

WELCOME

Value of Academic Libraries Research Agenda

WELCOME

Please sit at a table. Each is labeled with the topic for discussion taking place at that table:

- Student Learning
- Student Retention
- Student Success

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Welcome

To Do



- Review (briefly) ACRL's Value of Academic Libraries initiative to date.
- Facilitate discussions around a national research agenda.
- Develop/refine research questions.
- Discuss potential research approaches (study design, methodology, potential data sources, study sites) or funding sources.
- Key output: Research questions, fleshed out, for draft agenda.

Logistics

- 2 rounds of group discussion & report out
 - 1st round, generate research questions and record ideas related to research methods, data, and partners
 - 2nd round, envision specific studies aligned with research questions
- Table facilitators – Identify yourselves!
- Research agenda draft writers – Meg, Jen, Alice (will collaborate with Megan, Lisa, and Kara)
- Handouts, cards – use *as needed*. We will collect.

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Introductions

Overview of VAL Initiative, 1 of 2

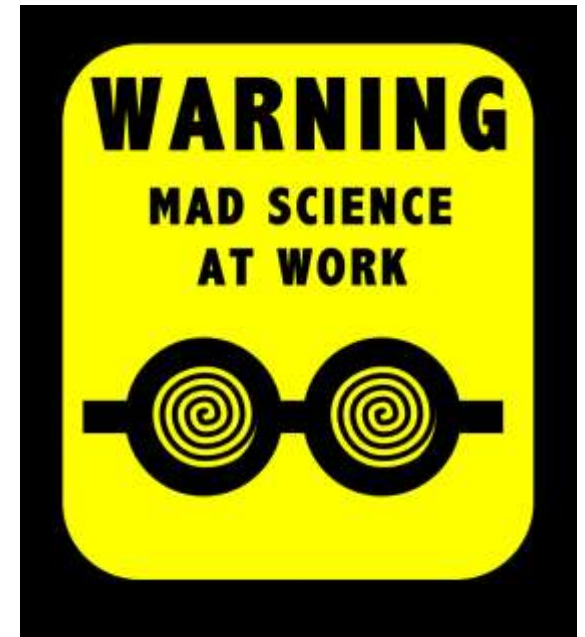
- May 2009 – ACRL Board Director-at-Large John Lehner’s Briefing Paper: “Return on Investment in Academic Libraries Research”
- July 2009 – Board Invitational “Value of Academic Libraries Research” Meeting
- Fall 2009 – RFP issued for comprehensive literature analysis; contract awarded in December
- September 2010 – The Value of Academic Libraries: A Comprehensive Research Review and Report released
- February 2011 – Application for IMLS Collaborative Planning Grant Submitted
- March 2011 – Update forum and Vendor Summit at ACRL 2011 Conference

Overview of VAL Initiative, 2 of 2

- April 2011 – Plan for Excellence adopted
- May 2011 – Board charges Value of Academic Libraries Committee
- October 2011 – IMLS Grant awarded
- November/December 2011– IMLS Funded Summits
- January 2012 – Update forum at Midwinter; Research Agenda Summit proposed
- February 2012 – IMLS Program Planning Grant submitted
- June 2012 – Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate: A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits released; Invitational Research Agenda Meeting; Update forum at Annual

Creating a Research Agenda, 1 of 2

- Determine profession's major needs
- Develop a consensus on the parameters & specifics of “academic library value/impact”
- Identify key authors in the field
- Develop a literature review
- Describe strengths/weaknesses of existing research
- Identify key research questions
- Determine how they can be answered



Creating a Research Agenda, 2 of 2



- Identify issues related to study design, methodology, potential data sources, study sites
- Identify venues for dissemination of future research, including journals & conferences
- Recruit partners/collaborators for future research
- Secure funding
- Determine priorities for research
- Determine how to involve stakeholders in identifying & using research findings
- Draft an agenda, solicit comments, revise agenda

Creating a Research Agenda (all together!)

