Sinking Under the Pressure to Assess Everything?

Buoy your Efforts with SAILS

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Project SAILS to the Rescue

1) Allowed us to move forward with IL assessment at the program level even when rest of campus was moving more slowly with assessment activities.

2) We didn’t have expertise on staff to design an extensive formal assessment tool of our own.

3) Needed a direct measure assessment tool that measured multiple outcomes.
Using Project SAILS to Assess

Advantages

- Easy Set-Up
- Assessment questions tied to ACRL standards for IL
- Quick turnaround time for results and reporting.
- Can easily track students over time.

Disadvantages

- Limited Customization
- Can’t remove or modify questions you don’t like.
- Only 1 administration allowed per semester.
- Must choose between personal results and comparisons between schools.
What concepts and skills do your teaching librarians cover in their IL encounters with students? Are your students learning?
Primarily, we’ve used SAILS with first year students to assess knowledge upon arrival at Hamline (pre-test) and again at end of first year and after Hamline IL instruction (post-test).

In Spring 2013 also measured graduating seniors following best practices of measuring at highest level.

Goal: to measure growth in learning. To see their SAILS scores increase.
Standardized testing provides summative information on student learning.

To change student learning (in progress) a good instruction program includes some formative assessment activities.

Teach—STOP—Assess Learning—Revisit misunderstood concepts – Assess again. Project SAILS isn’t designed for that.
Do students care about their SAILS scores?

We polled our students & they said YES. They’re also interested in comparing their test performance to other students. We provide feedback to testers on both.
Hamline faculty voted to add IL as a general education learning outcome in March 2013 which opens the door to:

- Assessing course-created artifacts using a rubric modeled after the AAC&U VALUE Initiative information literacy rubric.

- Items will be submitted and evaluated using the Blackboard Learn outcomes module.
Wherever your assessment journey takes you..

I wish you success and smooth SAILing.
Links to resources

- Project SAILS (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills), Kent State University. 2000–2013. [https://www.projectsails.org](https://www.projectsails.org)


- Amy Sheehan. Information Literacy at Bush Library. Hamline University. [http://bushlibraryguides.hamline.edu/IL_assessment](http://bushlibraryguides.hamline.edu/IL_assessment)

