

Why digitise? **(Some of the benefits of digitising chapters/articles for your modules)**

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The JISC national survey of e-book usage in 2008 surveyed 20,000 students and concluded that part time students are significantly more dependent on library provided e-resources. They also found that e-access is particularly valued by part-time and distance learning students, postgraduates, female students wanting to access from home, and visually and mobility impaired users. (Nicholas et al, 2008).

With this in mind, digitising book chapters and journal articles from print journals has been adopted as a central part of the University of Worcester Reading Strategies initiative (University of Worcester, 2009). ILS staff will, in accordance with the CLA Scanning License, digitise a book chapter or journal article from our Library collection and provide staff with a dedicated link to add to their module on Blackboard. This has the benefit of making that text available to all students on that module, simultaneously, from both on and off campus, 24/7.

Initial implementations have taken place with the Worcester Business School and the Institute of Health and Society. Since September 2009, for example, 40 chapters have been digitised for modules in WBS.

To digitise a book chapter or print journal article staff login to the University of Worcester Staff Homepage and select the Digitisation request link. Once the item has been digitised the Digitisation team send an email link to the chapter or article. Links can then be placed in Blackboard for student use and can be accessed for the duration of the module. The overall response from staff and students who have used the service has been very positive.

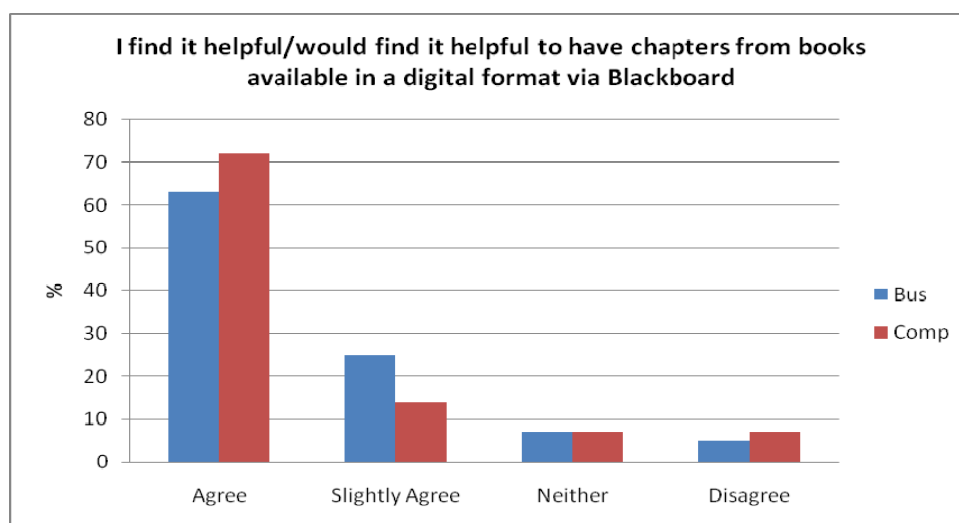
Student view

A recent ILS survey of WBS final year students showed a largely positive response to digitised book chapters being available in modules. Students were asked whether they find it helpful, or, would find it helpful to have chapters available in a digital format via Blackboard - the majority agreed or slightly agreed (see Table 1 below).

Students in the survey commented that digitisation is helpful in terms of:

- **Providing easy access to more information** (Student comment: "Definitely. Allows for easy access especially when time is restricted")
- **Saving time and money** (Student comment: "More information should be available for modules online - saves time and money, really helpful")
- **Signposting relevant reading** (Student comment: "You know these particular chapters are important for learning. Probably increases chances that people actually read them rather than having to look for the book themselves").

Table 1



	Agree	Slightly agree	Neither	Disagree
Business	63%	25%	7%	5%
Computing	72%	14%	7%	7%

Staff view

All staff who have used the facility strongly recommend it to colleagues. They, too, cited benefits in terms of accessibility and saving time and money. They also noted its greenness, the ‘taster’ insight it gave to additional texts, the ability to bring reading into the classroom/support seminar preparation, as well as pragmatic benefits (eg if a book was out of print, or a single all-embracing text did not exist). They all found digitisation generally a very easy and timely system to use. Some of the comments from staff are below.

What benefits, if any, do you think there are to having digitised chapters available in your module?

- “Ease of access to students. Continuous availability. Use in class.”
- “Avoiding investment in a book. Extension of access to more case studies, presentation of specific frameworks and theories; reduction of paper and printing being good for the environment over all.”

Why did you choose to digitise a chapter from a book?

- “Number of students and number of books available. No key text for the module but several books have a relevant chapter for this module.”
- “So all students on module could access it easily to prepare for seminar, rather than having to try to access it from restricted loan.”

What were your experiences of using the digitisation process?

- “Clear and easy access. No problems.”
- “Easy to use. Team accommodated my late request.”

Do you know if all students read the digitised chapter? If you think they didn't read it, why do you think this may have been?

- "Some certainly did – anecdotal evidence."
- "Reported their enthusiasm but not sure if all used it."

Did any students report any difficulties in accessing the digitised chapter?

- "No problems and thanks voiced for the use of this resource."

Would you recommend your colleagues to use digitised chapters in their modules?

- "Absolutely. I think we should all consider it even if it is just for the first chapter of a key text to ensure all have the opportunity of early engagement with the module materials."
- "Yes, if appropriate."

Please add any other comments you have.

- "I have found very few relevant ebooks so feel digitisation will be key in the future."
- "A useful service – thanks!"

References

Nicholas, D., Rowlands, I., Clark, D. & Huntington, P. (2008) UK scholarly e-book usage: a landmark survey. *Aslib Proceedings: New Information Perspectives*, 60(4), 311-334.

University of Worcester (2009) *Reading Strategies* [Online] Available from: <http://www.worc.ac.uk/ils/1270.htm> [Accessed 5th July 2010].