

Workshop Debriefing Fall 2010

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Total number of workshops attended (registrations)—1354 This is a new record!!

(+5.6% from Spring 10 and +1.6 from Fall 09)

(+3.75 from Spring 10 with Delano statistics*)

Total number of students—574 Another new record!!

(+14% from Spring 10 and +8% from Fall 09)

(+10% from Spring 10 with Delano statistics*)

Average number of workshops attended by one student—2.36

(2.54 in Spring 10 and 2.5 in Fall 09) (2.5 in Spring 10 with Delano statistics*)

Number of professors sending students to workshops—44

(42 in Spring 10 and 43 in Fall 09) (47 in Spring 10 with Delano statistics*)

Total number of workshops—74

(-6 from Spring 10 and +4 from Fall 09) (-13 from Spring 10 with Delano statistics*)

Attendance by workshop/Number of workshops/Average attendance

Beyond Google	132	8	16.5
Current Events	130	8	16.25
Ethics	139	7	19.85
Finding Books	158	8	19.75
Internet Evaluation	215	12	17.92
Periodicals	226	12	18.83
Print Evaluation	116	7	16.6
Research St.	238	12	19.83
Overall	1354	74	18.3

(This compares to 16 per workshop in Spring 10 and 19 per workshop in Fall 09)

(With Delano statistics from Spring 10, the attendance was 15 per workshop*.)

*In Spring 10, we offered 7 workshops on the Delano campus, with a total of 23 enrollments. Since we did not offer those workshops this semester, I used the statistics from BC enrollments in Spring 10 as our main point of comparison although I did a second set of comparative calculations as well.

This semester we used the same assessment/satisfaction survey.

Number of surveys completed—1287

Two of the questions were quantifiable.

Question 1—"Before attending the workshop, how would you rate your expectations about what you would learn?"

On a 5-point scale ranging from High (5) to Low (1), the average response was 3.76, almost 4, which is Above Average.

(This figure was 3.59 in Spring 10 and 3.5 in Fall 09.)

Question 3—"Will this information help you with research for your college classes?"

On a 5-point scale ranging from Essential (5) to Not at all (1), the average response was 4.65, beyond midway between Essential and Quite Useful.

(This figure was 4.56 in Spring 10 and 4.5 in Fall 09.)

Both of these results are slightly better than previous semesters. When we poll our attendees, they indicate that while expectations for the workshops are fairly high, the students are more enthusiastic about what they learned after the hour-long sessions.

The results for these quantifiable questions for each workshop are listed below:

	Question 1	Question 3
Beyond Google (130 responses)	3.7	4.57
Current Events (99 responses)	3.78	4.6
Ethics (137 responses)	3.64	4.56
Finding Books (156 responses)	3.86	4.7
Internet Evaluation (195 responses)	3.8	4.6
Periodicals (220 responses)	3.8	4.7
Print Evaluation (116 responses)	4.0	4.75
Research St (234 responses)	3.64	4.6

These results were all a bit better, compared to last semester, indicating that we have satisfied students! We also try to “tweak” the workshops each semester to improve their relevance to our students.

In response to the second question, "What did you actually learn in this workshop," many of the comments are illustrative of the value of the workshops. I've included a few of the comments:

Beyond Basic Google: “I found good sites I can use for my research paper.”

“Google does way more than what I thought it did.”

“I learned exact ways to make my web searches more useful and relevant.”

Current Events: “ Everything! It was all new to me. This program will greatly improve my research.”

“How to use multiple BC databases to learn about and research current events.”

“How to find current events as well as newspapers and statistics.”

Ethics: “More than I thought I would about citing and paraphrasing.”

“To become more comfortable with using citation and paraphrasing, which is a foreign concept to me.”

“Paraphrasing encompasses more than I had originally assumed.”

Finding Books: “Many ideas on how to find books for research papers, and a better understanding of how to use the library.”

“Excellent tips on where to begin a research project and about the exciting world of E-books.”

“How to find books—it makes sense now.”

Internet Evaluation: “I have a better understanding on what types of websites I should stay away from when doing research.”

“I learned about crooked and fake websites and how to locate legit sources.”

“To check websites over and over. Do not always trust every site. Anyone can host a site.”

Periodicals: “This workshop was very useful and shall point me in the right direction.”

“I feel like I'm walking away with more knowledge.”

“It is much easier to do research.”

Qualifying Print Sources: “I learned that not all sources, even in print, can be reliable; moreover, I learned how to find out if it is or not.”

“Don't take books for granted. They can be controversial for use in research too.”

“Had a hard time finding good sources before coming to this workshop, but now I know how to find good sources for my research paper.”

Research Strategies: “A ton! I didn't have an understanding of search engines or research methods.”

“That I have been searching **wrong** for information.”

“I learned about truncating words and using synonyms to get more results.”

This semester, I was struck by how sweet many of the students' comments were. So many were complimentary of the workshop or the librarian. Several students even commented they should be longer! Here is a sampling:

"If a professor does not require this workshop, they should. It will help most students avoid needless pitfalls, research-wise."

"Exceeded my expectations."

"I'm actually excited about my next workshop."

"These workshops are very beneficial. I can't believe they're free."

"I'll attend more workshops. This one was wonderful. So glad it was offered!"

"Thank you! This was absolutely wonderful and so, so helpful."

"Good class – I'm glad my teacher requires it."

"I plan to attend more workshops now!"

Changes this semester:

- **One major change was not offering workshops in Delano as we did last semester. When we have a stable library presence in Delano we will offer workshops there, as students need this instruction.**
- **Also, Kirk re-worked his Internet searching workshop to focus on advanced search techniques in Google and scholarly subject directories, which help students access scholarly results; it's called Beyond Basic Google.**
- **We also changed the title of the Qualifying Print Sources workshop to Evaluating Print Sources, to make the title compatible with the wording we use for internet evaluation.**
- **We also shortened our time frame to 9 weeks after our experiment with 10 weeks last semester, and our numbers are better than ever.**

Observations:

- **We continue to be disappointed that some English B1A teachers and those from other disciplines who require research papers do not send their students to the workshops. When we help these students individually with their research, we can clearly tell the difference between those who have attended workshops and those who have not. And we simply can't spend as much time with these students individually as they really need to develop information competence.**
- **We did turn away students on Fridays—even with 2 workshops on many Fridays—and in the last week, many students went away disappointed when the room was full. However, even when we ran the workshops for 10 weeks, students still procrastinated, so whenever the last week occurs, I believe there will be students who wait until the last week and be turned away.**
- **Our workshops per student statistic has declined a bit, but a few non-English B1A teachers are assigning the workshops to their students, and they tend to ask students to take 1 or 2, rather than several.**