

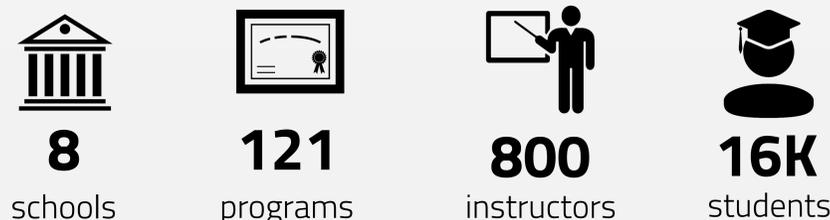
CONNECTING THE DATA

Defining Value at an applied education institution



Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

- Est. 1916 and built its reputation on trades and technical education
- Primarily 2-year institution, with 4 degree programs created since 2011
- Majority of teaching faculty come from industry without advanced degrees; yet, some are now required to engage in "scholarly activity"
- Strong ties to industry (primarily, oil & gas), both in terms of curriculum development and financial support



Goals:

- Develop cohesive value statements that balance *our* understanding of library value with institutional priorities, practices, and culture
- Shout it from rooftops until *everyone* gets it

Methods:

1. Compile Library data inventory and draw connections with institutional data
2. Audit official and unofficial institutional communication to better understand stakeholder perceptions of the library (or lack thereof)
3. At every opportunity, insert the Library into the conversation using evidence to unequivocally demonstrate what we're doing and why it matters

Challenges:

- Serve programs that lack conventional relationships with libraries and research
- Traditional and nostalgic perceptions of "The Library" do not exist
- Disconnect between what *we* know the library does and what faculty understands the library to do

Official communication 

Comprehensive Institutional Plan, 2016-2019

Priority Initiatives:

- Increase student retention and graduation rates through a variety of Campus Life and other student support initiatives
- Implement scholarly activities policies, procedures and processes at SAIT and support faculty and staff in pursuits of scholarly activity

[Note: Library is not mentioned]

"Student retention has increased by 7% in the last 5 years, which has led to a significant profit increase. ... And it's good for students, too."

"What does the Library have to do with scholarly activity?"

Unofficial communication 

External requirements

(a.k.a unexpected opportunities!)

July 2016: SAIT was required to submit a Comprehensive Evaluation to Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC), the government agency responsible for recommending new degree programs

Ongoing: SAIT established a Program Quality Assessment department to oversee program self-studies and external reviews