They had a question...
Are professional librarians helping students succeed at Colorado Mesa University through research assistance?

They had methods...
Quantitative - Benchmarking with SAILS test for FYI & SUPP 101 students; pre- and post-surveys for several courses on Ask-a-Librarian services awareness and their research assignments. Use LibAnalytics data & SPSS to assess for association with student success (re-enrollment OR graduation)
Qualitative - Accumulate feedback from students via LibAnalytics form; conduct follow up survey with Research/Assignment subset of students.

They had a cause...
It was time to be BOLD — to ask “Does our work matter?” — and gain a voice on campus regarding student retention, persistence, & success at CMU — and for that we needed important tools: data, data analysis, and demonstrable associations between what we do and how students benefit.

They needed important tools: data, data analysis, and demonstrable associations between what we do and how students benefit...

A FEW CURIOUS LIBRARIANS STRUCK OUT ON A RIGHTEOUS MISSION, A QUEST...

SAILS: Our students tracked behind our institution type cohort, the US cohort, AND the overall cohort in ALL 8 skills.

Data Gathering Hurdles
- Sprung data efforts complicated by building renovation & distributed service points. Used Fall 2014 data only for analysis.
- SAILS Test & LibAnalytics data for 1 semester: Need & want more data to establish statistically significant associations over time.
- Pre- & Post-surveys: Flawed survey methodology led to fewer responses than necessary for drawing relevant conclusions about Ask-a-Librarian services awareness. But...Surveys + looming renovation led to our marketing campaign!

Research Questions Patrons Survey & Reflection Interviews
- 187 surveys emailed to students with recorded research question visits of 10+ mins, Fall 2014.
- 49 unique respondents: 95.8% would seek librarian assistance again. 93.8% felt more prepared for their assignment/research. 89.6% felt improved their success in their course.
- 34 of 49 respondents provided feedback (optional): 13 said they’d be interested in an interview; 20 said maybe; 4 interviewed about their research process.

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD
STUDENTS & REFERENCE LIBRARIANS UNITE TO ASSESS ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN STUDENT SUCCESS & ASK-A-LIBRARIAN SERVICES

THE POSTERS
STUDY

Nothing could get in the way of these bold challengers of the unknown!

THE BOOKMARKS

IT’S A BRAIN.
IT’S A NERD.

Into the Future
- Continue data collection (LibAnalytics) & analysis with IR
- Possibly add student learning outcomes to Ask-a-Librarian data gathering efforts
- Enhance overall data collection within the Library:
  * Instruction data and student enrollments: Associated w/ success?
  * Interlibrary Loan & Circulation usage: Associated w/ success?
  * Combined impact of instruction, ILL, Circ, & Ask-a-Librarian?
- Keep conducting Reference Reflection Interviews!

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Ours Marketing Campaign
- PROMO VIDEO: SAILS Test & LibAnalytics data
- Data Gathering Hurdles
- Into the Future

One Question
The Literature Couldn’t Answer...

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