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Value of Academic Libraries Report

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Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate: A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits

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Today: Invitational Research Agenda Meeting

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The Future

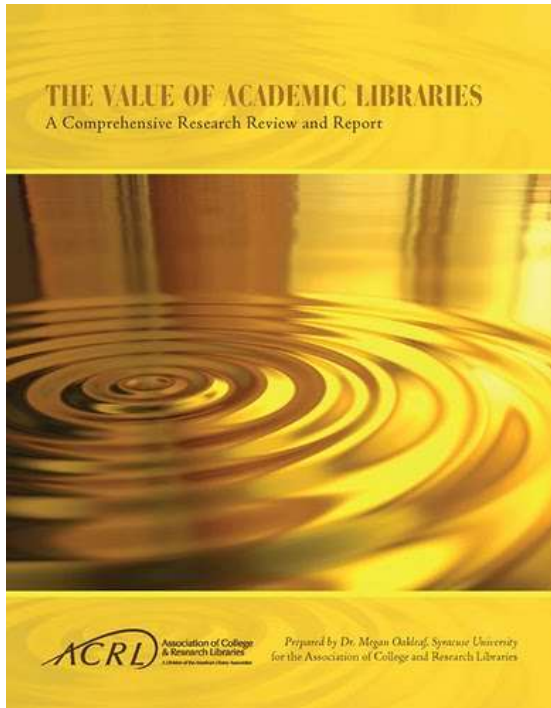
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Priorities for Research



- Student Learning (Achievement)
- Student Retention (Persistence, Completion)
- Student (Career) Success

Value of Academic Libraries Report



- What we know
- What we don't
- Are the “essential research questions” the right questions?
- Are they worth answering?
- How can we expand, develop, or refine them?

Small Group Break Out #1

6 groups = 2 learning, 2 retention, 2 success

First, reflect.

Consider your assigned topic (learning, retention, success) and reflect on your experiences, expertise, readings, research, etc.

- What do we know about library impact in this area?
- What library services or resources may impact this area?
- What do we need to know?



Student Learning Outcomes

We know...

- Libraries provide instruction, including face-to-face “one-shots”, credit courses, online learning objects.
- Students appear to acquire “information literacy” skills as a consequence of library instruction, but assessments are scattered and episodic, not coherent and longitudinal.

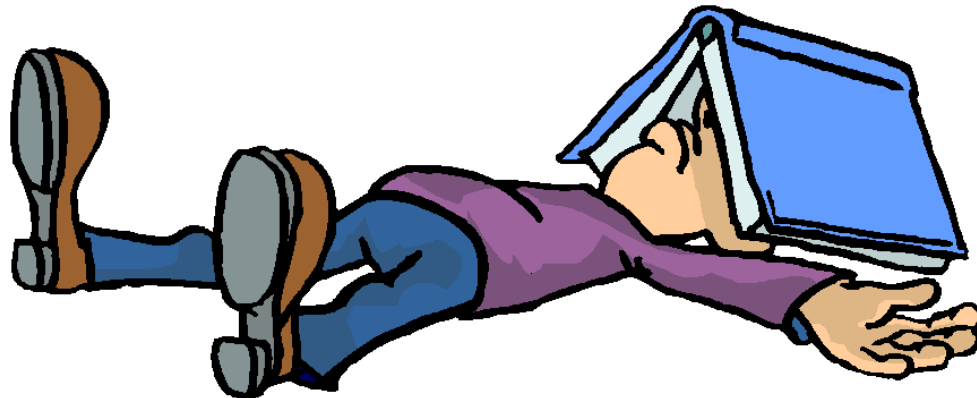


(p 37, 117)

Student Learning Outcomes

We don't know...

- How much or how well do students learn information skills over time, across programs, before graduation?
- Do they transfer these skills to other contexts?
- What library interactions besides overt instruction make a difference in student learning?
- What might use of Assessment Management Systems reveal about student learning?



