Fall 2012 SAILS assessment results

428 first year students completed the assessment, which was a pre-test of their IL skills and knowledge prior to receiving instruction at Hamline. This was our fifth administration of the Project SAILS individual test scores version.

The assessment was administered in the first week of classes, fall semester 2012.

Only 40 students scored at 70% or higher, which is considered proficient for first year students. A score of 85% or greater is considered mastery.

305 of the students indicated that in high school, they received instruction from a librarian/media specialist or teacher on library research tasks and concepts.

Students were asked to select a confidence level which best represented their ability to perform research tasks involving library resources. They responded:

- I have no confidence in my ability = 12
- I have some confidence in my ability = 225
- I am confident in my ability = 160
- I am very confident in my ability = 31

As expected, students’ actual test performance did not match up to their confidence levels.

The average number of questions answered correctly was 29/55. The average score was 53%. The median score was 55 and the mode was 55. The lowest scoring question with a mean score of 14% was Standard 5, question item #552, and the highest scoring question with a mean score of 88% was Standard 1, question Item #30. These have consistently been the highest and lowest scoring items for three fall administrations of this test. Item # 552 is about copyright and item #30 is about borrowing materials from other libraries.

The 55 questions on the SAILS test measured four different information literacy standards developed by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

ACRL Standard #1:
Determines the nature and extent of information needed. (13 questions on SAILS)
The mean score of Hamline first year testers in fall 2012 for this standard was 62%

ACRL Standard #2:
Accesses needed information effectively and efficiently. (25 questions on SAILS)
The mean score of Hamline first year testers in fall 2012 for this standard was 48%

ACRL Standard #3:
Evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system. (7 questions on SAILS)
The mean score of Hamline first year testers in fall 2012 for this standard was 57%

ACRL Standard #5:
Understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally. (10 questions on SAILS)
The mean score of Hamline first year testers in fall 2012 for this standard was 50%
A $100 book store gift certificate was given away to 1 winner, whose name was drawn from the pool of testers who completed the test.

Test results were sent via email to students’ Hamline email accounts on November 13, 2012.

Bush Library plans to administer the individual test scores version of Project SAILS to this same sample group in April 2013 as a post-test.