Why do we have a reading list system and what are the advantages?
Reading list systems have a number of important benefits: they enable students to find the resources that they need easily, they help to ensure that Library resources are up-to-date and relevant to institutional learning and teaching needs and they provide a mechanism for ensuring that resources are provided in an accessible format.

The use of reading list systems is a sector-wide development and is part of the experience of most UK university students. In London, reading list systems similar to ours are used by University College London, King’s, Imperial and LSE.

How did Goldsmiths choose its Reading List system?
Prior to the procurement of the system used here, there were extensive discussions about this by the Library User Group (to which all academic departments send a representative) as well as publicised product demonstrations. There was also discussion at departmental Learning and Teaching Groups, the Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee and Academic Board. The development was supported by the Senior Management Team and has subsequently been approved by the Strategic Programmes Board to become a Goldsmiths Strategic Project.

Why is it important to make reading lists publicly accessible?
This enables new students to have access to their reading lists before they arrive, giving them the opportunity to start to familiarise themselves with module content. Prospective students can also look at module reading lists to get a better sense of what they would be studying here.

How do I submit and maintain my reading lists?
The Library is happy to put your lists onto the system. We do, however, need to have Autumn module reading lists now as the process of putting the lists on the system and ensuring that reading list materials are available will take until the start of term. Spring module reading lists do not need to be sent to the Library until November. After the reading lists have been put on the system, you will be shown how to change and update them quickly and easily.

How does ReadingLists@Gold deal with scanned documents?
These are kept within the reading list system (rather than on the VLE) from which they can be made available from year to year. All scanned documents made available via ReadingLists@Gold are copyright-cleared (to ensure that Goldsmiths is meeting the requirements of the Copyright Licensing Agency) and accessible (provided in OCR format) with pagination appropriately indicated.

When will I be able to produce a PDF version of my reading list?
Talis recognises the problem associated with producing a PDF version of the reading list, acknowledges that it should not be happening and has given its resolution a high priority.

Can print reader packs continue to be produced?
Last year, there was a pilot project to determine whether it would be possible for print module reader packs to be produced centrally. For a variety of reasons, including lack of software that would enable students to order the packs online, the current lack of infrastructure to support print on demand and a limited staff resource, a centrally-provided print module reader pack service was deemed not to be feasible at the present time. Departments are very welcome to provide reader packs as has been done in the past if this would prove beneficial for student learning.