# Information Literacy and Student Engagement: What the National Survey of Student Engagement Reveals about Your Campus

## Amy E. Mark and Polly D. Boruff-Jones

The annual National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) measures undergraduate "participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development." Each item on the survey correlates to one of five benchmarks of "empirically confirmed 'good practices' in undergraduate education." The NSSE is an excellent diagnostic fit with the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education because learning outcomes can be correlated with student engagement. This article presents case studies from the University of Mississippi and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis to demonstrate how librarians can apply NSSE results for the purpose of assessment.



he National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) annually surveys randomly selected freshmen and seniors at four-year col-

leges and universities regarding their engagement in the college experience.<sup>4</sup> The survey is administered through the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and Planning in cooperation with the Indiana University Center for Survey Research, under the direction of George Kuh.

At completion of the most recent NSSE survey (2002), 285,000 students at 618 institutions had participated in the surveys. Schools pay a participation fee, determined by FTE, which ranges from \$1,500 to \$7,500. There is no charge to the students who complete the survey or to libraries for using the data.

Generalized data, in the form of national or annual reports, are available free on the NSSE Web site (see the National Survey of Student Engagement: The College Student Report home page at http://www.iub.edu/~nsse/). This Web site includes an excellent overview of the survey project, a list of participating institutions, information on obtaining institutional reports, and the survey instrument. The survey method is sound and produces statistically significant results that have generated benchmarks for comparison groups.

Each survey question is associated with one of five National Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice: level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student interactions with

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faculty, enriching educational experiences, and supportive campus environment.<sup>6</sup>

The authors believe that the NSSE provides a compelling, but underused, tool for measuring the extent to which information literacy is incorporated into the curriculum on a particular campus. This article shows how to use the NSSE for more effective benchmarking within Carnegie peer groups in order to compare student learning. The NSSE also is beneficial to measure student learning outcomes in the acquisition of information literacy skills.

A core idea of the NSSE is that of analyzing student learning through student engagement. This article shows how instruction librarians can demonstrate the extent to which institutional curriculum incorporates information literacy experiences by examining levels of student engagement. Readers will learn how to frame local NSSE results to have more meaningful conversations with campus constituencies about the importance of information literacy for student engagement.

## Literature Review: Information Literacy Assessment on a Programmatic Level

Three areas have been indicated for further research on information literacy assessment: evaluation of instructors and programs; assessment of learning outcomes; and transferability.7 This review considers the trends in library literature on assessment regarding five points that correlate to this research agenda. The first section, "Reliable and Universal Survey Instrument," relates to the "evaluation of instructor and programs" directive, which includes an outcome for discovering "the most effective tools for assessing the impact of library instruction," as well as "transferability." The second section, "Using Outcomes for Assessment," relates to the charge for "assessment of learning outcomes." The third and fourth sections, "Stakeholders and Alignment with Institutional Goals" and "Campuswide Involvement," also fall under the research agenda of "assessment of learning outcomes." These outcomes include integrating information literacy into institutional assessment efforts. The fifth section, "Benchmarking," includes the need for effective benchmarking tools.

## Reliable and Universal Survey Instrument

There is more literature on assessing library instruction than there is on specifically addressing programmatic assessment of information literacy. Examining the literature that touches on programmatic-level assessment indicates that the two biggest barriers to success are designing a reliable survey instrument and locating a survey instrument applicable in a variety of campus environments and levels of instruction programming.

There is a wide call for sound assessment methods. Nancy Wootton Colborn and Rosanne M. Cordell discuss both the move toward more objective methods and data problems in the assessment of library instruction.8 Lorrie A. Knight delineates four steps for systemic assessment, including the development of assessment devices but, like many, focuses on a preand posttest.9 Ralph Catts notes that poor and invalid assessment practices are prevalent.10 This seems to be the consensus both inside and outside the profession. In the case of psychology students, Eric R. Landurum and Diana M. Muench discuss librarians' constant reinvention of the assessment wheel instead of using proven methods for evaluation and write "that many of these scales lack important psychometric properties such as validity and reliability."11

Lisa G. O'Connor and others address the need for both programmatic assessment and a reliable assessment instrument. The authors encourage instruction librarians to work together on "a project to develop an instrument for programmatic-level assessment of information literacy skills that is valid—and thus credible—to university administrators and other academic personnel." They make an excellent argument for a valid instrument and point out how difficult it will be for librarians attempting to create an instrument applicable to a wide range of information literacy programs.

