

ARES: SHARING LIBRARY RESOURCES VIA BRIGHTSPACE



Teaching and Learning Support Service (TLSS), uOttawa

CONTEXT

The library offers **Ares** which is a way to create an online reserve of library resources that can be placed as a section with links within a Brightspace course space. This is a great way to provide students with access to a list of library resources in one place.

One issue noted with using **Ares** is that it provides the entire list of links to items and does not allow you to post individual links to resources within the various content sections of your course. Instead, you need to advise students that they will need to locate the item you are referring to within the **Ares** Reading list. Best practices recommend providing links to items directly within the content of the course, with context surrounding the link to the reading. Accordingly, here we suggest how to share library resources through **Ares** and directly within Brightspace in ways that help ease student access and understanding of the material being shared.

SHARING THROUGH ARES

When sharing resources through **Ares**, here are some things that you can do to ensure students can access the items:

1. When adding an item to **Ares**, there is a way to tag/organize items. For instance, Reading A, B, C; Week 1 Reading, Week 2, etc. If you add the item manually online, you will see the Tag option. Alternatively, if you submit a list to the library to process, please ask them how the items can be tagged. Then within the syllabus and the content sections of your course, you can refer to the particular reading by using the tag. Tags also allow you to group your readings, so students can more easily locate them within the list. To learn more about adding items to **Ares**, consult the following page - <https://www.uottawa.ca/library/services/course-reserves>
2. Provide students with guidance on how to access the list of resources in **Ares** for your course - The steps are on this page <https://www.uottawa.ca/library/services/course-reserves>.
3. Make sure to advise students that some library resources require that students log into the library platform via SSO (Single-sign-on) with their uoAccess ID (this is the same login info used to access almost all platforms on campus - e.g. Brightspace, outlook, uoZone/uoCampus, etc.) to access the reading. In most instances, if that is the case, a library login page will appear advising that the student needs to log in to access the resource, after clicking on the link. An alternative is to recommend that students ensure they are logged into the library before clicking on any library/reading links provided within a course (Ares or otherwise).
4. Provide students with a link to the library and guidance on how to search for items, so that they can locate readings if they encounter an issue doing so via the **Ares** platform or links provided within the course. To log into the various library platforms, visit this page - <https://www.uottawa.ca/library/resources>.
5. Advise students that they may need to log into a publisher's site to access certain links.
6. Advise students that if they encounter an issue accessing a link, they should ensure that their browser is up to date, and also try using a different browser or device.

An alternative or additional way (providing multiple ways to access never hurts) to share resources with students, is by placing the links directly within the content sections of your Brightspace course, and/or by placing the links within the syllabus. The following guide (prepared by the library) shows how to accomplish this:

<https://www.uottawa.ca/library/sites/g/files/bhrs kd381/files/2022-07/adding-links-library-resources-brightspace.pdf>. As would be done with **Ares**, students should be advised of Points 3-6 (see previous [section](#)).

Important: Please note that the library guide was prepared in 2018 and the workarounds are no longer required. In most cases, you can simply copy and paste the URL (as long as it has the proxy prefix) into Brightspace and it should work.