

## **Do Librarians Matter?: A Quantitative Look at Instructional Influence**

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As the librarian for Gender Studies at Indiana University, I have been sporadically involved in providing library instruction for an introductory-level course offered to Gender Study majors and non-majors, G101: Gender, Culture, and Society. With the hope of proving the importance of the libraries' involvement in this course, I initiated a partnership with the faculty and instructors that taught G101 during the Fall 2008 semester. This collaboration resulted in the full integration the libraries' resources into the course assignments and the opportunity for me to conduct assessment in the form of a fixed-choice test at the beginning and end of the course to measure the students' understanding of the research process. Working with the faculty and instructors to understand the goals of the course, I assisted in the development of two research-related projects for G101. The first was an in-class debate for which students were asked to find media sources (both mainstream and alternative) related to the question of whether boys have special educational needs or whether the changing gender demographics of universities is a problem. The second involved the identification and use of a cultural artifact (i.e. primary source) and a secondary scholarly source in preparation for the final paper (3-5 pages). In order to help G101 students prepare for these research assignments, I created two lesson plans focusing on information-seeking and the effective evaluation and use of information. Out of the 10 sections of the course, I provided library instruction on two occasions in only two of the sections. The other instructors introduced the library and the research process to their own students. The data from the fixed-choice pre/post-tests for the course indicates that those students for whom I provided the library instruction achieved higher confidence levels related to the research process and the use of the libraries' resources by the end of the course.