Cultivating a Culture of Assessment
Using Multiple Collaborative Assignments to Teach Information Literacy Skills

Inquiry Question
“What is the effect of completing multiple collaborative assignments (created by a librarian and faculty member) on student’s information literacy skills and capacity for lifelong learning?”

How did my use of library resources and services contribute to what I learned?

“…Honestly, other than one other professor, I have not been introduced to the vastness the library has to offer. Granted (resources) are mentioned in the syllabus but if other students are like me, they are not going to utilize something unless it is a requirement. Maybe you could offer a library resources workshop to get the word out. However with the student body being so distributed, it probably needs to come from the main line of communication—the professors.”

Methodology
The library partnered with faculty on a several assignments to teach multiple skills from the emerging ACRL Information Literacy Framework. Working with five professors (seven classes) over two semesters, we matched information literacy skills with existing assignments, wrote rubrics, surveyed students, gathered data and looked for ways to improve library services, instruction and support.

Assignments
• Annotated bibliography
• Evaluating online resources
• Finding film & video resources
• Keyword Search in Google vs. a variety of databases
• Multimedia presentation skills
• Research log for thesis writers

Conclusions
• Market library products and services more effectively, e.g., identify e-reserve resources more clearly, create YouTube tutorials, and LibGuides
• Data collection needs refining: qualitative responses from open-ended course evaluation question provided the most useful data

Next Steps
• Recruit new faculty partners
• Collaborate to develop assignments that build information literacy skills
• Create sample skill rubrics from Information Literacy Framework
• Improve data design, collection, analysis

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.

Fall 2014 Course Evaluations
“How did the library assist your learning?”