Building on Richard Hume Werking's 1980 literature review, Christopher Bober, Sonia Poulin, and Luigina Vileno note that the need for assessment and accountability has been continually reflected in the library literature from 1980 to 1993 and that "the need to justify expenditures on user education programs will necessitate a more systemic approach to evaluation." <sup>13,14</sup> Bober concludes that informal assessment methods still predominate.

Christine Bruce examines the literature on information literacy research to trace signs of a collective consciousness in the body of research. Her outlook on the future of research is "a firmer, more consolidated, research agenda." ACRL's Information Literacy and Assessment Web site encourages librarians to develop an assessment program that "should reach all students, pinpoint areas for further program development, and consolidate learning goals already achieved." 16

The NSSE has not been referred to in any library literature surveyed with the exception of an article by Cecilia Lopez that discusses how surveys provide only a biased view of the learning experience. She states that the NSSE is a successful instrument "because it has the potential to influence how institutions can improve specific educational practices that promote student engagement in the learning process." Lopez also discusses the strong points of the NSSE, including benchmarking and institutional reflection. 18

## Using Outcomes for Assessment

General discussion of learning outcomes is frequent in library literature, though not all authors define or discuss learning outcomes. Lois M. Pausch and Mary Pagliero Popp frame learning outcomes as three questions, What should students learn? How well are they learning it? How does the institution know?<sup>19</sup> Mark Battersby defines learning outcomes as

contextual and conceptual rather than formulaic.20 Similar to Carol Kuhlthau's 1993 definition of information literacy as a "way of learning," Battersby states that "outcomes are not discrete skills or mere collections of knowledge but the integrated complexes of knowledge, abilities and attitudes."21,22 Kenneth R. Smith sees learning outcomes as a trend because institutions and accrediting bodies have been shifting their focus from input measures (faculty, courses, books) to outcome measures (what students learn).<sup>23</sup> Bonnie Gratch-Lindauer broadens the definition of the word outcomes to include "the realized goals valued by various campus constituents, also called stakeholders" and addresses the need to assess campuswide outcomes.24 She notes that the library literature is "internally focused" and that academic libraries need to find measures or methods that assess their impact on campuswide educational outcomes.25

Most outcome-focused assessments are not done on a programmatic level, looking only at a specific class.26-29 These often used a pre-/posttest method, questioning the students' perceptions and opinions about the library rather than determining proof of learning.<sup>30,31</sup> Hannelore B. Rader's review on information literacy over the past thirty years notes that the amount of literature on assessment is relatively small. In early literature, the focus is on librarians as teachers and how well students compile bibliographies.32 A recent shift in the literature has focused more on student learning outcomes, possibly due to pressure from various external evaluation bodies for higher education requiring evidence of quality as measured by outcomes.33

## Stakeholders and Alignment with Institutional Goals

The AAHE's Principles of Good Practice of Assessing Student Learning stresses the importance of using assessment for accountability to stakeholders, through which educators meet responsibilities to students and to the public.<sup>34</sup> Assessment as a means to assist with institutional ac-

creditation and with accountability to state legislatures and other stakeholders has become a major trend.<sup>35–43</sup>

Many articles emphasize the practicality of libraries aligning assessment with the mission of the institution.44-52 "Ideally," says Ilene F. Rockman, "libraries want to be able to show that the role of the library has a strong impact on campus mission and goals by strengthening the quality of a student educational experience."53 Gratch-Lindauer examines the need for an external focus when assessing information literacy, showing that librarians often do not use data, measures, nor language that are common to academic administrators and accreditation teams.54 This is a valuable point with resources being scarce: assessment takes time and should have many outcomes, one being clearly communicating library successes and needs to administrators. Iannuzzi agrees that the most meaningful assessment aligns information literacy outcomes with general education outcomes of the campus.<sup>55</sup> Lopez and Catts both note that good assessment can result in increased and sustained funding.56,57 When libraries are involved on an institutional level and demonstrating results, priority funding should be forthcoming.

