

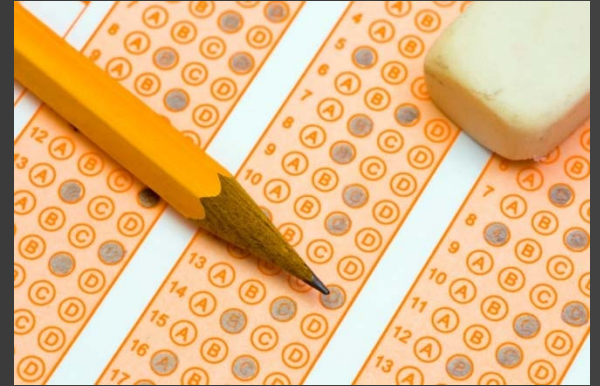
SHOW ME WHAT YOU KNOW: ASSESSING LIBRARY INSTRUCTION THROUGH BLACKBOARD QUIZZES

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Assessing the Bibliographic “One-Shot”

- I usually see the students for one 45 minute session
- Professors are frequently unable or unwilling to allot more course time to library instruction

Primary Method of Instruction Assessment at UMBC :



- An online feedback form that students fill out at the end of an instruction session
- Not used by all librarians, but is present on all computer desktops in the instruction room

Online Feedback Form

Students are asked to:

- ① 1) list two things that they learned during the session that might be useful in their research, and
- ② 2) list a concept or technique that is unclear
- ③ Space is provided for additional comments and name/contact information (optional)

Pros & Cons of Existing Method

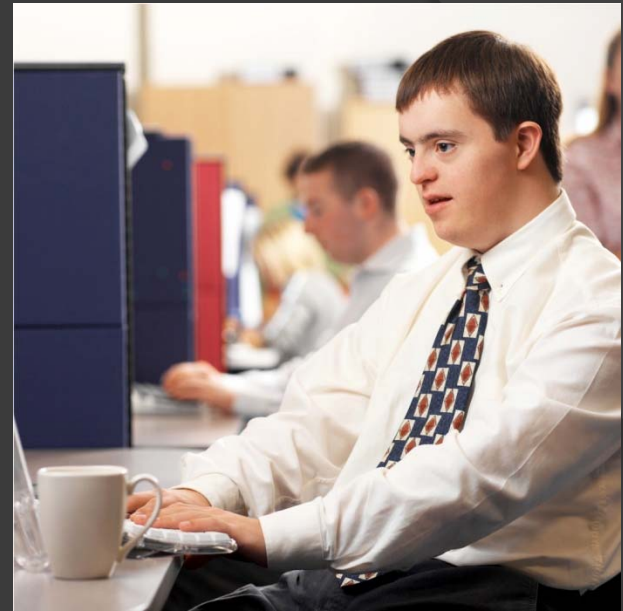
- Pros:
- Library instructor gets an indication of what concepts students learned and maybe didn't learn
- Cons:
- Students are usually in a rush to go & fail to give much thought to answers
- No hands-on exploration for students

Why use BlackBoard as an Assessment Vehicle?

- Doesn't take away from instruction time
- Quizzes are customized to the class
- Allows students time for hands-on exploration
- Quiz can easily become a component of the course grade
- Provides detailed statistics instructor can use to improve instruction

Blackboard provides a variety of assessment tools; they include:

- Essay
- Fill in the blank
- Matching
- Multiple answer & multiple choice
- Likert scale
- Ordering
- Short answer
- True/False



Prerequisites for BB Quizzes

- Course must have an active BlackBoard shell
- Course instructor's willingness to participate

Creating the Quiz

- Quizzes are created in the Blackboard environment
- You can use the course's Blackboard shell, or better yet,
- Have an “instruction group” or “reference group” in Blackboard
- Use this space to create pools & quizzes

Creating Pools

- Blackboard's "Pool Manager" allows for creation of question pools, or groupings
- UMBC's Information Literacy Workgroup grouped my existing question into categories
- The categorized pools allow for quick creation of a quiz that draws questions from the various pools

Our pool categories include:

- Academic integrity
- Access
- Website navigation
- Finding & retrieving articles
- Library catalog
- Copyright
- Databases
- Evaluating sources & results
- Plagiarism
- Research process
- Search strategies
- Library services

- I created quizzes from the existing pools as a unique test pool
- Once a “quiz” is compiled, I export it as a zip file and get it to the faculty member
- I usually sit down with the faculty member and turn the exported file into a Blackboard “test”
- It is not difficult

We created instructions for:

- Test pool creation
 - Export & import of pool files
 - Test creation
 - Test activation
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- These instructions are for both the librarian and course instructor

- ⦿ Quiz options: time limits; allowing retake the test; present all questions at once or one at a time; randomize questions
- ⦿ Feedback options: score only, whether an answer is correct, the correct answer, and question feedback

Benefits of Blackboard Quizzes

- ⦿ Students pay more attention during the instruction session, & are more apt to attend
- ⦿ Allows for hands-on exploration outside of the instruction session
- ⦿ Students receive immediate feedback
- ⦿ Students complete at their convenience on their own time
- ⦿ Librarian gets detailed statistics for each question, enabling better future instruction

Sample Questions and Results

Q: Of the following possibilities, which is the best source for basic information on the nature of earthquakes?

Journal articles _____ 3.226%

A government statistics report ___ 0%

A subject encyclopedia ____ 96.774%

A recent newspaper article _____ 0%

Q: The best place to find scholarly journal articles is:

The web _____	0%
Article databases _____	21.05%
The Library's online catalog _____	5.26%
All of the above (A, B, and C) _____	57.90%
None of the above _____	5.26%
Unanswered _____	10.53%

Problems

- ① Setting up the quiz in the course
Blackboard shell
- ① Getting results

- ◎ In summary, your questions can evaluate students' ability to select appropriate resources and formats, employ appropriate search strategies, evaluate validity, identify bias, and other skills needed for critical thinking
- ◎ This is by no means the final solution, but one tool in our approach to assessing instruction

- Feel free to send me questions (jclark@umbc.edu) OR
- Find me today – I'll be around
- I am happy to email instructions to anyone interested
- Thank you!