Turn a Disaster into a Research Opportunity
Assessing One-Hour Library Sessions after Hurricane Sandy

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The Number of One-hour Library Instruction Sessions

Library Instruction Session Taught

Chart source: The 2013 Library Statistics Report
Historical Assessment Efforts

2008: BILD/SAIL S

2009: iSkills (CUNY grant)

2010: Rubric

2011: iSkills (Verizon grant)

2012: ENG101 one-hour Classes Pre and Post Survey
What kind of assessment method?

1. Hurricane Sandy caused a week of class cancelation starting on October 29, 2012.

2. 18 pre-scheduled English101 Library instruction classes were canceled and not able to be rescheduled due to a full calendar.

3. Using a matching method, another 18 English101 classes which had a library class were randomly selected.

4. The assessment committee developed a paper-based survey to administer to students from both groups.
What does the survey test?

1. Develop appropriate keywords and utilize Boolean operators in searching;

2. Identify scholarly articles and locate databases via the library website;

3. Identify books and locate the catalog via the library website.
What are survey questions?

1. Have you attended a class session with a librarian?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Your professor wants you to find articles about teenage depression. Which search would be most effective?
   a. Articles about teenage depression
   b. Depressed teenagers
   c. Teenagers and depression
   d. Depression in teenagers
What are survey questions?

3. Is this a book or an article?
   a. A book
   b. An article

4. Which link would lead you to the above screen?
   1. [ ]
   2. [ ]
   3. [ ]
   4. [ ]
What are survey questions?

5. Is this a book or an article?
   a. A book
   b. An article

6. Which link would lead you to the above screen?
   1.     2.     3.     4.
What are the survey results?

**Figure 1: Fall I 2012 One-Hour Class Assessment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Attended Instruction</th>
<th>Didn’t Attend Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean correct replies (s.d.)</td>
<td>3.36 (1.30)</td>
<td>2.95 (1.31)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sig=0.001

**Figure 2. Fall 2012 Survey Correct Responses**

- Q2 Determining Keywords sig.>0.001
  - Attended instruction: 42.40%
  - Didn’t attend instruction: 23.60%

- Q3 Determining a Book sig.=0.441
  - Attended instruction: 47.80%
  - Didn’t attend instruction: 48.90%

- Q4 Website Link sig.=0.098
  - Attended instruction: 81.60%
  - Didn’t attend instruction: 76.40%

- Q5 Determining an Article sig.=0.002
  - Attended instruction: 79.60%
  - Didn’t attend instruction: 69.80%

- Q4 Website Link sig.=0.05
  - Attended instruction: 84.30%
  - Didn’t attend instruction: 78.10%

Data source: *The Effectiveness of Library Instruction in ENG 101 on Students’ Ability to Use Library Resources for Research Purposes (A natural experiment)* 2012
What are conclusions and findings?

1. Students who attended the library instruction demonstrated a higher ability in tested basic research skills, and recognized items presented from a search.

2. Both groups faced challenges in identifying keywords and using Boolean operators in the best fit context.

3. Post survey classes showed higher scores in identifying a database article and the best website link, though failed to show higher scores in identifying a catalog record.
1. What is your class 4-digit number? (The librarian has written the number on the board) ________

2. How many credits have you completed at LaGuardia?
   A. 10 or less
   B. 11 to 20
   C. 21 to 30
   D. More than 30

3. Prior to today, have you attended an instruction session with a librarian?
   A. Yes
   B. No
4. Which source is most likely to have a reliable article that is appropriate to include in a research paper?
A. Google  
B. Subscription database  
C. CUNY+ catalog  
D. A .edu site

5. Your professor wants you to find articles about music censorship. Which search would be most effective?
A. Articles about music censorship  
B. Music OR censorship  
C. Censorship AND music  
D. Censorship in music
Benchmarking and Continuous Assessment Projects

- **Q4 Determining a Reliable Source**
- **Q5 Use Keywords and Boolean Operators to Yield Relevant Results**

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**Graph 1:**
- Sp13 Pre
- Sp13 Post
- Fa13 Pre
- Fa13 Post
- SP14 Pre
- SP14 Post

**Graph 2:**
- Sp13 Pre
- Sp13 Post
- Fa13 Pre
- Fa13 Post
- SP14 Pre
- SP14 Post

- None
- 1 Correct Replies
- 2 Correct Replies
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Instruction Assessment Projects
http://guides.laguardia.edu/instructionassessment

Image source