Create Reading Lists in Blackboard with Search It!

Learn how to use a feature in Blackboard that allows you to search STLCC Libraries’ databases using a discovery tool called Search It! to build full text reading lists for your students. It’s as easy as a click of a button.

Search It! is the name of STLCC Libraries’ discovery tool which gives you the ability to search multiple databases simultaneously. A discovery tool is an interface that overlays the library catalog and the databases, pulling results from all of them and presenting those results in one list. Search It! in Blackboard is preset to search only for full text articles, not for books. Search 67 databases simultaneously for full text articles on any given subject. Once you have located an article you want your students to read, simply click Add to Reading List.

Through something called Learning Tool Integration (LTI), Search It! is now integrated into Blackboard and can be found in the Tools menu. This new functionality gives faculty the ability to create full text reading lists without leaving your Blackboard course.

Browser Recommendation: Use Mozilla Firefox or Chrome. Do not use the IE (Internet Explorer) browser because of incompatibility issues.

To begin, take the following steps in your Blackboard Course:

Need Help? Contact Sharon Fox (sfox@stlcc.edu) or Kirsten Abotsi (kabotsi@stlcc.edu)
Getting Started: Search It! (EBSCO) appears for use in the Blackboard Tools menu for adding content in your course. Use the drop-down Tools menu to find Search It!

Select Search It! (EBSCO) from Tools menu to start to create a reading list of full text articles from the STLCC Libraries’ databases.

An empty “Edit Search It!” content box will appear.

Provide a title for the Reading List and add a description.

Click Submit when finished.

Create multiple lists with this method.

Click title of reading list to launch Search It and begin searching to find full text articles to add to this reading list. You will be searching the STLCC Libraries databases.
Search It! appears as the **Search Library Resources** search box. The search default is set to keyword, and limiters are pre-set to full text and available at STLCC.

From Results, use **Refine Search** menu to manage search results. Open the **Source Type** facet to view and select different types of sources. Explore other facets.

**See Current Reading List** link returns you to the list you created in Blackboard with available editing options.

View item’s **Detailed Record** by selecting the title link to read abstract, view Tools for item (Cite, email, etc.).

Select **Add to Reading List** to add an item to the Reading List.

Toggle to **Remove** if you change your mind. You can also easily delete items from “See Current Reading List”
The Current Reading List presents a number of editing options (see screen capture below). For example, Folders can be created within a reading list to organize readings. Add instructions. Lists will generate in alphabetical order by first word; use “Sort Order” to arrange in desired order. Number order or drag & drop.

Use “breadcrumb” links to navigate within Bb course.

ALWAYS, use Enter Student Preview mode and test to ensure optimal student user experience.

Use links here to: “Search Library Resources” – go back to Search It! / Import from existing lists / toggle between “This list is private/public” – currently recommend setting to public.

From Student Preview Mode, select link to view readings. Check each for functionality.

HELP? Contact Sharon Fox (sfox@stlcc.edu), Becky Helbing (rhelbling@stlcc.edu), Neil Das (ndas@stlcc.edu)