Using iSkills and SAILS to Assess Information Literacy: What Do We Know and What Do We Do Now?

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Using iSkills & SAILS to Assess Information Literacy
What do we know & what do we do now?

Jennifer Campbell Meier
Marina Slemmons
Shawn Tonner
North Georgia College & State University
September 25, 2009
Outline

- NGCSU, SACS QEP & IL
- Large scale testing
- Results after 2 years
- Using results to improve
- Questions & discussion
Information Literacy = Informed Leaders
IL=IL
Quality Enhancement Plan
Getting information off the Internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant.

Mitchell Kapor
What is the Quality Enhancement Plan?

- QEP is part of SACS reaffirmation
- It must be
  - focused on student learning
  - tied to the institutional mission
  - supported by sufficient resources
  - measurable in terms of student outcomes
- NGCSU’s QEP is Information Literacy
- Uses the 5 ACRL Standards as Outcomes
Information Literacy = Informed Leaders

- Discipline Specific
- Higher Order Concepts
- General Education
- Lower Order Concepts

- Library
- Technology
- Faculty
What is IL?

- Our definition:
  - *Information literacy is the ability to know when information is needed and to access, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGCSU Learning Outcome</th>
<th>ACRL Information Literacy Standard</th>
<th>Know</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Evaluate</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Legal/Ethical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student will communicate effectively using multiple literacies and forms of expression.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate analytic, contextual, and holistic thinking.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will engage in integrative learning.</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will reflect critically and take informed action individually as a citizen.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student will analyze ethical interactions in local and global communities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Large Scale Assessment with Standardized Tests

Shawn Tonner
North Georgia College & State University
September 25, 2009
NGCSU’s IL Assessment Tool Box

- Project SAILS
- ETS iSkills (aka ICT)
- Information Literacy Test - James Madison University
- Embedded Assessment
- Kent State initiative 2001-present
- Mapped to ACRL IL Competencies
- Reliability.80+ & Inter-rater .65 to .80
- 60,000 students tested at 135 institutions
JUST THE FACTS

- $3 test & $2,000 per year cap
- Simple requirements for IT & proctor
- 35 minute multiple choice test
- Aggregate results only
- NGCSU Pilot test Fall 2007
- NGCSU adopts to use in ENGL 1102

- 520 students tested to date
Mapped to ACRL Competencies

- Standard 1 – Know – 37 items
- Standard 2 – Access – 73 items
- Standard 3 – Evaluate – 20 items
- Standard 4 – Use – Not tested
- Standard 5 – Understand – 27 items
Sample Question

You need to get information on an event that took place two days ago. Where are you most likely to find information about the event?

**CHOOSE ONE ANSWER**

- □ Book
- □ Dissertation
- □ Journal article
- □ Magazine
- □ Newspaper
Up & Downsides

- Simple & simplistic
- No individual results just aggregate De-motivator
- Manageable & reasonable $+Time+Equipment+Staff
- Great support & national recognition
To learn more about Project Sails

www.projectails.org
Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Fluency

- Framework 2002 global initiative
- Critical thinking & ACRL IL based
- Beta tests California State University 2005
- NGCSU pilot tests Fall 2007
- NGCSU Adopts ICT (Advanced) for seniors. 749 students tested to date.
JUST THE FACTS

- Individual results & aggregate data
- 90 minutes in 1 or 2 sessions with demographics prior
- $22 to $33/test
- Web based & modest IT & proctor intensive
- 7 skill areas
- Solid link to ACRL IL Competencies
Sample ICT Literacy Skills

Access

Performance Variables

Quality of Search Items

Quality of Search Results

Quality of Syntax

Use of Delimiting Terms

Quality of Selected Resources

Evaluate
iSkills™ Skill Areas

- Define
- Access
- Evaluate
- Manage
- Integrate
- Create
- Communicate
EVOLUTION OF THE TEST

- 2005-2007 – ETS ITC
- 2008 – ETS re-brands as iSkills
- 2009 – New ETS & CERTIPORT partnership
- Fall 2009 Beta iCritical Thinking released
Downsides

- *Increased* price - $37/test
- *Merged* Core & Advanced tests
- *Intensive* technology requirement
- *Intensive* proctoring requirement
- *Fall 2009* NGCSU abandons ETS CERTIPORT

iCritical Thinking
Fall 2009 NGCSU Pilots \textit{ILT}
\textbf{Information Literacy Test}

