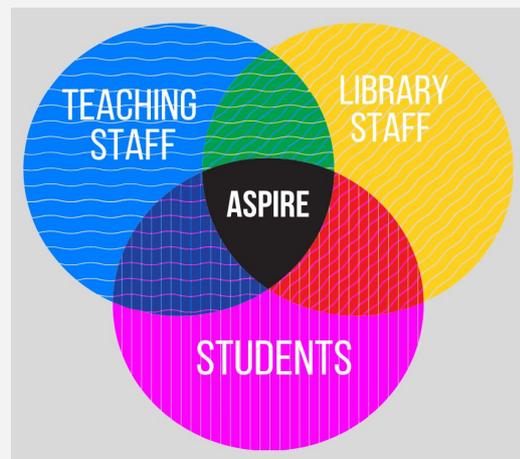# Re-imagining Reading Lists

Increasing coherence, community, consistency and choice by embedding Aspire weekly readings in Moodle
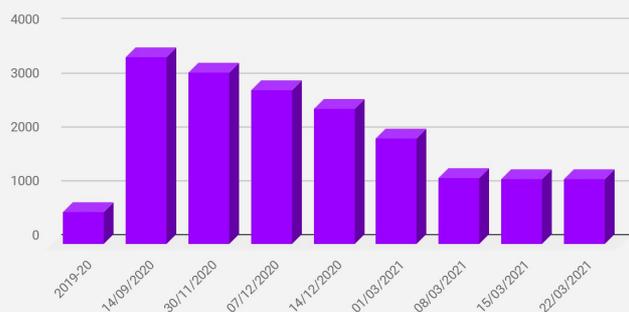
Background

- Lockdown spring 2020 - students urgently needing online access, academic and library staff scrambling to support them
- Crucial students could find and access e-resources easily
- In a learning world with less face-to-face guidance, signposts and scaffolding were needed to help students prioritise reading
- Existing research on student reading backed this approach (see references)
- So did the Library's staff guide on constructively aligning reading lists with module pedagogy
- Our key tool for achieving all this… Talis **Aspire**

What happened next

- Library recommendation for 2020-21: all module leaders review Aspire lists and work with Library to ensure wherever possible Essential & Recommended reading available online
- Essential and Recommended reading to be clearly flagged as such on Aspire
- Library invested significantly in additional e-book provision
- Academic staff activity in Aspire increased **75%**
- Student use of Aspire increased **48%**
- Embedding weekly readings from Aspire into Moodle resulted in **increased and extended engagement with reading** across modules which used this approach

Views of PTE5002 reading list
whole list in 2019-20 vs embedded readings in 2021-22

2019-20: whole list viewed **597** times
2020-21: sections viewed **14,152** times

Case study: PTE5002

- Module centred on teaching and learning of writing in primary schools - extensive research and reading
- **Embedding seminal readings** from Aspire into Moodle was vital, linked to students' action planner
- Views of sections increased **2-5 fold** over whole list
- Students keen to discuss reading in group tutorials
- Resulting student work made **excellent use of readings,** showing how they impact on pedagogy
- **Increase in 60-80% grades** due to wider reading
- Student feedback: "lots of helpful resources identified, Aspire list extensive, great key readings were online"

Want to find out more?

- *What is a reading list for? A guide for module leaders on aligning reading with learning outcomes*
- *How to use Aspire - guides and help for academic staff*
- *Embedding readings from your Aspire list in your Moodle course*

References: http://bit.ly/rrlrefs
Video: http://bit.ly/reimag-rls

Hazel Rothera (Library) and
Jane Scholey (School of Education), June 2021