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

Background image adapted from
www.flickr.com/photos/josephrobertson/127758523
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
- General Education
- Higher Order Concepts
- 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.projectsails.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 *ILT*

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 useable responses
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

[Graph showing data for different categories such as Research Strategy, Selecting Finding Tools, Searching, Using Finding Tool Features, Retrieving Sources, Evaluating Sources, Documenting Sources, Economic, Legal & Social Issues.

Legend:
- NGCSU n=182
- Peer  n=13,803
- All   n=59,346]
# Class Standing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Level</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>Freshman</td>
<td>71 (91%)</td>
<td>48 (60.8%)</td>
<td>17 (26.6%)</td>
<td>129 (70.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>4 (5.1%)</td>
<td>26 (32.9%)</td>
<td>33 (51.6%)</td>
<td>39 (21.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>1 (1.3%)</td>
<td>4 (5.1%)</td>
<td>12 (18.8%)</td>
<td>11 (6.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (1/6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sample</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

[Bar chart showing the percent correct for different ICT literacy skill areas: Define, Access, Evaluate, Manage, Integrate, Create, Communicate. The values range from 38% to 86%.]
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
Communicate: 63
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>
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</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 SAILS Scores
NGCSU iSkills Scores

Spring 2008
Fall 2009
Questions?