## Campuswide Involvement

Linked to the importance of assessment to stakeholders is a noted emphasis on campuswide involvement in information literacy assessment. The AAHE's Principles of Good Practice of Assessing Student Learning notes that "assessment fosters wider improvement when representatives from across the educational community are involved" and that "assessment is most likely to lead to improvement when it is part of a larger set of conditions that promote change."58 A common snapshot of information literacy on campuses has been the Information Literacy IQ (Institutional Quotient) Test.<sup>59</sup> This thirteen-question IQ test is excellent as a quick tool for librarians to measure the integration of information literacy. Compared to the Information Literacy IQ, the NSSE takes the assessment even further out of the librarians' viewpoint and into the realm of student learning.

Peggy L. Maki says that assessment needs to be systemic and conducted with participation across the institution with a shared commitment among faculty, staff, and administrators.60 Gratch-Lindauer sees assessment and the ACRL standards documents as a necessary tool not just for assisting with accreditation, but also as a promotional tool to inform colleagues that librarians share responsibility for educating students. 61 When discussing the difficulty of measuring outcomes, Patricia Davitt Maughan notes that "although information competencies are easier to assess, the assessment of information literacy outcomes, by contrast, must be a shared responsibility between librarians and faculty."62 Successful outcomes have multiple perspectives.

Librarians also can use assessment to be change agents at their institutions. More than just a way to report results, assessment can change a campus culture—if there is campuswide involvement. Smith uses the learning outcomes included in assessment to ask "whether student learning is enhanced by the way we teach, by the organization of the university, by the structure of the academic program, and by the activities of faculty and other professionals."63 Oswald M. T. Ratteray outlines the difficulties reported by librarians in the Middle Atlantic States in trying to affect a change in campus culture where information literacy programs were stalled.<sup>64</sup> One explanation is that information literacy is seen as only a librarian's responsibility. A new handbook for the Middle Atlantic States group has encouraged greater collaboration.

Iannuzzi argues that librarians do not have to carry the full burden of information literacy; it is more than library instruction and includes both critical thinking and IT education.<sup>65</sup> Iannuzzi pushes for institutional involvement and states that "when considering campuswide information literacy assessment, it may be difficult to separate information literacy

from the overarching goals of undergraduate education and the overall assessment of student learning. So do not separate it!"<sup>66</sup> Smith suggests a link between assessment success and shared needs.<sup>67</sup> Going beyond traditional library goals and viewing assessment from other departments' viewpoints creates opportunities for librarians.

## Benchmarking

Why measure information literacy competencies? Maughan states, "to establish a baseline of student skills around which an information literacy program might be built; to assess the effectiveness of particular library instruction sessions or approaches to instruction; to determine the impact of library instruction programs on student information literacy skills and academic success; and to generate data with which to communicate with faculty."68 All of these points include benchmarking, at either the class, institutional, or national level. Iannuzzi lays out four levels at which we can assess information literacy outcomes: within the library; in the classroom; on campus; and beyond the campus.<sup>69</sup> One of the ALA's primary agendas reflects the necessity of assessing information literacy on a programmatic level. 70 Because library instruction does not have an undergraduate program, compared to assessing student learning of psychology or biology majors, one route for programmatic assessment is to take a snapshot of information literacy at an institutional level. Comprehensive evaluation of student learning can reveal the overall level of student information literacy in a given year and present insights as to which learning outcomes students have and have not mastered.

Reliance on outside peer review is one type of current benchmarking. Ratterary suggests outside reviews where "thousands of volunteer peer reviewers monitor periodically how [each] institution defines and implements its own solutions."<sup>71</sup> Consolidating the few regions that have such programs would be diffi-

cult. A national comparison of similar institutions is ideal. Maughan describes a need for more systematic and widespread assessment that is shared—from library to library and from institution to institution.<sup>72</sup> Perhaps part of the difficulty in creating a reliable survey instrument has been the lack of a shared form of assessment.

#### The NSSE Results

Institutions of higher education may use the student engagement survey to compare themselves to peer institutions and to the national benchmarks.<sup>73</sup> The 2002 NSSE reports that schools are using their results in many productive ways for assessment and improvement, curricular reform, benchmarking, advising, institutional research and advancement, retention, self-studies, accreditation, and performance reviews. To this list the authors add institutional information literacy.

