Some Highlights from our Literature Review

- Library/Faculty collaboration
- School of Education, Embedded Librarian
- Jeff Desannoy, Librarian Team Leader;
  Sara Shutkin, Education Faculty, now Associate Director Educational Research & Evaluation, was instrumental in getting our
  Glen Rogers, Academic Affairs and Faculty, administered Project SAILS; Jeana
  administered Project knowledge, Now lead to a better assessment tool, an
  information literacy

2. Appropriate library students as a control to current TLA 651

3. Students demonstrate literacy skills progress

Will the use of an information literacy assessment tool, an embedded librarian, and other library interventions lead to a better persistence rate for MA Education students?

For example, becomes very important so they don’t spendordinate amounts of time processing material not germane to the topic/question. (Rita)

The biggest challenge is narrowing the focus of their topic so that it’s disable to design in one semester and carry it out in another. The next biggest challenge is finding topics that they have some control over— if they don’t have power to make change happen, they often cannot get traction. (Mary)

3. What resources do students use in preparing their literature reviews? (One example is the literature review wiki that I share with them). They are willing to use ERIC if they understand and

4. Add information self-assessment(s) of literacy skills progress

5. Embedded librarian’s

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of students as reflected in their finished literature reviews? Strengths – accessing material online; I was both satisfied and delighted that they could locate

INTERVENTIONS

- Embedded Librarian
  - Information Literacy session: Content included advanced database searching, and developing a search strategy.
  - Individual consultations with students as needed.
  - Library Research 601 (Moodle)

OBSERVATIONS FROM EMBEDDED LIBRARIAN

Graduate students need assistance at several points in their research process. Some students struggle with developing a search strategy. This involves identifying the main concepts in their research question, selecting keywords, and developing lists of relevant synonyms. Many students have a poor understanding of library research databases and the important advanced search features that are available. In the case of the ERIC database students can limit to journal articles or other limits such as educational level and intended audience.

The materials [the librarian] presented have been very useful. Students also find that mining reference lists from key articles and/or from prior student projects gets them started well. (Mary)

Where we’re headed

- Revised Research Question
  Will the use of an embedded librarian and other library interventions contribute to a better persistence rate for MA Education students?

- Revised Process and Methods

- Assess in fall semester 2014 with Project SAILS? or find some other way to assess that is more “culturally compatible”

- Targeted conversations with students

- Anecdotal interviews with faculty teaching TLA 651

We knew from the start that we might not have any conclusions by June 2014 because of the structure of our MA Education Program. We have a cohesive team who are all up for the challenge of continuing our study which is what we plan to do.

Best laid plans

- Process and Methods

- Inquiry
  - Actions
  - Outcomes
  - Evidence

- Information Literacy instruction
- Library/Faculty collaboration
- Assess IL skills with Project SAILS

- Library Research 601 (Moodle)

- Full references from project literature review:
  https://tinyurl.com/alverno-references

Librarians to the Rescue: Supporting Graduate Research

What happened

QUOTES FROM EDUCATION FACULTY

[Our embedded librarian corresponded via email with the two instructors of TLA 651, our control group]

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of students as reflected in their finished literature reviews?

Strengths – accessing material online; I was both satisfied and delighted that they could locate pertinent information in electronic format that originally appeared in paper format. Areas for improvement—better overall synthesis capability; seeing and then articulating similarities among research studies and expert commentary. (Rita)

2. What challenges do students face in choosing a topic and beginning their research?

The biggest challenge is narrowing a topic to a double semester research study. Knowing which keywords to plug into an EBC search.

3. What resources do students use in preparing their literature reviews? (One example is the literature review wiki that I share with them).

They are willing to use ERIC if they understand and can use the browse connectors phrase searching to successfully narrow what’s generated in a search. I had several students access appropriate agencies, organizations, and scholars who provided leads to the most current research on a given topic. (Rita)

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