Informal Assessment Practices Garner High Impact Results

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University Libraries at UNC has discovered that whiteboards and flipcharts placed around the building are a simple, inexpensive, and effective way to gather feedback from students. In a recent Assessment Committee project, there were nearly 750 responses to a variety of questions about topics ranging from how to improve University Libraries to what new furniture should be bought.

Inexpensive
Anonymous
Quick and easy

Ask broad or specific questions.
Gather data on specific initiatives, or promote existing collections, services, and facilities.

Collect information virtually using online tools such as Padlet, seen here.

Responses generated can be fun, too!

Students feel comfortable responding to each other.

These informal practices provide additional context for results gathered from more traditional, time-intensive assessment methods. While student involvement is brief, it allows the University Libraries to gather many comments in a short period of time, which can then be used to shape decisions, such as purchasing new furniture and equipment, improving wi-fi access, and adding late night study hours.