

1994-1995 Library Research Workshops An analysis of survey results

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" ... makes me want to do research ... "

Survey respondent comment

Included among the variety of library and course-integrated instruction offered throughout the year by the Teaching Library is a series of drop-in Library Research Workshops scheduled during Fall and Spring (and now, summer) sessions. Several of the instructors who taught 1994-1995 TLIB Library Research Workshops sessions also volunteered to distribute, collect, and submit brief surveys of workshop attendees.

This year's survey consisted of four questions:

[1] Before today's session how familiar were you with GLADIS and MELVYL©?

Attendees were asked to rank themselves on a scale from -2 (not at all) to +2 (very familiar)

[2] After today's session, how confident are you that you can use GLADIS and MELVYL© effectively to find books/journal articles?

Attendees were asked to rank themselves on a scale from -2 (not at all) to +2 (very confident)

[3] What else would you like to know about library resources that did not get covered in today's session?

[4] Other comments about today's presentation:

A little over 425 students, faculty, and other library users attended the 1994-1995 Library Research Workshops devoted to locating books and journal articles using MELVYL© and GLADIS. In all, some 115 survey forms were returned for sessions of the workshop entitled: "Finding Books". Ninety-eight (98) survey forms were returned for the "Finding Journal Articles" sessions of the workshop.

Finding Books Workshops — the survey results

Among the 115 attendees who completed survey forms, 103 (or 90%) rated themselves as either "confident" or "very confident" in their ability to effectively use GLADIS and MELVYL© to

find books after having completed the workshop. Among the remaining attendees, i.e. those who did *not* rate themselves as “confident” in their mastery of GLADIS and MELVYL©, 9 of them reported some improvement in their confidence level following the session. Only 2 attendees reported no improvement at all, and of these, one did not respond to the question, and the other, curiously described the workshop (under the comments question) as “very informative.”

Finding Journal Articles Workshops — the survey results

A similar pattern emerged among those who attended the “Journal Articles” session. Among the 98 attendees who completed survey forms, 79 (or 81%) rated themselves as either “confident” or “very confident” in their ability to effectively use the periodical indexes on MELVYL© following their attendance at the workshop. Among the remaining respondents, i.e. those who did *not* rate themselves “confident” in their mastery of these databases, 16 of them reported some improvement in their confidence level following the session. In all, 97% of respondents reported improvement in their confidence levels following their attendance at the sessions. As before, only 2 respondents reported no improvement at all, and of these one did not answer the question, and the other, again curiously, described the workshop (under the comments section) as “extremely useful”.

What More Do Library Users Want to Know? (Question 3)

No definitive pattern emerged in the responses to this question. Several respondents (as recorded below) used this section to record recommendations for changes to the existent program. One of the more common remarks, though made only 6 times, was an expressed desire for more hands-on practice during the workshops. Here are the other types of requests and suggestions submitted by attendees:

- 9 Sessions on other MELVYL© databases, on Dialog databases, on CD-ROM databases
- 6 More hands-on practice time
- 4 Slow down the lecture pace
- 4 Session on using the Internet to locate articles
- 3 Session on locating non-UC books and ILL
- 2 Provide instructions on how alumni can acquire passwords
- 2 Have students do the searches along with the instructor
- 2 How to Find music and videos
- 2 Gopher classes
- 2 Remote access
- 2 Explain how to locate the actual physical journal; explain organization of the stacks
- 1 Offer advanced GLADIS and MELVYL© training
- 1 Explain the location of different library (sic) and what they are specialized in
- 1 Explain how to put holds on books; how to circulate reserve books
- 1 General overview of the system
- 1 Instruction on citation indexes
- 1 WWW classes

- 1 How to use the computer, i.e. how to operate the mouse, etc.
- 1 Searching for older magazine articles
- 1 Library tour
- 1 Library of Congress

Saving the Best for Last

Many comments along the following lines were submitted:

"very informative"
"great introduction"
"very helpful"
"very well presented"
"very effective"
"very useful"
"a good start"
"it was great"

A few attendees were even more directed in their comments:

"a very good time investment"
" ... well worth the time"
"I learned more than expected"
"sure wish I had taken this as a freshman"
"force all UCB students to take library use classes — before first semester at UCB. I am a second semester senior and this instruction comes too late."
"wish these seminars were presented more often"

... and finally, my own two personal favorites among comments:

" I have computer blockage; it has been eased."
" ... makes me want to do research."

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