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Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills: What the SAILS Tests Reveal Over Time

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Comments

The presentation was given at a conference organized by an accrediting agency and attended by university administrators, faculty, librarians, and others interested in how assessment informs student learning and organizational effectiveness.

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Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills: What the SAILS Tests Reveal Over Time

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Leatherby Libraries
Chapman University
Orange CA

The Universities

- Chapman University
 - Medium-sized, private, liberal arts in Orange CA
 - Mostly bachelor's, many master's, some doctoral degrees
- Brandman University
 - Medium-sized, private
 - Degrees from associates to doctoral
 - Mix of online and blended programs on 26 campuses in CA and WA

Information Literacy at Chapman

- Student learning outcomes at all levels (curriculum map)
- Based on national standards
- Freshman Foundations Course instruction
- Course-integrated instruction
- Informal and formal assessments
 - SAILS: 2007 to the present

Information Literacy at Brandman

- IL integrated throughout the curriculum
- Required course: Information Fluency and Academic Integrity
 - Based on national standards and institutional IL learning outcomes
- Course-integrated instruction (synchronous and asynchronous)
- Informal and formal assessments
 - SAILS: 2009 – present

SAILS: Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

- Based on national standards (ACRL)
- Cohort assessment
- Individual scores assessment
- Custom questions
- Reporting
 - ACRL standards
 - IL skill sets
 - Benchmarking
 - Subgroups

Chapman Implementation of SAILS

- Every Fall since 2007
- Freshman Foundations Course
- Cohort assessment 2007 - 2012
- Both monitored and unmonitored implementations

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
130	165	655	965	1,017	991	919

Chapman SAILS Results

- Chapman students do well compared to the master's-institution benchmarks
 - Strength in basic stages of research projects
 - Less strong in advanced areas
- Factors associated with better performance:
 - Major (performing arts/film; history)
 - Prior experience with a librarian (up to a point)

Chapman Use of SAILS

- Establishing the library as an assessment-oriented unit
- Reporting to stakeholders
- Reporting for re-accreditation
- Adapted for use in-class

Brandman Implementation of SAILS

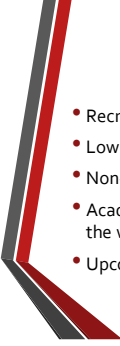
- Every year since 2009
- Assignment in a required course
- Cohort model
- Unmonitored

Brandman SAILS Results

- Brandman students do well compared to the master's institution benchmarks
- Many students had library instruction or F2F meeting with a librarian in the 6 months prior to the assessment


Brandman Use of SAILS

- Informed development of new IL course
 - Use of subject headings
 - Authority of sources
- Reporting to stakeholders
- Reporting for re-accreditation



Challenges

- Recruitment
- Low stakes
- Non-freshmen in first year classes
- Academic context – non-traditional students coming from the workplace
- Upcoming changes to the standards



Future Implementation

- Chapman
 - Individual scores
 - Freshmen and seniors
- Brandman
 - Capstone course for seniors