Developing a Practical Framework
for Information Literacy Program Evaluation

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Background

• Purdue University Libraries
• Increased expectations for demonstrating value and impact
• Expectation of increased use of metrics to demonstrate impact
• Imperative that libraries more clearly articulate their contributions to educational and research outcomes of campus communities (value)
Background

• Provost implemented a new program review process in July 2015
• Libraries simultaneously developing new mission statement for information literacy (IL) program
• Libraries developed outcomes-based, mission-centric framework for evaluating its IL programing
Background

“Does the Purdue University Libraries’ IL programming empower diverse learners to use information to learn in transformative ways; lead to the discovery of new knowledge; and foster academic, personal and professional success?”

• Needs to be answered to communicate impact to external stakeholders

• Needed to be uncomplicated, integrated into regular workflows
Like a jazz chart...
Methods

1) Focus groups with librarians; understand existing assessment practices, challenges/opportunities in assessing

2) Gap analysis: compare focus group findings to IL mission statement

3) Develop recommendations with measures/indicators to address gaps, develop comprehensive framework for program evaluation
Preliminary Framework for IL Programming Assessment

Administrative Goals
- Purdue Moves
- Libraries’ Strategic Plan

Information Literacy Mission
- Research-based programming
- Empowerment of diverse learners
- Enable the critical use of information to learn
- Enable the creation of new knowledge
- Foster academic, personal, and professional success

Instructor/Learner
Individual Outcomes
- Evidence of student learning
- Evaluation of teaching practices
Findings

We have some work to do!

Librarians assessed how students critically used information to learn more than other dimensions of mission statement:

- Research-based programming
- Empowerment of diverse learners
- Enabling creation of new knowledge
- Fostering academic, personal, and professional success
Findings

Next steps in framework development:

- Develop guidelines for librarians about collecting assessment data
- Determine assessment strategies for the Libraries and allocate resources
- Provide professional development, incentives for librarians to create assessment strategies related to all aspects of the mission statement
Conclusion

- Meets multiple needs...
- Provides a structure for assessments at multiple levels
- Provides structure for performance of libraries on their strategic goals
- Provides flexibility for individuals to engage in innovation, in assessment and instruction, in the larger organizational context
Thank you!