

Refining Information Literacy For Distance Students: Web Tutorial and Librarian Consultation

Kevin Harden
Social Sciences Reference Librarian
Averett University



13th Off-Campus Library Services Conference

April 23-25, 2008



Learning Outcomes For Program

- Identify useful business databases
- Develop topic statements & conduct effective searches
- Link to full text articles & request documents via Interlibrary Loan
- Differentiate research based information from popular sources
- Evaluate relevance, reliability, & currency of information
- Assimilate information in a paper or presentation
- Apply ethics & protocols for attributing sources



What the Program Consists Of

- Web tutorial with exercises
- 1-hour consultation with reference librarian
- End of program survey to gauge success
- Communication with librarian to alert students of library resources & scheduled consultation
- Undergraduate students receive grade and course credit



Program's Unique Features

- Flexible hours for consultation
- Individual, group, or entire class
- Week-long completion time frame
- Special emphasis on APA citation format
- Tutorial can be repeated



What the Librarian Does

- Conducts conference calls with up to 6 students
- Demonstrates effective searching methods
- Discusses evaluation of sources, differentiating between news articles & opinion/editorial articles and “research-based” information
- Introduces governmental web sites as sources of statistical data
- Discusses attributing their sources in APA format
- Provides feedback for each exercise via email



What the students do

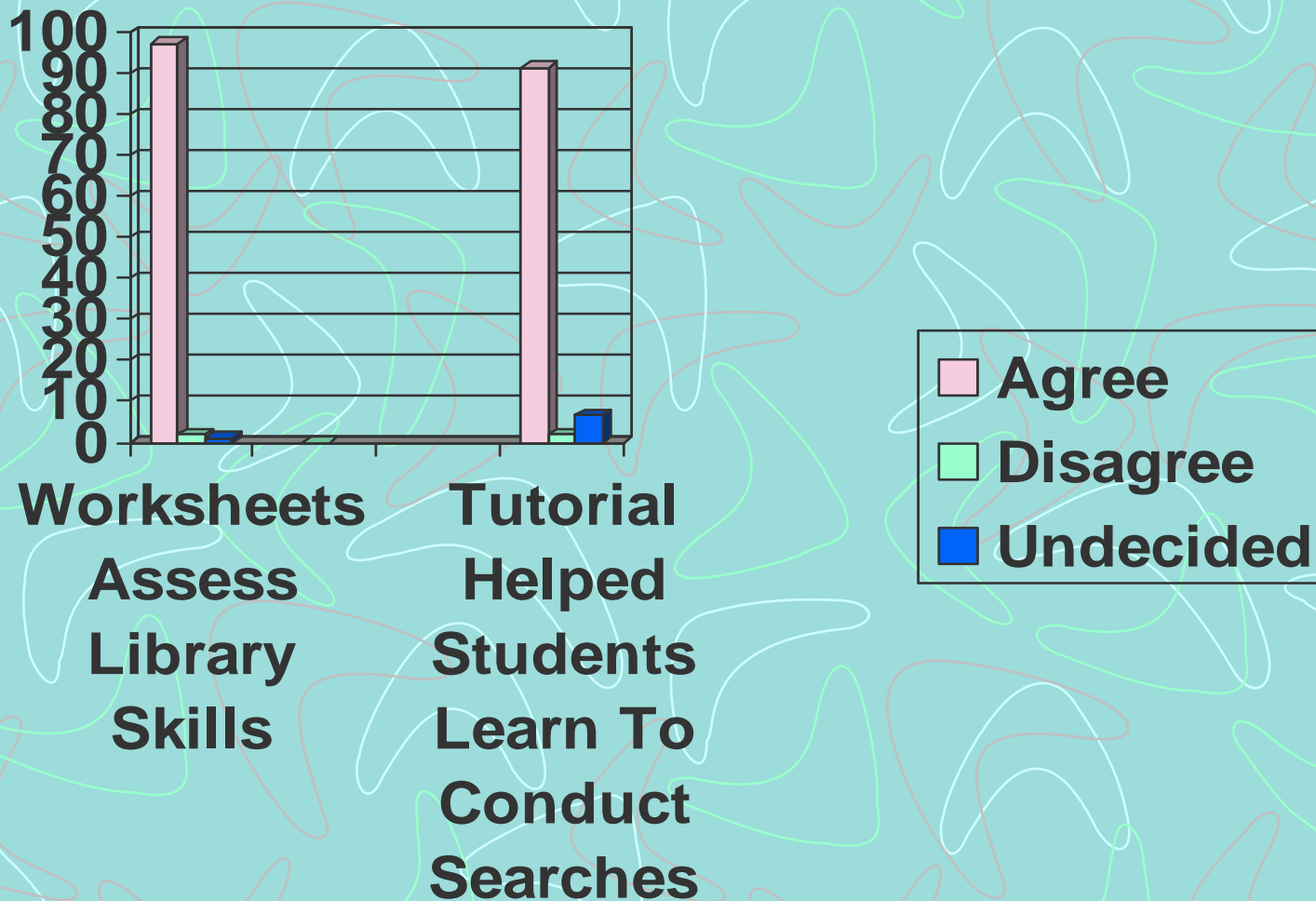
- Reserve consultation appointments with the librarian
- Read through the web tutorial
- Conduct searches for their selected topics
- Complete worksheets
- Complete Library Workshop Survey



Summary Results

- 89.7 % of students agree that the tutorial is easy to read and navigate
- 97.2 % of students agree that the worksheets assess the skills and knowledge addressed in the tutorial
- 91.5 % of students agree that the tutorial helped them understand how to conduct an effective search
- 89.7 % of students agree that the tutorial helped them to distinguish research based information from popular sources
- 83.0 % of students agree that the tutorial helped them understand how to attribute sources in APA format

Data Table 1



Data Table 2

