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Assessment in Action 2013

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The College at Brockport, State University of New York

Please state the name of your institution for labeling purposes:

The College at Brockport, State University of New York

What type of organization best describes your work setting?

Comprehensive (undergraduate/graduate)

Regional Accrediting Body

MSCHE

Your Team's Project Goals

Participation in the Assessment in Action program is an excellent opportunity for the College at Brockport to grow and nurture a culture of assessment that supports our commitment to student success and demonstrates the value of the library to our community. The program's timeline ties in perfectly with the goals of our system, campus and departmental strategic plans.

Last year librarians worked with English and first-year experience faculty to incorporate library instruction classes into introductory courses to teach both basic and advanced information literacy skills. Until now, overall efforts to assess these classes have been self-limiting and survey data has remained internal to the library. With the recent campus investment in the TK20 assessment software system, we could integrate this information with broader institutional data to assess the impact of these courses on student achievement. Utilizing a model informed by the ACRL Standards and the Planning/Assessment Cycle, we could evaluate the outcomes of our efforts, continuously improve library instruction and better align it with curricular teaching, research goals and overall academic success.

Our project and team selection will also strengthen interdepartmental relationships and collaboration between librarians, faculty and staff members. A staff member from our institutional research office will help put the library data into the context of institutional data and the director of the Student Learning Center can help tie in the impact of library instruction with academics.

We hope the College at Brockport will be included in the first cohort of the program. In the future, we expect the program will scale and could be expanded and adapted to other departments with the goal of becoming a model for other SUNY schools. We look forward to sharing the lessons learned with other academic libraries across the country.

Your Goals as Librarian Team Leader

As librarian team leader, the Assessment in Action program is not only an excellent opportunity for me to expand my professional skills, but is an exciting chance to help build an enduring, progressive culture of assessment at the College at Brockport. As a recent graduate and newcomer to academic librarianship, I am inspired and fortunate to be in a position where I can bring a fresh perspective to the library and be at the forefront in forging a positive and lasting influence on our students, on our campus and to our profession.

The timing of this program for our campus community could not be more advantageous. The campus strategic plan promotes initiatives that emphasize student achievement and success. Our departmental strategic plan embodies these initiatives and the Drake Memorial Library is slated to be completely redesigned within the next few years. This not only means a rebirth for our physical surroundings, but an opportunity to create a continual program of assessment utilizing measurable, outcomes based models informed by the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education and the Assessment and Planning Cycle.

The Assessment in Action program will allow me to move beyond the walls of the library and expand on the traditional role of a librarian to become a masterful storyteller. It is in this role that I, along with enthusiastic partners in this team-based effort, will be able to communicate the value of the library to our constituents and open a dialog with faculty and staff to engage in collaborative library projects and assessments. I sincerely hope that you consider the College at Brockport for the Assessment in Action program and I look forward to joining together with my colleagues here on campus and across the country as we strive to promote the essential value of our academic libraries.

Statement of Support #1: Library Director

I strongly support Drake Memorial Library's application to the ACRL Assessment in Action program. This assessment project will allow us to evaluate our library instruction program as part of a campus strategic plan that emphasizes student success. The library instruction program has grown substantially during the past 5 years. 4,452 students and 175 library sessions were taught by librarians during 2011-12. Almost all first year students participate in an introductory information literacy session. Recently, scaffolding was established to build on these basics in Composition classes, but effectiveness has not been measured.

The Library currently uses informal data collected from information literacy classes but this information currently remains in an in-house silo. The analytics gathered will allow more systematic alignment of library instruction with campus curricular and research goals.

The College recently invested in TK20, a campus-wide assessment system. The Assessment in Action project will allow Drake to review library instruction goals and student outcomes, and integrate measurements and results into TK20. Major advantages to this approach are the ability to better use additional measures such as GPA, retention, persistence and engagement data. We hope to connect baseline data from the information literacy questions included in entering students computer skills exams with library instruction assessment data. Partnering with the Composition program to evaluate samples of student papers using an information literacy rubric is very promising. Connecting with the Student Learning Center is also a positive development.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this project is the opportunity to develop a methodology to connect library assessment efforts with larger campus goals. Using TK20 as an enterprise platform to collect data will make our efforts more accessible and sustainable in the long term. Taking the time to build a solid foundation with a cross-disciplinary team makes tremendous sense. The timing of this project is particularly well-suited to building a repository of results that can provide leverage for additional action.

The team, led by our systems and assessment librarian, includes the assistant director of institutional research and director of the Student Learning Center. They represent an enthusiastic cohort, show great promise and have been strategically chosen for their potential to both contribute and benefit from this initiative. Reaction from other librarians has been very positive. I am committed to provide the resources needed to be successful.

The model can be scaled to other disciplines (e.g., History, Education, etc.) as well as to other institutions. The project does not place undue burden on librarians since TK20 is expected to help streamline data collection efforts.

The Library itself is undergoing disruption as part of a larger physical renovation that will bring a number of student and faculty services in closer proximity with library resources during the next 2-3 years. The Assessment in Action project is the perfect way to highlight library value as a crossroads for the campus. I wholeheartedly support this effort and encourage your highest consideration.

Mary Jo Orzech, MLS, PhD.
Director, Drake Memorial Library

Statement of Support #2: Chief Academic Officer

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for The College at Brockport's participation in ACRL's Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success (AiA). Drake Memorial Library's proposed AiA project will provide a systematic approach for assessing the impact of Brockport's library instruction program on student success. This initiative will integrate library instruction with the College's TK20 assessment management system, and utilize NSSE data along with other metrics pertaining to student retention and persistence. I believe that this project will be asking and answering important questions about the effect of library programs on our students' experiences. I have the utmost confidence in our project team, which includes staff members from the Library, the Student Learning Center, and Research, Analysis, and Planning (Institutional Research).

The proposed project comes at a pivotal time. During our recent Middle States reaccreditation process we became more acutely aware that we must become better at "closing the loop;" that is, we must improve our efforts in using assessment data to effect continuous improvement. This is a very high priority for the

College, and towards that end we are revamping our approach to the ongoing assessment of student learning. The revised College Assessment Project's goal is to make comprehensive and sustainable improvements in the College's assessment methodology and to increase our focus on documenting results and actions for improvement of the curriculum and pedagogy. Response by faculty has been overwhelmingly positive and helpful. Drake Library's participation in the AiA program is fully consistent with the College Assessment Project; it will complement the activities we are undertaking across the spectrum of our academic departments.

In addition, the College at Brockport is currently engaging our community in wide-ranging discussions regarding our future. We are using the "College of 2025" as a focal point of those discussions, asking "What do we want the College to look like in the year 2025?" These conversations are underscoring the importance of the library as the center of learning and creative endeavors. Upcoming capital improvements to the Library provide the opportunity to thoughtfully plan for the learning experience of the future. We plan to enhance student success by collocating Library services with other key student and faculty academic services, including the Student Learning Center, the Office for Students with Disabilities, Academic Advisement, the Student Retention. The AiA program is perfectly timed to help us assess the efficacy of the library instruction, services, programs and resources we offer today and to help determine our future direction. We expect this demonstration project to help us develop the groundwork for embedding a culture of assessment into the Library renovation and to improve Library programming going forward.

I urge you to welcome Drake Library into the first AiA cohort. Please know that this project has my wholehearted support.

Anne E Huot, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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