

Bringing the Library to You: Integrating Library Resources into Online Classrooms

Rochester Institute of Technology – Handout for Desire2Learn User Group Conference, August, 2005.
This handout, a video presentation, and sample code are available here: <http://library.rit.edu/desire2learn/>

All courses in Desire2Learn have a "myLibrary" link.

The myLibrary link is a URL that passes the "OrgUnitCode" and "RoleID" as parameters to a ColdFusion page.

To create the URL in Desire2Learn, simply edit the Nav Bar and include the parameters like this:
http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum={OrgUnitCode}&Role={RoleID}

Here is a sample URL, with the parameters filled in:
http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=577

Contact Information for each subject specialist librarian is displayed based on the College and Program.

**Course Specific Library Resources for: 20051-4003-571-01
- COMPUTER GRAPHICS II**

Your librarian is **Roman Koshykar**
Phone: (585) 475-2238
Email: rakwmi@rit.edu
Instant Message: [gccislibrarian at](#)
Office: 05-2420

Library Services for Faculty/Instructors
[View these pages as a student.](#)
[Use this URL](#) when referring your students to these pages.
[Request a journal article, a book chapter, or other material](#) be placed on a reserve through Wallace Library.
[Request a class consultation with your librarian.](#)
[Information about Turn It In - a plagiarism detection tool.](#)
[Log into IDS Express to request material.](#)
[Faculty Copyright Resources.](#)
[Read the RIT Libraries' strategic plan.](#)

Reserves Find Articles Find Books Subject Guides Select Websites

Your professor has placed items on reserve with Wallace Library.
[Click here to see them all](#), or click any of the individual titles below:
(provide your RIT Username and Password if prompted)

- [A Contrast-Based Scalefactor for Luminance Display](#)
- [BMRT: A Global Illumination Implementation of the RenderMan Standard](#)
- [Behavior of Recursive Division Near Extraordinary Points](#)
- [Computer Graphics II Homepage](#)
- [Environment Mapping and Other Applications of World Projections](#)
- [Photometry and Radiometry: A Tour Guide for Computer Graphics Enthusiasts](#)
- [Recursively Generated B-Spline Surfaces on Arbitrary Topological Meshes](#)
- [Renderman.zip](#)
- [Wave Based Spectrum Rendering](#)

The ColdFusion page parses the course number and role to figure out what information to display. For example:

CourseNum=400357101.20051
40 = College of Information Technology & Computing Sciences
03 = Software Engineering Program
571 = Course Number
01 = Section number
20051 = 1st Quarter of 2005 (Fall, 2005 quarter)

Role=577
577 = faculty view

The ColdFusion page is aware that the user is a faculty member or instructor for the course, so special links just for faculty are shown.

The Find Articles, Subject Guides, and Select Websites tabs include content appropriate for the college or program of the CourseNum.

If the course number exists in the course reserve module of the library's online catalog, it pulls the titles, creates links, and displays them on a Reserves tab. If there are no reserves for the course, the reserve tab is not displayed.

Project Details/Notes:

The ColdFusion pages are hosted on a Microsoft Internet Information Server / ColdFusion MX server. A similar project could be accomplished with PHP on a Unix server. It was matter of convenience that the RIT Library chose ColdFusion and MS IIS.

This is not a database driven application. All logic is stored within the ColdFusion pages themselves. All content exists as web pages already on the Library's main web server. At some point, this application may change to a database driven one, should the logic involved in providing the resources and links become too involved to be contained within the ColdFusion pages themselves.

The integration of library course reserves is accomplished using an ODBC connection to the library's online catalog – an Innovative Interfaces Millennium System. Libraries without an ODBC connection to their library system might have difficulty pulling course reserves.

The integration of Library Resources is scalable for each program and department. Each individual subject specialist librarian can decide how far and at what level they want to supply resources – the college, program, or course level.

Sample URLs (these are actual URLs with real course content as of August, 2005).

Student view of a course with library reserves	http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=575
Faculty view of the same course	http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum=400357101.20051&Role=577
Student view of a course without library reserves	http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum=052210101.20051&Role=575
Student view of a distance learning course with reserves	http://ellie.rit.edu:1214/course.cfm?CourseNum=068832590.20051&Role=575

For general information contact:

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