Assessing the Student Success of STEM Majors and Transfer Students: The Role of Library Facilities

Anne Pemberton, University of North Carolina Wilmington

**Research Question**
How does the Library's facility and physical spaces impact the student success of undergraduate transfer students and STEM majors?

**Importance**
STEM majors and transfer students comprise a large portion of the student population at UNCW.

Little assessment has been conducted on these specific populations in regard to library services or the library's facility.

**Literature Review**
(Proposed) Methods

**Facility/Spaces**
Interested in:
- Campus building preferences
- Time spent in library engaged in various activities (group work, computer use, sleeping, practicing presentations, using whiteboards, etc.)
- Preferences for seating in library
- Equipment preferences (laptop vs. desktop, etc.)

**Opportunities**
- Wonderful team!
- Solid project idea: timely, needed, fits with mission of university, etc.
- Support from library and campus administration

**Challenges**
- Library turnover
- Death of Associate Director
- Additional responsibilities for team leader

**Other Team Members**
- Diana Ashe, Interim Director, Center for Teaching Excellence and Associate Professor, English
- Peter Fritzler, Sciences Librarian
- Andy Mauk, Director of Student Affairs Assessment, Research & Planning
- Linda Siefert, Director of General Education Assessment and Director of Assessment for the College of Arts and Sciences
- Stephanie Crowe, Instructional Services Librarian
- Christopher Rhodes, Facility and Events Coordinator

**Project Status**
- Survey almost complete
- Resuming work in fall 2015

This project is part of the program “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” which is undertaken by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The program, a cornerstone of ACRL’s Value of Academic Libraries initiative, is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.