AT THE TABLE: University of Maryland Libraries and the Campus Learning Outcomes Assessment Process

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LIBRARIES LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Students demonstrate effective use of the physical and virtual Libraries as a gateway to facilitate their learning. OUTCOME ASSESSED 2007-2008
2. Students articulate information need and construct research question or thesis statement. ACRL Standard 1
3. Students identify appropriate research tools and construct and implement effective search strategy. ACRL Standard 2
4. Students identify and locate needed research resources. ACRL Standard 2. OUTCOME ASSESSED 2006-2007
5. Students examine, compare and evaluate information sources. ACRL Standard 3

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT METHODS
Freshman Writing: Online “One Minute Paper”
Professional Writing: Online post-test
UNIV 100 (intro to college): Team hands on exercises
GEMS 100 (team-based research): Bibliography analysis
UM Student Survey: Self report questions on information literacy

UM CAMPUS
LOA PROCESS:
- Degree granting units and others (Libraries, Student Affairs) develop 3-5 learning outcomes
- One outcome is assessed each academic year
- All outcomes are assessed over four year cycle
- Plans and results are reviewed by College Coordinators group
- Feedback is provided to units and Deans
- College Coordinators serve as internal consultants

LOA STRUCTURE:
- Deans Steering Committee
- Planning Committee
- College Coordinators
- CORE (general education) Working Group

UM LIBRARIES
LOA PROCESS:
- User Education Services develops Libraries LOA plan for general education and “gateway” courses
- Plan is vetted with Information Literacy Team
- Assessment is done by librarians teaching general education and gateway courses
- Results are reported to campus through College Coordinator
- LOA Pilot Project engages subject librarians in assessment of subject-specific instruction

LOA STRUCTURE:
- Information Literacy Team
- User Education Services
- College Coordinator (Diane Harvey)
- LOA Pilot Project (subject librarians)

"The UM Libraries have led the way on our campus with their simple assessments of learning in library sessions. In developing sensible and user-friendly assessment methods, and in actually using their assessment results to improve programs, the Libraries are a model ‘culture of evidence.’" Dr. Katherine McAdams, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, University of Maryland

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