The Talis University of the Year award is for a university that has shown continued, all-around dedication to improving student experience and library workflows with Talis Aspire, and is an engaged member of the Talis Aspire community.

Academic list ownership
UWE made it their goal from the start of their Talis Aspire journey to have reading lists created for all modules and for these to be created and owned by the academic running the course. They have now achieved 100% academic list ownership with a multi-pronged approach, the key element being communication between library liaison staff and the academic. As a result of a clear marketing plan, and implementing a number of strategies (explained by Amanda Barson, Project Lead below), they have a high percentage of reading list coverage and are continuing to see that grow on a daily basis.
This project has been a great example of collaborative working at UWE Bristol. We worked to build a shared understanding of the value of reading list software, to write best practice guidelines and to select Talis Aspire. Our collaborative approach helped us to gain buy-in for our decision to aim for 100% academic list creation. To encourage adoption, we built a network of champions who helped to embed reading lists across our systems and working practices. This included library staff, academics, faculty support, student services, learning technologists and ITS. We set ambitious targets and tracked progress through project meetings, stakeholder meetings, university committees and departmental meetings. Having just reached our second full academic year of Talis Aspire we are pleased to report our lists are still created and maintained by academics and we have achieved 80% uptake (measured as the number of live module runs in Blackboard linking to a live reading list on Talis Aspire). The Faculty of Environment and Technology is our best performing faculty and has reached 92% uptake with all their departments with 75%+!

Amanda Barson, Project Lead and Head of Collections, Access and Space, University of The West of England, Bristol

Our approach of encouraging academics to create their own lists was sometimes met with frustration, but once they were shown how the system worked and we explained that they could update it at any time and be creative in its presentation, they generally appreciated the reasons behind it. We worked with Associate Heads of Student Experience to encourage staff, harnessing their inter-departmental competitive spirit to get the highest level of take up. We offered desk-side support and training, and once we'd reached around 80% of modules, we identified which remained and specifically targeted those module leaders with help and support. When you see them realise that they can add anything to a list – not just books and journals – and that they can add notes and sections, you start to see them fly.

Emma Delaney, Faculty Librarian, University of The West of England, Bristol

Clear project plans

UWE have moved from the CLA's Digitised Content Store to using Talis Aspire Copyright Clearance, and changed their workflows, both giving them more time and more efficient ways of ensuring students have access to the necessary resources.

The team worked closely with Talis to map out workflows and potential solutions as part of a Business Process Review, which took place at the Talis office. This meeting was a great chance to understand what the team was currently doing and propose a new, more efficient way of working.
Managing copyright clearance in Talis Aspire removed a lot of manual effort for the team at UWE, with the new solution allowing everything to be managed in one place, in a matter of clicks.

The team at UWE came to the project with a willingness to learn about a possible new way of working, and an enthusiastic approach. This, coupled with a clear and well-organised plan made this project a success.

"The whole team felt that the migration from the DCS to Talis Aspire Digitised Content went really smoothly, with lots of support from Talis. The new interface is really user-friendly, concise and clear, with various filters to help us deal with the amount of digitisations. The seamless linking of digitised content to reading lists works so well, and the way the system recognises previously digitised material to make the request live immediately is a real bonus to our workflows!"
Rich Gillard and Suzi Bond, Collections Team, University of The West of England, Bristol

An engaged member of the community
Their enthusiasm to get the best possible results from Talis Aspire didn’t stop at copyright management. UWE are a university that has always been keen to be involved with the early testing of new features and have been dedicated partners by taking time to help Talis ensure we can deliver a great end result.

For example, when Talis was looking for a partner to work with alongside the library supplier Askews & Holts to deepen the integration of supplier price and availability information direct into Talis Aspire Reviews, UWE jumped at the chance. UWE had already identified the potential to streamline processing in this area and ensure they had all the information they need to make fully informed acquisitions decisions. Their proactive input included clear requirements, taking part in a number of webinars and comprehensive feedback. Now firmly a feature in Talis Aspire, other library suppliers are getting involved.

Find out more about this integration here.

"It’s been really pleasing to be able to help Talis test new features this year. The desire to integrate the reviews process with Askews & Holts has been a longstanding one, and being involved from the start meant that we were able to feed our requirements directly into the development process. The integration saves us so much time and knowing that we contributed to functionality that will benefit many of Talis’s customers is very satisfying."
Ted Spilsbury, Collections Librarian, University of The West of England, Bristol
What next...
UWE are implementing Talis Elevate into their core technology set within the Department of Education. They are rolling this out for first-year students on a number of courses within the department, to be used to enhance the digital community of practice across the modules. This is being used with <300 students across the first year of studies.

To find out more about Talis Elevate, visit talis.com/elevate

“Testing and trialling Elevate has been seamless so far. Matt East (Talis) has provided rapid and thorough support and responded to questions quickly and detail. We’re really looking forward to seeing how our academics put into action its possibilities! 
Mark Shand, Learning Technologist, University of The West of England, Bristol

The University of the West of England, Bristol’s commitment and dedication to ensuring as a university they are experiencing the advantages of using and working with Talis, making them the Talis University of the Year 2019. We look forward to continuing to work with them to help them achieve their goals and ensure they are working as efficiently as possible.

Could your university be Talis University of the Year 2020? To find out more about the Talis Awards 2019, click here.

Do more with Talis Aspire

Talis Services Team can help you identify areas and workflows to enable you to be making the most of using Talis Aspire with a Business Process Review (BPR). To find out more about BPRs, click here.

If you are not a Talis user and want to find out more about what we could do to enhance Teaching & Learning at your institution, we'd love to speak to you. Please email sales@talis.com for more information.