Survey results have shown that "student engagement results appear to have the best chance of guiding institutional change efforts when:

- a. Faculty and staff understand the concept of student engagement.
- b. Enough results are available to use the information at the department or unit level.
- Institutions understand what student engagement data represent and use the results wisely.
- d. Institutional performance is reported in a responsible way.
- e. Results are placed in the proper context and interpreted carefully.
- f. Results are examined from multiple perspectives.
- g. Results are linked to other information about the student experience and institutional performance.
- h. Institutions form consortia or other collaborative arrangements to work on improvement initiatives."<sup>74</sup>

To apply the NSSE as an assessment tool, you will need to find out whether your institution participates, obtain your local results, and familiarize yourself with the national trends. Be sure to note in which group your institution is benchmarked (e.g., the University of Mississippi is a Research I & II university).

Each school receives a confidential institutional report. This report is often on file in your school's office of institutional research. Request permission to borrow the confidential report to copy or request your institution's password to access it on the NSSE Web site. Ask if your institution already has used its individualized report to create a contextualized internal report or to make recommendations to school administrators.

## Evidence of Student Learning Outcomes and Acquisition of Information Literacy Skills

From the five benchmarks, two are easily applicable to the assessment of information literacy: Level of Academic Challenge, and Active and Collaborative Learning. The authors chose the latter to use as an example.

In the NSSE annual report, Active and Collaborative Learning is described as follows: "Students learn more when they are intensely involved in their education and are asked to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings. Collaborating with others in solving problems or mastering difficult material prepares students to deal with the messy, unscripted problems they will encounter daily during and after college."<sup>75</sup>

Survey questions created to measure activities associated with this benchmark are:

"[A]bout how often have you done each of the following?

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
  - Made a class presentation
- Worked with other students on projects during class
- Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
  - Tutored or taught other students
- Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course
- Discussed ideas from your reading or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)<sup>776</sup>

#### Methods

To correlate the NSSE results with the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, the authors selected the five survey questions from the seven associated with the Active and Collaborative Learning benchmark that are most closely related to information literacy concepts. These questions were: asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions, made a class presentation, worked with other students on projects during class, worked with classmates outside class to prepare class assignments, and discussed ideas from your reading or classes with others outside class. Because the questions are very specific, the questions were correlated not only with the ACRL standards, but also, more narrowly and specifically, to performance indicators and outcomes. In anticipation of using the NSSE scores not just as a tool for assessment of information literacy, but also as a focal point for improvement, the questions and standards were correlated with Bloom's Taxonomy. (See table 1.)

The authors charted their institutional mean scores with peer group mean scores and the national mean scores for comparison, including both the first-year scores and the senior scores. (See table 2.)

The authors expanded on the taxonomy by listing student skills appropriate to the taxonomic level and level-appropriate verbs to be incorporated into assignments. (See table 3.) This single benchmark covers several levels or orders of thinking in the taxonomy and it is important to remember that:

the term information literacy instruction, in addition to the lowerorder skills, includes higher-order abilities such as assessing search results for quality and relevance; evaluating the reliability, validity, authority, and timeliness of retrieved information; and applying new information to the planning and creation of scholarly and professional projects and products<sup>77</sup>

TABLE 1 NSSE Survey Questions, ACRL Standards, and Bloom's Taxonomy				
Corresponding NSSE 2001 Survey Questions  ACRL Standards and Performance Indicators and Possible ACRL Outcome(s)		Bloom's Taxonomy		
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	<ul><li>3.6.a: Participates in classroom and other discussions</li><li>4.3.d: Communicates clearly and with a style that supports the purposes of the intended audience</li></ul>	Knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis		
Made a class presentation	4.1.a: Organizes the content in a manner that supports the purposes and format of the product or performance (e.g., outlines, drafts, storyboards) 4.1.b: Articulates knowledge and skills transferred from prior experiences to planning and creating the product or performance 4.1.c: Integrates the new and prior information, including quotations and paraphrasings, in a manner that supports the purposes of the product or performance 4.1.d: Manipulates digital text, images, and data, as needed, transferring them from their original locations and formats to a new context 4.3.b: Uses a range of information technology applications in creating the product or performance 4.3.c: Incorporates principles of design and communication 4.3.d: Communicates clearly and with a style that supports the purposes of the intended audience	Application, analysis  Analysis, synthesis		
Worked with other students on projects during class	udents on projects pates in class discussions, peer workgroups,			

