State of the State

Information Literacy Instruction Across the State of Utah

Anne Diekema, Cait Gerrity, Paula Mitchell, & Phil Roché
Southern Utah University
Introduction
Outline

- Reasons for this study
- The information literacy landscape in Utah
- Study results
- Discussion
Reason for this study

What is information literacy instruction?

Teaching of information literacy skills through instruction sessions, tutorials or guides, and reference interactions.
The Information Literacy Instruction Landscape
Education in the Beehive state

Utah State Board of Education (School Federal Accountability Report 2015–16)

Approximately 944 schools, 500,000 students

Utah System of Higher Education (2016 Data Book)

8 public colleges and universities

- two research, four regional, two community colleges
- 92,914 full time, 82,224 part time, total: 175,138 students
Feeder Schools aka The Information Literacy Pipeline

University of Utah – Salt Lake County, Davis, Utah, Weber, Summit
Utah State University – Cache, Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, Box Elder
Weber State University – Davis, Weber, Salt Lake, Utah, Cache
Southern Utah University – Iron, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, Davis
Dixie State University – Washington, Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, Weber
Utah Valley University – Utah, Salt Lake, Davis, Wasatch, Washington
Snow College – Sanpete, Sevier, Salt Lake, Utah, Millard
Salt Lake Community College – Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, Tooele, Weber
Demographics:

Who filled out our survey?
348 responded to survey
268 completed the survey

145 K-12 Librarians
110 Academic Librarians
- 31.3% University
- 16.3% High School
- 14.3% Middle School
- 24.6% Elementary School
- 2.4% Community College
- 2.0% Other K-12
- 8.3% Other - Write In
- 0.8% Other post-secondary
Most Common Job Titles:

Teacher Librarian
Librarian
Media Specialist
Library Technology Teacher
Library Media Educational Technology Specialist
Media Coordinator
Education Librarian
Instruction Librarian
Connecting to the Literature:

The State of the State
Scheduling

Flexible schedules

● Higher reading scores
● Better writing
● More collaborative teaching
● Lowers technology & achievement gap between students
● Creates equality in education
Staffing

- Certified librarians
  - Better reading skills
  - Better writing skills (elementary, middle)
  - Closing achievement gap
  - Higher test scores
School library staffing levels

82% has only one full time librarian
26% have one or more part-time librarians
60% have one or more library aides
30% have one or more parent volunteers

School size ranges widely from 130-3,000
Average Class Size

27
Professional development and training

Schools with professional development opportunities are better performing schools
Instruction to students

Standards-based teaching can increase student performance.

Active teaching methods can increase student engagement, reduce failure rates and boost achievement.
Collaboration between libraries and teachers

- Better test scores
- Better research projects
- Increased reading interest, more discriminating readers
- Information Literacy better learned when applied
- 35.1% Sometimes
- 35.1% Often
- 8.4% Rarely
- 4.0% Never
- 17.3% Always
Assessment and feedback are crucial for helping people learn and improve.
Student assessment

- 31.4% None
- 29.3% Formative assessment (throughout an instructional unit, generally low stakes)
- 6.3% Summative assessment (at the end of an instructional unit, generally high stakes)
- 33.0% Both
Instruction program evaluations

- 18.00% Often
- 19.80% Never
- 22.20% Sometimes
- 18.60% Rarely
- 21.60% Occasionally
Teaching evaluations

![Bar chart showing teaching evaluations by different methods. The methods include: My teaching is not currently being assessed, End of course student evaluation, Instruction session student evaluation, Instruction session faculty evaluation, Peer evaluation, Self-reflection, Teaching portfolio, Supervisor or administrator, Master teacher or teaching coach, Other - Write In. The chart indicates the percent of evaluations for each method, with Teaching portfolio having the highest percentage.](image-url)
Funding and support

Higher funded school libraries have higher student achievement, reading and test scores
How is support for school libraries most commonly demonstrated?

1. Support for attending professional development (83.7%)
2. Budget for library resources (70.7%)
3. Librarians are encouraged to collaborate (68.7%)
4. Funding for technology (53.7%)
5. Limited extraneous duties (e.g. bus) (53.1%)
How could support for school libraries be better demonstrated?

---

1. Library’s inclusion in school’s mission/goals/objectives
2. Librarians have an appropriately-tailored evaluation process
How is support for academic libraries demonstrated?

1. 75% of heads of instruction say they feel supported by university administration
2. 20% say the support is mixed
3. Time/funding for professional development
4. Librarians serve on university committees
5. Faculty are encouraged to collaborate with librarians
How could support for academic libraries be better supported?

---

1. Robust budgeting for library resources
2. IL is mentioned in university strategic plan
3. Faculty are encouraged to collaborate with librarians
Questions?
Discussion

How can we ensure information literate students across the state at all levels?

How can we build bridges between traditionally siloed educational environments?
Contact us!

Anne: annediekema@suu.edu
Cait: caitlingerrity@suu.edu
Paula: mitchellp@suu.edu