The UCO Library Instruction Program has begun conducting random exit surveys of student participants. In the spring of 2008 data from the previous academic year’s survey was analyzed in order to assess student satisfaction with the program. The survey is conducted online from the library’s website, as teaching time allows in each session. Students are asked to fill out a 10 question likert scale on their assessment of the content and environment and 2 open ended questions for feedback on the program.

Results from the 2006/2007 survey show an overall positive student assessment of the program, with a very large majority that feel Library Instruction will help them in their coursework. A new version of the survey is currently under construction to capture additional data and allow for longitudinal comparisons of data in the future.
There were 1880 respondents to questions 1-10. A majority of the respondents were freshmen or sophomore (59%), with a high percentage of graduate student participants relative to the number enrolled. The program reaches approximately 7,000 students per academic year, primarily in a 50 minute or 1 hour and 10 minute class period. A small number of faculty schedule 2 or more sessions depending on the level of instruction and number of databases they require. Comparing 7,000 student participants with an average of all students enrolled in the same fall and spring semesters, 15,063, shows that the program reaches approximately 46% of the overall UCO student population.

Since the survey is only administered if teaching time allows, we are unable to calculate the percentage of students reached by individual status (freshman, sophomore, etc.), however, if viewed as a sample, the number of graduate students who participated in the survey, 13%, is an obviously larger percentage than their occurrence in the overall student population, 8%. This can probably be accounted for by the need for more library instruction on specialized databases at the graduate level, and subsequent scheduling by faculty who teach graduate classes.

Question 2: How many times have you received library instruction at UCO?
The survey shows room for improvement in the occurrence of students who repeat Library Instruction, but overall the data shows a lower occurrence of repeats than anticipated, with 54% as first time attendees and 1% for both 3 and 4 or more time attendees. For a number of years the Reference and Instruction department has worked toward Library Instruction as a required component of the Core Curriculum, but has not yet succeeded in that goal. Currently, the optional Success Central introductory course strongly encourages library instruction for all of its sessions, and a University requirement for library instruction for every student would most likely strain the current Library Instruction staff and facilities. Online tutorials are currently being created as another option for faculty to utilize Library Instruction and as a way to include Library Instruction in the Core Curriculum.

Question 3: Have you received library instruction elsewhere?
71% of participants had not received Library Instruction elsewhere, which can most likely be explained by the fact that Information Literacy has yet to be adopted extensively in K-12 education and the majority of the participants are freshmen.

Question 4: The instruction will help me complete my course assignment

Question 5: The instruction will help me do research in other classes.

98% agree or strongly agree that Library Instruction will help them complete their course assignment and assist in research in other classes.

Question 6: The class covered an acceptable amount of material for the time allotted.
97% agree or strongly agree that an acceptable amount was covered in the time allotted and 90% agree or strongly agree that the class contained new information.

Question 8: The instruction was organized and logical

98% agree or strongly agree that the Instruction was organized and logical and that the classroom was a good learning environment.
Question 10: After this class, I feel more confident using the library.

96% agree or strongly agree that they feel more confident using the Library after Library Instruction.

Question 11: Tell us one thing that you learned from this instruction session.

The first open ended question asked for one thing learned in the session. 1334 participants responded with 71% indicating that instruction on database searching had been the most informative. 11% indicated both general library use and general positive comments, while 3% and 2% indicated learning about interlibrary loan and remote access, respectively. 2% for remote access can be counted as a particular success since our LibQual Survey from 2005 indicated many library users were unaware of remote access to the library’s resources. 2% responded with general negative comments, including the speed of the presentation, technical malfunctions, etc..
Question 12: Tell us one thing that still needs clarification.

The second open ended question asked for areas that needed clarification or improvement. There were 792 respondants with 38% sharing suggestions for content and process improvement, such as topics to spend more time on or that were not covered. 60% responded that they were satisfied and .02% said they were unsatisfied.

For more information on the Library Instruction Program or to schedule a Library Instruction Session please contact Ms. Amanda Lemon, 405/974-2848 or alemon2@uco.edu