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

Shawn Tonner  
*North Georgia College and State University*

Marina Slemmons  
*North Georgia College and State University*

Jennifer Campbell Meier  
*North Georgia College and State University*

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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
- 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>
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<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
Sample Question One

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

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

Performance Variables

- Quality of Search Items
- Quality of Search Results
- Quality of Syntax
- Use of Delimiting Terms
- Quality of Selected Resources

Access

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
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
Fall 2008 SAILS
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>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
Spring 2009 Results

![Graph showing median score difference in ICT literacy skill areas]
Combined Results

![Bar chart showing combined results for Define, Access, Evaluate, Manage, Integrate, Create, and Communicate in Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008, and Spring 2009.](chart.png)

- 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
NGCSU SAILS - Fall 2007

Developing a Research... Selecting Finding Tools Searching Using Finding Tool Features Retrieving Sources Evaluating Sources Documenting Sources Understanding Economic...
SAILS

- Developing a Research
- Selecting Finding Tools
- Searching
- Using Finding Tool Features
- Retrieving Sources
- Evaluating Sources
- Documenting Sources
- Understanding Economic

Legend:
- Yellow: NGCSU
- Blue: Masters
- Red: All
NGCSU SAILS - Fall 2007

Developing a...
Selecting Finding Tools
Searching
Using Finding Tool...
Retrieving Sources
Evaluating Sources
Documenting Sources
Understanding...
iSkills Median Percent Correct
Spring 2008

- Define: 60
- Access: 63
- Evaluate: 73
- Manage: 50
- Integrate: 71
- Create: 57
- Communicate: 63
## Library Instruction 2007-2008

<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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<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

- Developing a Research Question
- Selecting Finding Tools
-Searching
- Using Finding Tools
- Retrieving Sources
- Evaluating Sources
- Documenting Sources
- Understanding

- Fall 2007
- Fall 2008
- Spring 2008
- Spring 2009
Questions?