The evolving relationship between the academic library and the virtual learning environment (VLE) is examined from the copyright and licensing perspective.  VLEs (also known as “Learning Management Systems”) are web-based platforms that manage and facilitate the exchange of digital content for academic courses.  VLEs play an increasingly important role in the teaching function at universities. Moreover, in terms of the dissemination of electronic resources the distinction between traditional taught-in-classroom courses and online courses is narrowing. The role of librarians in interacting with faculty and student users of the VLE to support teaching and learning is multifaceted and evolving.  A key aspect of the presentation is the implications of copyright and licensing in selecting and using licensed electronic content on a VLE.   The interplay of electronic “course reserves” (content assigned by the instructor as recommended or mandatory reading for which a shorter loan period applies), interlibrary loans (ILL), copyright and licensing, and the VLE are examined with a view to assisting librarians and educators more effectively manage library resources and VLEs.