PROJECT SUMMARY

A survey tool was developed to assess learning outcomes for students who participate in research consultations with liaison librarians. Data collection is ongoing and results have not yet been analyzed. Once data collection is complete, data from the campus Office of Institutional Research will be tabulated with survey results to determine whether students who have a research consultation have higher measures of student success (i.e., retention rate, time-to-degree completion, GPA) than students who do not.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The project goal was to develop and assess learning outcomes for our liaison librarians’ research consultations to ensure the library is contributing to and meeting campus goals for student success. The research question was:

Do students meeting 2-3 Student Learning Outcomes after an individual consultation with a librarian have higher measures of student success (i.e., retention rate, time-to-degree completion, GPA) than students who do not have a consultation?

PROCESS & METHODS

A survey was developed over Summer and Fall 2015 and deployed in Spring 2016. Too few surveys have been completed at this point to allow for data analysis. Once a sufficient number of surveys have been completed, data analysis will begin.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions at this point in data collection would be premature. However, one very useful anecdotal finding from the process of implementing this assessment project is that a cultural shift which places more value on the assessment process.

CREDITS

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 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.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1. Select your enrollment category:
   a. Traditional student (enrolled soon after high school)
   b. Transfer student (attended another college or university before enrolling at SIU)
   c. Returning student (left college for some period of time or did not immediately enroll after high school)

2. What is your student ID number?

3. What prompted you to make an individual appointment?
   a. Library website
   b. Instructor
   c. Librarian came to my class
   d. Friend/fellow student
   e. Other: __________________ (please specify)

4. Rate your overall confidence level with using the library BEFORE this appointment:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high

5. Rate your current confidence level with developing an effective library search strategy:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high

6. Rate your current confidence level with determining if you have done a thorough search:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high

7. Rate your current confidence level with evaluating your search results for relevance, currency, and/or authority:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high

8. Rate your current confidence level with using the library independently:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high

9. Rate your current confidence level with using the library:
   a. Very low
   b. Low
   c. Neither low nor high
   d. High
   e. Very high