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Minimalist Assessment: Quickly and Efficiently Assessing Information Literacy Outcomes

Ian Thomas

University of Georgia Science Library

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Minimalist Assessment:

Quickly and Efficiently Assessing Information Literacy Outcomes

10th Georgia Conference on Information Literacy, Savannah GA
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Ian Thomas, UGA

Baseline Questions

- Why assess at all?
- What information do you want from the assessment?
- What is the assessment environment (class topic and size, demographics, assignment, instructors)?

And the most important question...

**What is the
information going
to be used for?**

Sample Assessments

1. Detailed
2. Moderately Detailed
3. General

All problematical.

One answer:

Minimalism!

Assessment Tool:

Google Forms

- **Free!**
- **Easy**
- **Adaptable**

Issues ID'd during Beta Test

- Problems with Permalinks
 - Solution: Added article title field
- Problems with ID'ing librarians
 - Solution: Added drop-down menu
- Problems with premature test-taking
 - Had librarians address at beginning of class
 - Screened out results time-stamped before session
 - Turned out this only happened a handful of times

Advantages:

- Cost
- Adaptability
 - Takes full advantage of the electronic environment
 - Usable across classes and instructors
- Ease-of-Use
 - Caveat: Requires instructor follow-up (but that's a good thing)
- Utility
 - Administrative and instruction.

Disadvantages:

- Doesn't provide detailed information
 - Hard to identify where in the process things got derailed
- Requires more time to process information
 - But that's a good thing!
 - Also requires some class time
- Good for some classes, not for others
 - Embedded, graduate or high level undergrad classes might be better served by another assessment tool

Best used for large classes or in conjunction with other assessment methods/tools.

Questions?