration and scheduling of academic training. The staged implementation of the project has continued with the recent delivery of the catalogue integration though the delay has meant faculty have not been thoroughly trained in the new system and process as yet.

The catalogue integration allows academic and library staff to search the library catalogue for resources directly from within the Learning Management System, allowing more efficient use of subscriptions and holdings and checking permissions exist wherever possible. The third and final stage of implementation will include the integration with the Copyright Clearance Centre and allow the verification of materials against the CCC educational licence.

Future Stages

It is planned to shortly deliver integration with the Copyright Clearance Centre (CCC) so that requests for materials use are checked against the Annual Copyright License used by Denver Seminary.

Though support for CCC will be part of the last stage there will also be support for acquisition via direct license and support for ad-hoc license additions separate and external to any CCC license.

This final stage will allow academic staff to add and manage their own readings, including linking copyright approved readings directly into the content areas of the Learning Management System so that reading content is presented to students in line and context with course material.

Licence management features are due to be released in the next few months that allow the creation and management of:

• Customized license types;
• Customized license messages and notices that display to users at time of access;
• Specific license types will be supported that allow restrictions for material to a given number of accesses, specific audience (location or student group) or time frame and duration.

Prudence in Copyright

The project has allowed Denver Seminary to:

• Centralise and streamline the collation of reading list materials;
• Offer academic staff and students a consistent means of engaging with materials within the Learning Management System;
• Search eReserve Plus, the library catalogue and databases to best utilize existing resources;
• Identify any copyright conflict or issue early in the workflow and review the use of material in a prudent and manageable manner;
• Create an audit trail that indicates the prudent decision making and compliance with Fair Use obligations regarding the timing, selection and management of copyright materials in reading lists;
• Reduce risk of copyright infringement and provide transparency in the decision making process for the use of copyright materials.

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