Grades/Marks & Testing



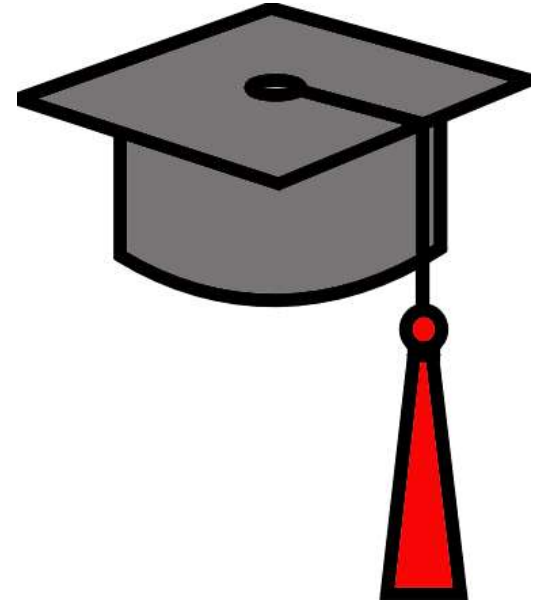
We know...

- Student grades/marks and professional/educational test scores are used to make high-stakes decisions.
- Library “check outs” appear to impact students grades positively. (Huddersfield, Wollongong)
- Library “visits” do not appear to impact student grades. (Huddersfield)
- Library “instruction” may impact student grades, or at least not make them worse. (Hong Kong Baptist)
- Library instruction after the first-year appears to impact GPA at graduation. (Wyoming)
- Library use (downloads, loans, reference) increases GPA and retention. Library instruction may decrease GPA, but increase (p 114) retention. (Minnesota)

Retention/Graduation

We know...

- Most libraries support several high-impact practices.
- Some libraries support early warning/intervention practices.
- Some libraries proactively assign “research advisors” to support certain student groups.
- Library use, expenditures, and professional staff are correlated with retention, but no causative links.



(p 32, 106)

Career Success

We know...

- Employers care about student information skills (critical thinking, problem solving, locating/evaluating/using information).
- Libraries provide resources students can use during their internship work.
- Libraries provide detailed company profiles students can use to prepare for interviews.



(p 27, 109)

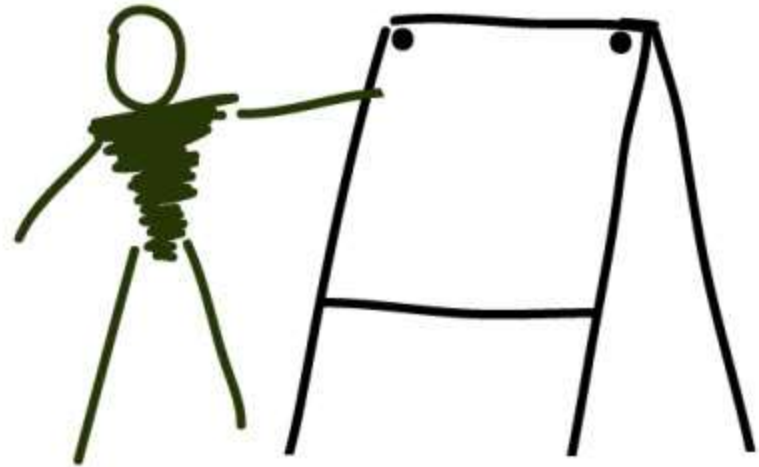
Small Group Break Out #1

List additional questions.

What research questions can you think of for this topic?

- Consider more specific areas
- Consider related areas

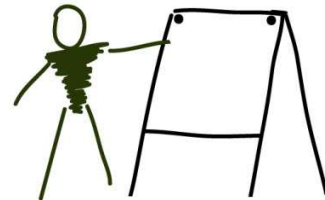
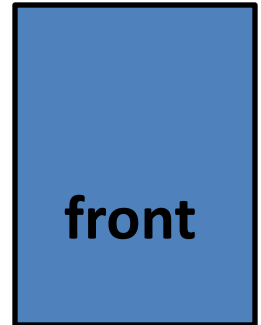
RANK in order of interest or importance.



