

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF INDIVIDUALIZED RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS ON STUDENTS' SEARCH TECHNIQUES AND CONFIDENCE LEVELS

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DISCLOSURE

Funded by the University of Ottawa Library Research Grant (2015) and the CARL Research in Librarianship Grant (2016).

This study received ethics approval from the University of Ottawa's Office of Research Ethics and Integrity.

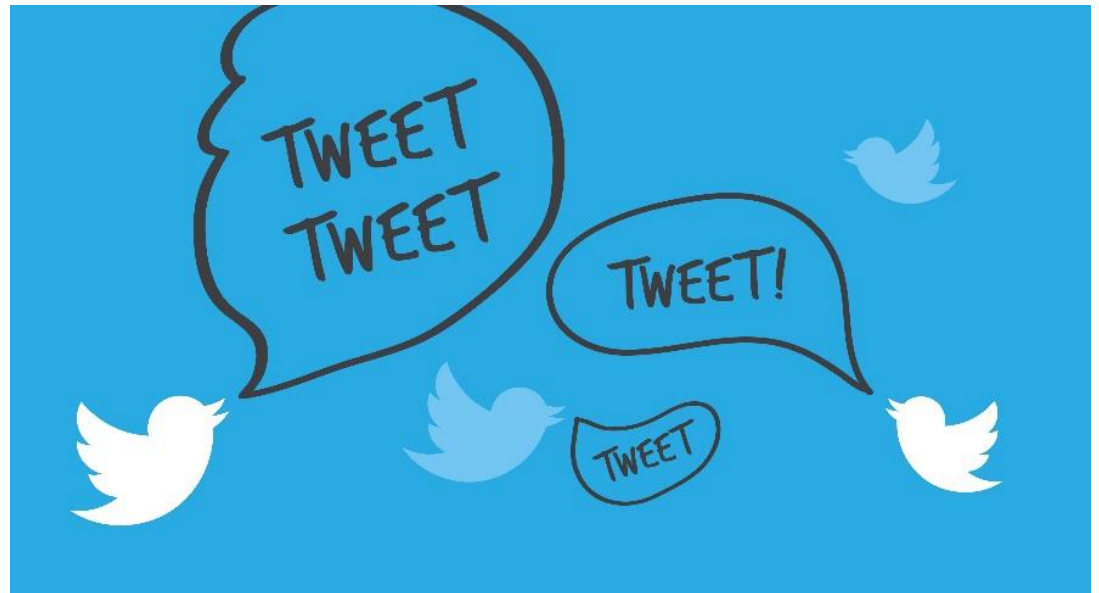


BUT FIRST, A MESSAGE ABOUT... TWITTER

Lindsey Sikora
@LindyRexie

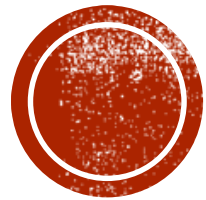
Karine Fournier
@karoufe

#mlanet16
#canmedlibs



<http://theodysseyonline.com/missouri/twitter-celebrated-10-years-ofbeing-twitter/378536>





BACKGROUND



I



Librarians

WHAT ARE INDIVIDUALIZED RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS (IRCS)?

Individualized Research Consultations (IRCs) are scheduled appointments that aim at helping researchers and students with their research projects, including, but not limited to, the literature review process.



INCREASE IN REQUESTS

University of Ottawa offers countless hours of in-person and online reference services

Nonetheless, we have witnessed an increase in requests

Why?

- Transition for librarians to a specialized and tailored service (moving away from the desk)
- LibGuides





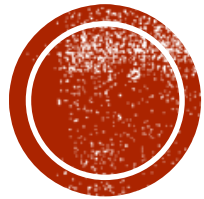
OBJECTIVES

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Our study's primary goal is to evaluate the impact of Individualized Research Consultations (IRCs) on students' search techniques and confidence levels, before and after meeting with a librarian.

Secondary objectives include identifying factors influencing students' self-perceived search techniques' proficiency and confidence levels.





METHODS

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- Test design inspired from the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education fifth threshold concept: **Searching as Exploration**
- Mixed methods approach
- Pre-test before the IRC and post-test after
- Open ended and self-reflective questions
- Data collection: Round 1 from February 1st, 2015 to May 31st, 2015



AUDIENCE

- Upper year undergraduate students, with a long term research project **OR** graduate students with a thesis
- Faculties: Health Sciences, Medicine, Social Sciences, Science, Engineering, Education
- French and English



RECRUITMENT

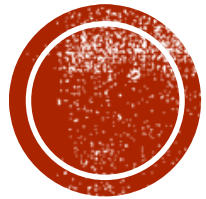
Pre-test:

Librarians of selected faculties sent students, who have contacted them for an IRC, a recruitment email detailing the study.

Post-test:

At the end of the first questionnaire, students were invited to participate in the second questionnaire, after they have met with a librarian.





RESULTS



RESULTS

Data Analysis

- Used a rubric to analyze the answers to the open-ended questions
- Pretest and post-test self-reflective answers were coded and analyzed.

Participants (n = 9)

7 Anglophones, 2 Francophones



RESULTS

Search technique questions about:

- appropriate use of keywords
- adequate structure of the participant's search string

We found a slight increase in participants' mean score between the pre- and post-test.



RESULTS

Self-reflective questions:

- Students had mixed views on their confidence level before meeting with a librarian, especially regarding locating relevant sources.
- Once they met with a librarian, their confidence levels improved.





DISCUSSION

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Very small group of respondents.
- Many participants did not provide their search string, both before (which we anticipated), but also after the IRC.
- Large number of participants completed the pre-test but not the post-test.
- Difficult to compare across disciplines.

Despite its limitations, results from Round 1 of our data collection align with our hypothesis that IRCs influence students' confidence level, and improve their search techniques.





CONCLUSION

FUTURE PLANS

Round 2 of data collection is underway (health sciences and medicine students only)

Having received funding, we are now able to provide incentives to every participants, which improves participation.

Stay tuned!



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THANK YOU!