Learning Analytics & Libraries: A Primer

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Opportunities

Learning analytics projects are an opportunity to extend the means by which libraries can show their contributions to institutional student learning and success goals.

- Lack of connection between library data and wider data initiatives.
- Requires an organizational culture that understands & values data-informed decision making.

Challenges

- Proprietary algorithms may result in misleading patterns or misclassifications.
- Flaggering at-risk students may be self-fulfilling.
- Lack of connection between library data and wider data initiatives.

Threats

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- Lack of connection between library data and wider data initiatives.

Getting Connected

Stakeholders to Know

- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Business Officer
- Student Success Lead
- Institutional Research
- Information Technology Unit

Technology to Watch

- Caliper: Interoperability standard enabling data connections within the Next Generation Digital Learning Environment (NGDE).

- Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework (Hobsons): Uses de-identified student data provided by multiple institutions to predict student success, then returns the prediction data back to institutions so that they can rematch the data with unique student identifiers.

Climate Considerations

- Staffing/resources
- Analytics maturity
- Support
- Policies
- Commitment
datad efficacy
- Data support
- Funding
- Data-driven culture

- Collaborative/participation
- Decision-making framework
- Data management, analysis, visualization, understanding & interpretation
- Instructional design and planning for interventions

- Libraries contribute skills in data management, analysis, visualization, understanding & interpretation.
- Libraries contribute skills in intervention planning, instructional design, outcomes assessment.

Recommendations

- Libraries are skilled at connecting across academic and administrative units. Building such bridges is key to a successful learning analytics ecosystem.

Definitions:

- Descriptive: Describes what is happening.
- Diagnostic: Determines obstacles & facilitators of student success.
- Predictive: Uses data to predict likely student success or failure.