

## **About the Blackboard LinkMaker Extension**

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The Blackboard LinkMaker extension was developed by staff at the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC). LinkMaker provides a Blackboard course content creator the ability to create, modify and remove links from Blackboard courses to various online resources on ALADIN. These online resources include electronic journal articles, article database citations and full-text, and the WRLC Libraries Catalog. Linked resources may be added to the following Blackboard content areas: Course Information, Course Documents, Assignments, or Books. Professors have used these kinds of linked resources to develop interactive syllabi, hyperlinked course reading lists, assignments, and other enhancements to their online courses.

### **Types of Links**

The WRLC Library Resource LinkMaker Extension transforms temporary session links to articles and other ALADIN resources into durable links that can be accessed by students both on- and off-campus for the duration of your course.

If you enter a link to an article in an ALADIN database, LinkMaker will make the link durable by adding authentication information to the resource's URL, thus allowing ALADIN to log the student into the database. If the student is off-campus, then ALADIN will ask him or her to login to ALADIN the first time such a link is used. Note that some ALADIN databases do not provide the ability to create durable links to articles. Most databases have been tested and those that provide durable article links are listed on the LinkMaker's Databases menu.

If you enter a link resulting from a search in the WRLC Libraries Catalog, LinkMaker will remove the session information so the link can be used from a Blackboard content page.

If you enter a link to another type of Web resource, the LinkMaker will not transform the URL. If the link is of a valid format, the link will be entered as content, but you will see a message that states that the link has not been made durable and may not be static. If the link is not of a valid format, for example does not have a proper protocol like http://, it will not be added as content.