Assessing Student Learning Through Collaboration

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Why Collaborate?
Writing Program curriculum included research skills instruction
- Faculty relied on library to provide this instruction
- Program faculty are experts in course goals and context

Library needed a scalable instructional method and proof of effectiveness
- Number of available instruction librarians reduced by 75%
- Chose online tutorial as method, needed to demonstrate student learning

Library Writing Classes 1998-2010

Office of Institutional Research and Assessment had knowledge and resources
- Neutral third party enhanced results credibility
- More available resources for data collection and analysis
- Understood methods for evaluating student learning

Roles and Responsibilities

Library
- create tutorial
- Develop focus of tutorial learning
- Connect tutorial content to Writing 105 curriculum
- Share assessment results

Writing Program
- gather faculty and student feedback
- Develop focus of tutorial learning
- Coordinate administration of assessment components
- Reflect on the learning experience

OIRA
- conduct assessment
- Establish measurable learning outcomes
- Determine assessment methodologies
- Prepare assessment tools

Knowledge Gained

- Identified ways to refine a search
- Found relevant and credible sources
- Broadened use and understanding of databases
- Discovered a more effective approach than searching the web
- Changed research approach

Writing Program Course Goals
- Students compose texts as a process, thinking and rethinking ideas
- Students learn strategies and genres of critical analysis and argument
- Students learn critical reading techniques
- Students include critical research in composing process

The Productive Researcher Modules
- Pre/Post Gain Test
- Reflective Essay
- Course Evaluation
- Instructor Interview

Results
- Demonstrated students’ attainment of learning outcomes
- Validated model’s viability for future tutorials
- Enhanced understanding of the assessment process
- Strengthened Library/OIRA collaborative relationship
- Preserved Library’s strong collaborative relationship with the Writing Program