ATI Library Long Term Follow-up Testing for Information Literacy Tutorials

The ATI Library implemented information literacy tutorials and assessments in Fall 2008, which are required in all orientation classes (FAES100 and General Studies 201T). Students take a pretest to measure their information literacy skills prior to taking the tutorials. Then they take six tutorials covering sources/reliability, general searching, books, periodicals/databases, internet, and copyright/plagiarism. Immediately following each tutorial, the students take a short post-quiz to measure their short-term retention in that topic area as well as reinforce important information. So far 1080 students have taken the pretest and 933 students have completed all the post-quizzes.
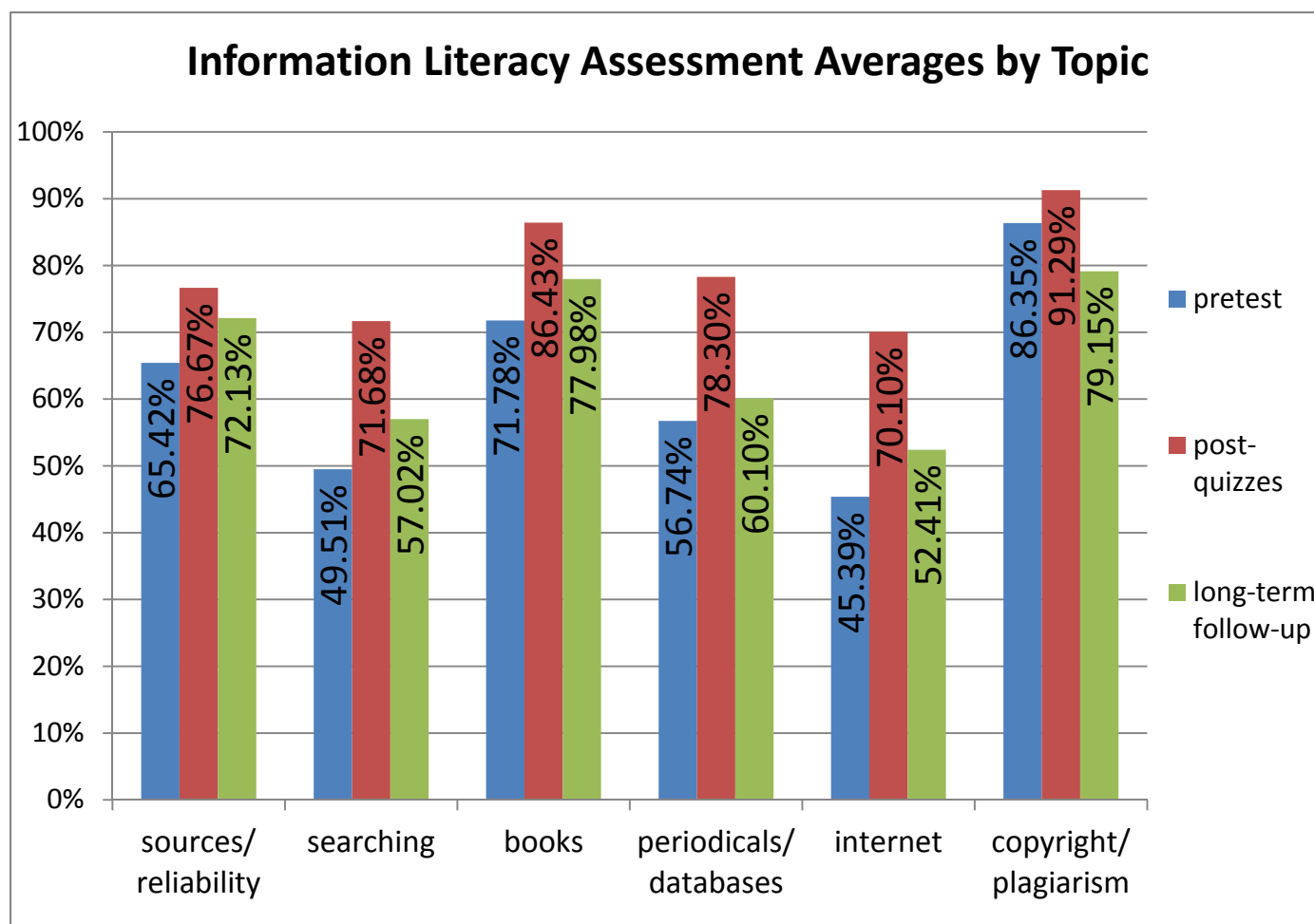
Beginning in Fall 2009, the library began long-term follow-up testing to measure these students' information literacy skills retention over time. The follow-up testing is conducted in three courses:
- Gen Comm T113 (Technical Reporting)
- Gen Comm T114 (Business Communication)
- Ag Comm 367 (Agricultural Issues in Contemporary American Society)

So far 395 students have taken the long-term follow-up test who also took the pretest, tutorials, and post-quizzes one to five quarters earlier.

The tutorials and all related assessments (pretest, post-quizzes, and long-term follow-up) are continually updated for improved learning and better assessment. These updates have improved the tutorials and the ability to measure specific knowledge areas. However, it makes comparing assessment results across different years less precise since the measurement tools have changed over time.

The chart below shows students' average scores for the pretest, post-quizzes, and long-term follow-up test by topic area. These averages include all data collected since Fall 2008.

Information Literacy Assessment Averages by Topic

Topic	pretest	post-quizzes	long-term follow-up
sources/reliability	65.42%	76.67%	72.13%
searching	49.51%	71.68%	57.02%
books	71.78%	86.43%	77.98%
periodicals/databases	56.74%	78.30%	60.10%
internet	45.39%	70.10%	52.41%
copyright/plagiarism	86.35%	91.29%	79.15%

- The long-term follow-up averages of four areas (sources/reliability, searching, books, and internet) are at least 6% higher than the original pretest, indicating some retention.
- The periodicals/databases average demonstrates a large decrease in retention from the post-quizzes to the long-term follow up. This may be due to the lack of database use. A question on the long-term follow-up asked how often they use the library catalog and/or databases; 47% of students said never, and 46% said 1-2 times a quarter.
- The copyright/plagiarism long-term follow-up average is lower than the original pretest scores. A possible cause for this decrease is that this section saw the most questions changed to scenarios, which asks them to apply their knowledge in specific situations. These questions may be more difficult than the standard multiple choice questions that were previously used on the pretest and post-quizzes.

Overall, the assessments illustrate students do retain information literacy skills over time, although the amount of retention varies by topic. The library will continue to collaborate with faculty to incorporate information literacy activities into the classroom. Reinforcement of these skills in ATI courses should help students retain what they learned in the library tutorials.

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