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)  NSSE Survey Questions, ACRL Standards, and Bloom's Taxonomy			
Corresponding NSSE 2001 Survey Questions	2001 Survey Performance Indicators and		
Worked with other students on projects during class, con't.	4.1.d: Manipulates digital text, images, and data, as needed, transferring them from their original locations and formats to a new context 4.3.a: Chooses a communication medium and format that best supports the purposes of the product or performance and the intended audience 4.3.b: Uses a range of information technology applications in creating the product or performance		
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	1.1.a: Confers with instructors and participates in class discussions, peer workgroups, and electronic discussions to identify a research topic or other information need 4.1.a: Organizes the content in a manner that supports the purposes and format of the product or performance (e.g., outlines, drafts, storyboards) 4.1.b: Articulates knowledge and skills transferred from prior experiences to planning and creating the product or performance 4.1.c: Integrates the new and prior information, including quotations and paraphrasings, in a manner that supports the purposes of the product or performance 4.1.d: Manipulates digital text, images, and data, as needed, transferring them from their original locations and formats to a new context 4.3.a: Chooses a communication medium and format that best supports the purposes of the product or performance and the intended audience 4.3.b: Uses a range of information technology applications in creating the product or performance	Comprehension, application  Analysis, synthesis	
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	3.6.b: Participates in class-sponsored electronic communication forums designed to encourage discourse on the topic (e.g., email, bulletin boards, chat rooms) 3.6.c: Seeks expert opinion through a variety of mechanisms (e.g., interviews, e-mail, listservs) 4.3.d: Communicates clearly and with a style that supports the purposes of the intended audience	Application, analysis Analysis, synthesis	

TABLE 2 NSSE Survey Questions, ACRL Standards, and Institutional Scores							
Corresponding NSSE 2001 Survey Questions	ACRL Standards & Performance Indicators and Possible ACRL Outcome(s)	Scores 1=never 2=ocassionally 3=often 4=very often	IUPUI 2000 Mean Score	Urban 2000 Mean Score	UM 2000 Mean Score	Research I & II Mean Score	National 2000 Mean Score
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions	3.6.a 4.3.d	First Year Senior	2.64 3.02	2.70 2.99	2.73 2.81	2.54 2.83	2.75 3.05
Made a class presentation	4.1.a-d 4.3.b-d	First Year Senior	2.08 2.52	2.06 2.68	2.08 2.57	1.94 2.55	2.14 2.76
Worked with other students on projects during class	1.1.a 4.1.a-d 4.3.a-b	First Year Senior	2.48 2.42	2.47 2.49	2.49 2.51	2.37 2.43	2.42 2.49
Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments	1.1.a s 4.1.a-d 4.3.a-b	First Year Senior	1.99 2.38	2.15 2.51	2.37 2.82	2.36 2.78	2.39 2.71
Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, coworkers, etc.)	3.6.b-d	First Year Senior	2.55 2.75	2.66 2.87	2.71 2.84	2.37 2.57	2.74 2.88

## Information Literacy and Student Engagement 489

The NSSE scores for first-year students and seniors differ, and assignments created for information literacy instruction at different academic levels should reflect the development in information literacy sophistication from freshman year to senior year.

#### Discussion

Although the correlation between the

TABLE 3 Student Skills & Bloom's Taxonomy				
Taxonomy	Skills	Verbs		
Knowledge	<ul> <li>Understand terminology</li> <li>Recall of major facts</li> <li>Knowledge of dates, events, places</li> <li>Knowledge of trends</li> </ul>	Arrange, define, examine, identify, label, list, memorize, name, recognize record, recall, select		
Comprehension	<ul> <li>Translation into other terms or form of communication</li> <li>Interpretation of ideas</li> <li>Reordering of ideas</li> <li>Determine implications and consequences</li> </ul>	Choose, contrast, demonstrate, describe, discuss, distinguish, employ, estimate, interpret, solve, summarize		
Application	<ul> <li>Apply principles</li> <li>Use methods, concepts, theories in new situations</li> <li>Use abstraction to solve a problem</li> </ul>	Apply, change, classify discover, explain, identify, illustrate, locate, modify, report, restate, review, select, show		
Analysis	<ul> <li>Determine relationships, connections, and interactions</li> <li>Distinguish fact from hypotheses</li> <li>Identify components</li> <li>Recognize form and pattern</li> </ul>	Analyze, arrange, calculate, categorize, compare, criticize, differentiate, discriminate, examine, order, question, test		
Synthesis	<ul> <li>Generalize from given facts</li> <li>Recognize subjectivity</li> <li>Redict consequences</li> <li>Draw conclusions</li> </ul>	Assemble, compose, construct, create, design, develop, integrate, manage, modify, organize, plan, propose, rearrange, rewrite, solve, substitute		
Evaluation	<ul> <li>Compare major theories and facts</li> <li>Relate knowledge from several areas</li> <li>Apply given criteria</li> <li>Judge by appropriate external standards</li> </ul>	Appraise, argue, assess, conclude, convince, decide, defend, estimate, evaluate, judge, measure, rate, rank, recommend, summarize, support, value		

