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Title: We’re Teaching, But Are They Learning? The University of Washington Libraries Student Learning Goals Project

Description:
The University of Washington Libraries’ instruction programs on all three campuses work to foster critical thinking and effective research skills in students. Librarians provide hundreds of workshops to thousands of students annually, and support off-campus learning through instructional video tutorials. Despite these activities, the Libraries had not yet created a framework by which to measure student learning and help us demonstrate our educational impact.

In response, the Libraries’ tri-campus Teaching and Learning Group collaboratively developed Libraries-wide student learning goals. Establishing a core set of administratively-endorsed goals with outcomes allows for a structured approach to student learning assessment. They provide librarians with a framework adjustable to specific programs or discipline areas, and which may be used to develop rubrics for assessing student work. They also can be mapped to academic program or degree learning goals to illustrate how library instruction meaningfully contributes to the curriculum.

While we are still in the process of rolling out the goals, this spring we will pilot their utility in collaboration with faculty. This will help identify any necessary revisions to the goals, will offer librarians a model to draw upon for assessment efforts within their academic programs, and will improve our teaching practice so we can design instructional activities more closely correlated to student needs, as evidenced in our assessment data.

We will discuss with attendees our process of developing the goals, their value, and future directions including: gaining faculty endorsement, broader promotion of the learning goals, and collaboration with stakeholders across the three campuses.