James Madison University
ILT - Just the Facts

- $7 per test
- Multiple choice
- Mapped to ACRL IL Competencies
- Low technology & proctoring requirements
- 55-60 minutes
- Sept 2009 NGCSU adopts ILT
ILT Questions & ACRL Competencies

Content Area

- Standard 1 – Know – 12 items
- Standard 2 – Access – 19 items
- Standard 3 – Evaluate – 19 items
- Standard 4 – Use – Not tested
- Standard 5 – Understand – 10 items

Cognitive Level

- Knowledge – 41 items
- Application – 19 items
Summary of Testing Experience

- Flexibility needed
- High return on investment with rich data
- Buy-in battle
- Test burn out & test anxiety
Results So Far
SAILS Pilot – Fall 2007

- Baseline data
- 4 sections of ENGL 1101
- Given in August
- All paper and pencil
- Total of 91 students took test
- 78 usable responses
Fall 2007 SAILS

Research strategy
Selecting Finding Tools
Searching
Using Finding Tool Features
Retrieving Sources
Evaluating Sources
Documenting Sources
Economic, Legal & Social Issues

NGCSU n=78
Peer n=6749
All n=39,640
SAILS Pilot – Spring 2008

- Pilot giving at end of ENG 1102
- 4 sections of ENGL 1102
- Given in April
- Use of computerized version for 2 sections
- 79 useable responses
SAILS – Fall 2008

- 3 Sections of ENG 1102 in Fall
- Included 1 Honors Section
- Given in November
- All on computer
- $N=64$
- Greater percentage of sophomores & juniors
Spring 2009 SAILS

NGCSU n=182
Peer   n=13,803
All    n=59,346
# Class Standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 07 Pilot ENGL 1101</th>
<th>Spring 08 Pilot ENGL 1102</th>
<th>Fall 08 ENGL 1102</th>
<th>Spring 2009 ENGL 1102</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshman</strong></td>
<td>71 (91%)</td>
<td>48 (60.8%)</td>
<td>17 (26.6%)</td>
<td>129 (70.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophomores</strong></td>
<td>4 (5.1%)</td>
<td>26 (32.9%)</td>
<td>33 (51.6%)</td>
<td>39 (21.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Juniors</strong></td>
<td>1 (1.3%)</td>
<td>4 (5.1%)</td>
<td>12 (18.8%)</td>
<td>11 (6.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seniors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (1.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sample</strong></td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison across time
**iSkills™ Pilot – Fall 2007**

- Baseline data
- 3 Sections of POLS/CRJU and 2 sections of upper division English courses
- Given in August/Early September
- Total of 88 students with 83 usable data
Fall 2007 Pilot Results

N=83
Fall 2007 Pilot Results

N=83
iSkills Pilot – Spring 2008

- Given late in semester – March/April
- Given in IL-designated courses (6 majors)
  - 2 sections CRJU/POLS
  - 1 section PHED
  - 1 section BIOL
  - 1 section ENGL
  - 1 section NURS
- Total of 98 students with 94 reported
Spring 2008 Results

N=94
Spring 2008 Results

N=94
iSkills – Fall 2008

- Given late in semester – Oct/Nov
- Given in IL-designated courses (6 majors)
  - 3 sections CRJU/POLS
  - 6 sections MKTG
  - 1 section MGMT
  - 1 section ENGL
  - 1 section HIST
- Total of 247 students with 239 reported
Fall 2008 Results

N=239
Fall 2008 Results

N=239
Spring 2009 Results
Spring 2009 Results
Combined Results

Fall 2007 n=83
Spring 2008 n=94
Fall 2008 n=239
Spring 2009 n=191
Developing an Instruction Response
Jennifer Campbell-Meier
September 24, 2009
iSkills Median Percent Correct
Spring 2008

Define: 60
Access: 63
Evaluate: 73
Manage: 50
Integrate: 71
Create: 57
Communi...: 63
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Number of courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Database searching – intro</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 General Database searching – intro</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 General Database searching – advanced</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10 Specialized Database searching</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Library Instruction 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Number of sections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Database searching – intro</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 General Database searching – intro</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 General Database searching – advanced</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10 Specialized Database searching</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Instruction Initiatives

- Assignment Calculator
- LibGuides
- RefWorks
- Embedded Assessment
- Work with ENGL1101
NGCSU iSkills Scores

![Graph showing NGCSU iSkills Scores for Spring 2008 and Fall 2009 across various skill categories: Define, Access, Evaluate, Manage, Integrate, Create, Communicate.](image-url)
Questions?