

Three easy methods to assess and improve your library instruction

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Observation

No preparation – Just awareness

While you lecture or demonstrate:

Are students engaged?

Are they listening, bored, or sleeping?

Only one student, or most of the class?

Do students ask pertinent questions?



While students work on their projects:

Lets you “get into” their thought processes.

Do they choose the right tools?

Do they find *good* information?

What questions do they ask?



Surveys

Requires preparation and thought – What do you want to find out?

Pre-instruction – What did the student already know?

Post-instruction – Did they think the class was useful?

What comments and suggestions do the students have?

What did the students learn and understand?

End of class – Use in combination with a pre-instruction survey, or by itself

End of semester – Use in combination with a pre-instruction survey

Were students able to apply the class to their projects?

Requires cooperation from the course professor

Options: *Electronic* (Survey Monkey, etc.) or *Print*

Subjective questions about usefulness and recommendations

Example: Evaluate the library instruction class:

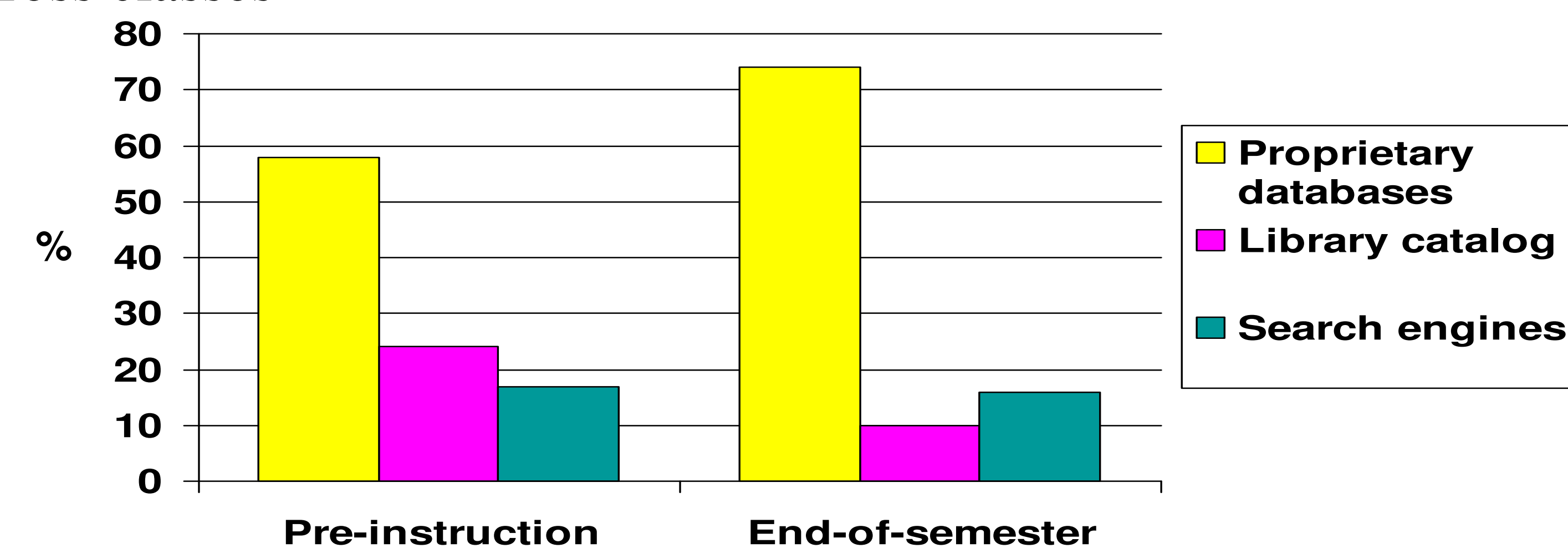
very useful / useful / not very useful / not useful at all

Objective questions about teaching points

Example: Which would you choose for finding journal articles?

One File / Library Catalog / Google / Web of Knowledge / Wikipedia

Compile data across classes



Exercises

Requires most preparation and thought

Use in combination with *observation*

Use throughout the class to emphasize and practice teaching points

Must be pertinent to each course

Subject matter

Library research assignments

Example:

Find a book related to the *Order* of your chosen *Species* and get it from the library stacks.



Apply your findings

When necessary, change your teaching:

To keep students' interest

To clarify points that are consistently not getting across

To accommodate students' wishes / views / needs

To improve your class and keep students happy!