Adapted from: B.S. Bloom, "Taxonomy of Educational Objectives: The Classification of Educational Goals," in *Handbook I, Cognitive Domain* (New York: David McKay, 1974).

NSSE survey questions and the ACRL standards do not unequivocally demonstrate that the rankings were necessarily enhanced by library instruction, the authors' intent is to correlate NSSE benchmarks with the ACRL standards in order to identify areas of strengths and weakness. These areas may be addressed through an applied information literacy program, which concentrates on the ACRL standards and associated learning outcomes. This is not to imply knowledge of what role an information literacy program might have played in an institution's NSSE results but, rather, to begin to address those issues related to information literacy and correlate future results to those efforts. Furthermore, the authors are suggesting that one can develop teaching strategies and assignments aimed at addressing those areas of information literacy weakness by employing Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives.

## Leadership Initiatives: Sharing Results

When the state of information literacy on a particular campus has been determined, what should be done with the results? Maki sums up the general recommendations of the library literature on assessment into three crucial stages: first, determining your institution's expectations; second, determining timing, identifying cohort(s), and assigning responsibility; and third, interpreting and sharing results to enhance institutional effectiveness.78 The primary stakeholders are fellow librarians and university administration. Begin by preparing a brief report that can be presented to both. The report should include an explanation of information literacy and the contribution information literacy can make in graduating lifelong learners. Note the impact that a sound assessment of information literacy can have on both library goals and the mission and vision of the university as a

The report should touch on the credibility of the NSSE and briefly explain the

correlation of benchmark areas to information literacy outcomes. Relate a few areas of success to library and administrative goals. Mention areas where the university lags behind peer institutions. Suggest that these weaknesses can be overcome through cooperation across the university. Frame local results in the context of assisting with annual departmental assessments and with upcoming regional and state accreditation. Finally, outline the desire to build a collaborative relationship among the library, the administration, and academic departments.

With the support of these two contingencies, determine a campus partner, perhaps congenial faculty in the English department or the chair of an area where the library has had previous success in providing library instruction and present your results again. Collaboration is the key to taking a leadership role.

## Conclusion: The Future of Student Engagement

The authors see the possibility of a plethora of continuing research stemming from student engagement, information literacy, and assessment. The first is expanding the application of information literacy outcomes to the rest of the NSSE benchmark areas. After Active Learning, the next benchmark most applicable to information literacy outcomes is Level of Academic Challenge. This standard fits well with ACRL Standard 2, Accessing Information Effectively and Efficiently. Another benchmark worth investigating is Supportive Campus Environment. This benchmark focuses on a topic being given increasing consequence in library literature: diversity. Correlating information literacy outcomes to this benchmark takes on importance as the face of higher education becomes more diverse. Next, because library research competes timewise with other student interests, research correlating information literacy learning outcomes to the benchmark Student Interactions with Faculty Members has implications for reference librarians, in addition to instruction librarians.

A second area of research lies in examining surveys. The NSSE is interested in developing questions that test student engagement in all areas. This opens opportunities for instruction librarians to ask which information literacy outcomes are not being measured by the NSSE. Suggestions are always welcome by the NSSE. Researchers also can investigate customizing research by institution. The NSSE can help librarians create institution-level questions to address specific local library issues.

A third and final area of research stemming from student engagement, information literacy, and assessment is using the

NSSE to look beyond institutional results. One option would be to compare institutional-level data with peer libraries. Another promising area to study is why some information literacy programs are so successful in integrating certain information literacy outcomes on their campus. A survey could be administered inquiring which information literacy programs have been successful in relating their assessment results to institutional missions and goals.

The most important thing is for library research to continue to strive to find sound measures of information literacy outcomes.

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## Information Literacy and Student Engagement 493

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