Welcome

Assessment in Action: High Impact Practices in Academic Libraries

Kara Malenfant, ACRL
Karen Brown, Dominican University

Library Assessment Conference Tuesday August 5, 2014
Session 10: Collaboration 10:30am–12:30pm
The Road Travelled
Value of Academic Libraries Report

Freely available
http://acrl.org/value
ACRL’s IMLS Collaborative Planning Grant

Building Capacity for Demonstrating the Value of Academic Libraries

Association for Institutional Research

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES

The Council of Independent Colleges

ACRL
Association of College & Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association

ASSESSMENT in Action
Planning Grant Report

Freely available
http://acrl.org/value
Themes from Summits

Accountability

Unified approach

Student learning/success

Evidence-based
Recommendation 1

Library Value → Student Learning and Success:
Increase the profession’s understanding of library value in relation to various dimensions of student learning and success
Recommendation 2

Core VAL Competencies:
Articulate and promote the development of core assessment competencies related to library value.
Recommendation 3

Professional Development:
Create opportunities for librarians to learn how to initiate and design assessment that demonstrates the library’s contributions to advancing institutional mission and strategic goals
Recommendation 4

Partner and Collaborate:
Expand partnerships and assessment activities with higher education constituent groups
Recommendation 5

Building Blocks:
Integrate the use of existing ACRL tools with library value initiatives
Assessment in Action Goals

- Professional Competencies
- Collaborative Relationships
- Approaches, Strategies, Practices
Team Approach

Librarian

Leader

Inst. Researcher

Faculty member
Team Members

- assessment office
- institutional research
- teaching faculty
- writing center
- information/acad. technology
- student affairs
- campus administrator
- library administrator
- other librarian
AiA 2013-14 Institutional Teams

[Map showing locations of institutional teams across the United States with pins indicating specific sites.]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Accreditation:</th>
<th>Other Accreditation:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 MSCHE</td>
<td>1 Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 NEASC-CIHE</td>
<td>4 Canadian</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 NCA-HLC</td>
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<td>4 NWCCU</td>
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<td>12 SACS</td>
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<td>3 WASC-ACCJC</td>
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<td>6 ASC-ACSCU</td>
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Type of Institution:

- 10 Associate's
- 7 Baccalaureate Colleges
- 32 Master’s Colleges and Universities
- 6 Doctoral/Research Universities
- 18 Research Universities
- 1 Special Focus Institution (Health Sciences)
- 1 Tribal
Library Factors Examined

- instruction: games, single/multiple session, course embedded, tutorials
- reference
- physical space
- discovery: institutional web, resource guides
- collections
- personnel
Variety of Tools/Methods

- survey
- interviews
- focus group(s)
- observation
- pre/post test
- rubric
- student portfolio

- research paper/project
- other class assignment
- test scores
- GPA
- degree completion rate
- retention rate
Inquiry Questions

• Do students who attend information or media literacy sessions attain higher grades than students who did not?

• How does students’ work with special collections materials affect their ability to think critically and develop intellectual curiosity?

• Do re-admitted students (who have appealed dismissal) improve their academic performance and persist at a higher rate due to mandatory meetings with a librarian for research assistance?

• Does our new library/learning resource center facility have an impact on the student community, contributing to student enrollment and excitement about completing skills sessions and library orientations?
Collaboration
What Does Collaboration Look Like?

• How does collaboration (or lack of it) contribute to assessment activities?

• What factors or elements enhance collaboration?

• What are some barriers or challenges to effective collaboration?
Collaboration . . .

• Among the campus assessment team members

• Within the library

• Across the institution

• Among the AiA librarians
Campus Assessment Teams

Benefit of perspectives from different stakeholders
Campus Assessment Teams

Group dynamics: task vs. relationship issues
Campus Assessment Teams

Sustaining momentum

- Competing priorities
- Time
- Clear roles and responsibilities

MOVING FORWARD
Learning to lead and facilitate collaboration

“I feel more confident in my ability to take a project from idea to completion and to engage with other professionals on campus to make it work.”

“My self confidence in interacting with individuals outside the library (e.g., campus administrators, faculty members) has increased significantly.”
Role of project librarians in relation to other staff
Challenges with project-based initiatives
Impact of organizational structure and culture
Promoting focused and strategic collaboration

“[AiA] signaled a change in focus for [our library], from assessment ‘for internal use only’ to assessment for internal and external stakeholders.”

“Librarians have realized that talking about the value of students having a library experience as an undergraduate student is an important conversation we need to continue to have and explore.”
Spotlight on assessment – THE campus conversation
Importance of early buy-in from administrators
Institution

Visibility of library and librarians
Institution

AiA project as model and showcase for other campus units
Taking advantage of the “ripple effect”

“Even applying for this project gave us the opportunity to begin campus conversations about assessment and demonstrate the library’s willingness to engage in and learn from assessment”
AiA Community

AiA cohorts and community: sharing ideas and providing support
Differences between collaboration
face-to-face and online
Value of peer review
AiA Community

Creating a network for activities beyond AiA
A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

- Etienne Wenger-Trayner
Building a community of practice

“My AiA experiences have made me aware of how important it is to have a group of people all working towards a purpose together . . . both from AiA and my colleagues.”
Questions?
Comments?
Thank You!

For More Information:
Kara Malenfant
kmalenfant@ala.org
800/545-2433, ext 2510

http://www.ala.org/acrl/AiA