Small Group Break Out #1

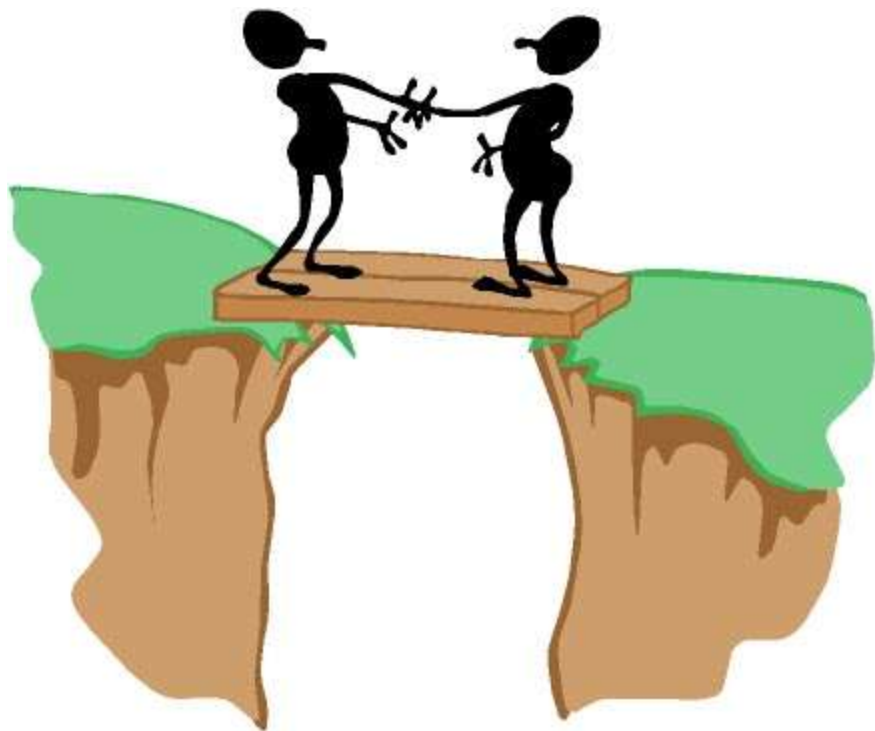
For each question...

- Is the question worth answering? What is the purpose of answering it?
- What evidence/data will help answer the question?
 - How can you get that evidence/data?
- What research method would yield that evidence/data?
 - What are the ads/disads of those research methods?
- What partners/collaborators could be involved?
- What do you expect to result from this research?
 - Who will care about the results of this research?



Small Group Break Out #1

Double check, if there's time...



Are your research questions, research purposes, and research methods aligned?

Does the proposed research build on past research or fill research gaps?

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Break

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Report Out

Group Break Out #2

3 groups = learning, retention, success

Recheck questions.

Combine lists, if possible.

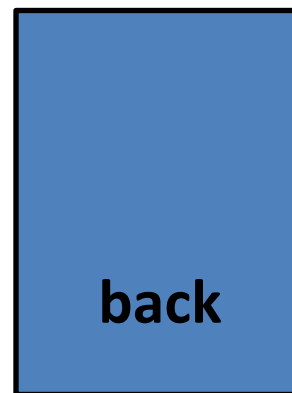
Any additional research questions to add?

Group Break Out #2

Anticipate the research.

What are the studies that we want to happen look like?

- How should they be designed?
- What should they include?
- What should their purpose be?
- What methods should be used?



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Report Out

The Best Research...

- Has an impact on individuals and populations
- Leads to decision-making, action-taking, practical tools/skills for library users
- Includes different sub-populations
- Addresses current gaps in research
- Uses rigorous research methods
- States limitations clearly and responsibly

If time...

What situations or sites might be good for conducting these studies?

What might be the best way to connect with partners/collaborators for these studies?

What else should we consider?



Ways to Assess the Agenda...It Should:

- Promote library users as partners in the design, deployment, and dissemination of research
- Respond to key research questions
- Use a variety rigorous research methods
- Focus on outcomes of interest to library users and stakeholders and measure value/impact in the context of those outcomes
- Lead to decision-making, action-taking, practical tools/skills for users
- Be transparent and replicable, possibly making data available for future study
- Investigate a variety/diversity of populations and environments
- “Emphasize efficient, innovative research and dissemination”
- Identify funding opportunities
- Network researchers for partnerships
- Develop a set of key measures that could be used for comparisons

Coming Soon...



Next Steps:

- Draft Research Agenda circulated for comments/suggestions
- Presentation of Draft Research Agenda
 - Library Assessment Conference, October 2012
- Possible presentations at ALISE, iConference?
- What else?

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**Closing...
and Thank You!**