Second Year Students: the Library in their Academic Lives

1st Challenge: 2nd Year vs Sophomore

2nd year not defined in matriculation data.
Students in their 2nd year can be defined as "sophomore" or "junior."

What we learned about 2nd year students:

- Relativism: Not everything is black and white. They are questioning what they learn.
- Developing Purpose: They are unsure of what they want to be.
- Moving Through: They are trying to stay focused. They are worried about how they grades up as classes become more challenging.

Notable texts we consulted:

- Relativism: "He, She, His, Her, Their"
- Developing Purpose: "Your Write, You're Right"
- Moving Through: "Your Right, You're Wrong"

Research focus:

- 2nd year students with multiple contacts with library units beyond first year orientation session.

Students spoke about their research skills, writing process, and library use

Students conducted research on a mock topic in their major.

Students completed a "Writing Efficacy" questionnaire to assess these writing factors:
- Their local/global writing process
- Their physical environments
- Their time/effort

We found gaps:

Professors often require students to make appointments with writing consultants but not research appointments with librarians.
Professors expect that students in 300 level courses do academic research and get assistance on their own.
Students may not receive adequate research instruction before 300 level courses.

Next steps:

Integrate findings with RFIs, the new Rollins general education curriculum, where information literacy and writing will be assessed during a student’s first year.
Review interviews more in-depth looking for further insight about the library.
Report results to Student Transitions committee and include Library/IT/Writing Center in student planning activities.
Continue monitoring 2nd year students and their library use reassessing our role in their learning.

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ASSESSMENT in Action
ACRL Advancing Learning, Transforming Scholarship

What’s @ the Olin Library?
- Traditional library services
- Tutoring & Writing Center
- IT Help

Interviews with ten 2nd year students

2013-2014 service data for 2nd year students

Students enrolled in 2nd year students

Library instruction sessions
Information Technology
Tutoring & Writing Center

24 class sessions
10 individual sessions
213 of 414 2nd year students met with a professional.

Further materials can be found at http://libguides.rollins.edu/assessmentinaction