

Evaluation and Searching Skills, Generally Speaking: Standardized Information Literacy Assessment in Undergraduate General Education Courses



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Abstract

Embedding information literacy outcomes into undergraduate general education courses is one approach to integrating information literacy across an academic curriculum. However, the measurements of these outcomes is challenging if library time or staff expertise is lacking to create local assessments.

Introduction

This poster analyzes the use of one standardized information literacy assessment, the Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL) and two modules of TATIL: Evaluating Process and Authority, and Strategic Searching. These modules are currently employed as pretests and posttests in the University Libraries and Archives' General Education course, UL100 - Research Skills, Information and Technology. In Fall 2020 and Fall 2021, the library collaborated with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to utilize these modules as pretests and posttests in sections of undergraduate General Education Courses.

Goals

- Create** a benchmark for basic information literacy competencies across the General Education curriculum measured against competencies taught in UL100
- Help** the ESU Libraries and Archives faculty connect with other General Education faculty to identify core information literacy competencies for students in their courses.
- Serve** as a key document for ESU's Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Review, Fall 2024

What Is TATIL?

Intended for the assessment of undergraduate students' information literacy competencies

Based on the [ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#)

Web-based, completely online

Measures Outcomes and Dispositions from Framework crosswalks

Four modules:

- Evaluating Process and Authority
- Strategic Searching
- Research as Scholarship
- The Value of Information

Next Steps

- Analyze results more closely in terms of specific Outcomes and Dispositions
- Seek funding from external sources to continue large-scale TATIL testing in General Education courses
- Plan for more embedded IL instruction in GE courses with the following factors:
 - Upcoming changes in General Education in Fall 2024 from the Kansas Board of Regents
 - ESU restructuring of undergraduate majors/curriculum plans

Methodology

Fall 2020 and Fall 2021: Outreach to undergraduate General Education courses identified as teaching basic IL competencies

- Emails sent in September to these students to take TATIL Evaluating Process and Authority and Strategic Searching pre-tests
- Follow-up emails sent in November to students who had taken both pre-tests, inviting them to take post-tests
- Extra credit awarded by GE course instructors to students who took both pre-tests and both post-tests

Fall 2020: 105 students took both pre-tests and both post-tests

Fall 2021: 77 students took both pre-tests and both post-tests

EVALUATING PROCESS AND AUTHORITY: Overall Knowledge Performance Levels

Readiness	Pre-Test Fall 2020	Post-Test Fall 2020	Pre-Test Fall 2021	Post-Test Fall 2021
Conditionally Ready	78 (74%)	71 (68%)	24 (31%)	23 (30%)
College Ready	27 (26%)	33 (31%)	53 (69%)	54 (70%)
Research Ready	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

STRATEGIC SEARCHING: Overall Knowledge Performance Levels

Readiness	Pre-Test Fall 2020	Post-Test Fall 2020	Pre-Test Fall 2021	Post-Test Fall 2021
Conditionally Ready	44 (42%)	37 (35%)	28 (36.4%)	31 (40%)
College Ready	60 (57%)	66 (63%)	48 (62.3%)	46 (60%)
Research Ready	1 (1%)	2 (2%)	1 (1.3%)	0 (0%)