My Library: Building Confident Developmental English Library Users

Elizabeth Bowman and Ellen Carey, Santa Barbara City College

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The SBCC Luria Library created an assessment project as part of ACRL's Assessment in Action initiative. We chose to use English students (in classes with content considered "below college level") as our subjects (over two separate semesters about 400 students, 16 sections, 11 teachers). We wanted to know what we might learn and change in how we teach and connect with these students who have significant challenges in persisting or succeeding in college, specifically, to understand if our methodology would increase self-confidence, successful experiences with library resources, and grade/promotion to next level. Following a pre-test, during the semester we led a tour for each class, one workshop on use of one database, a second workshop on a second database, and a reflection workshop - asking them about the searching experience. To gather other data, a post-test was conducted as well as several focus groups discussion with students and faculty. We discovered that student confidence and comfort was high at the outset and got higher; they became more frequent and selective users of library and its resources and felt more supported by librarians. They did not have statistically significant increase in grade/promotion level compared to students without treatment.