

Abstract

This poster describes efforts to apply insights gleaned from analysis of Project SAILS test data to instruction programming at Auburn University Libraries.

Introduction

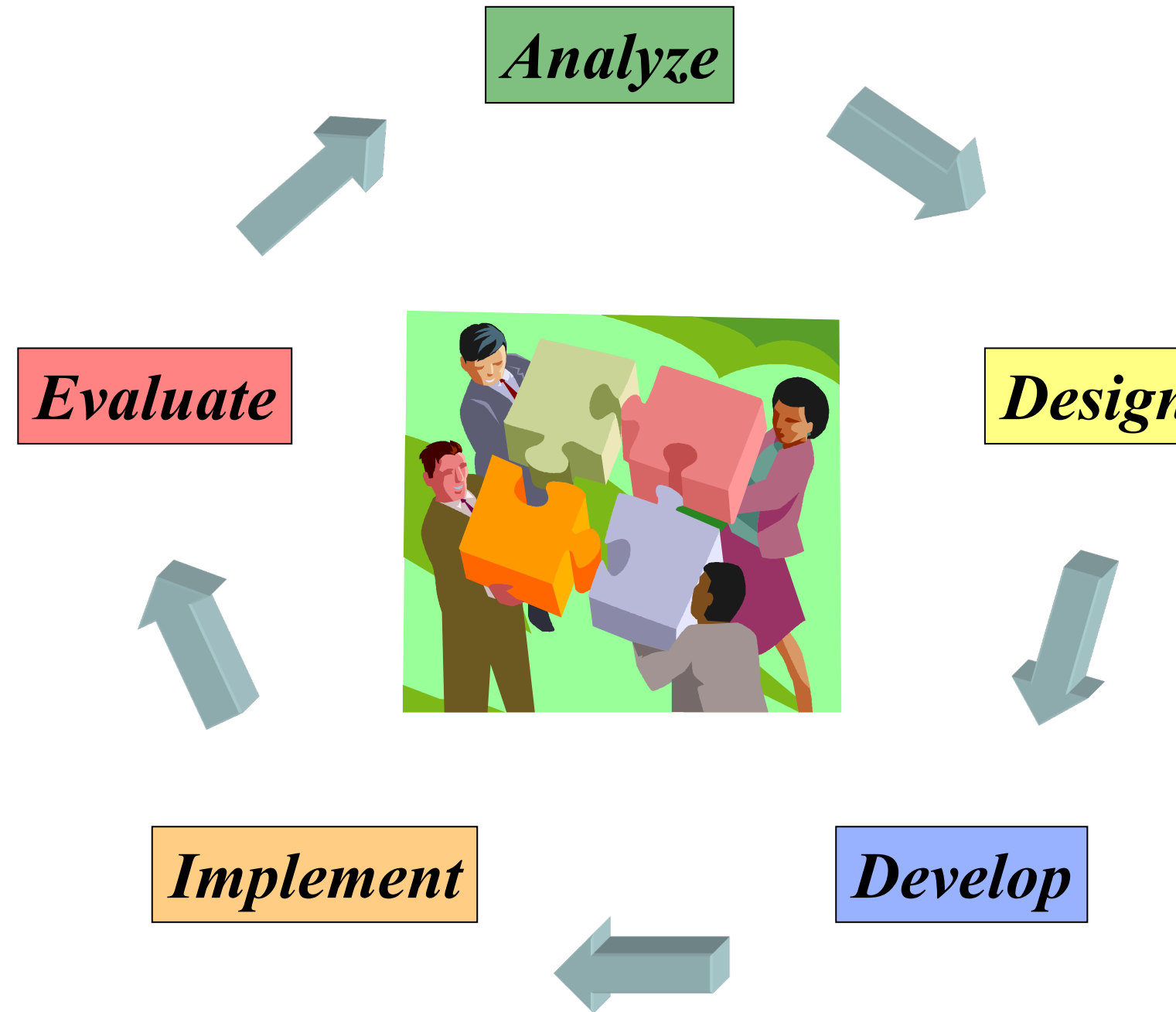


“Project SAILS is a standardized test of information literacy skills, based on ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. This Web-based tool allows libraries to document information literacy skill levels for groups of students and to pinpoint areas for improvement.”

<<http://www.projectsails.org>>

Project SAILS Skill Sets:

- Skill Set 1: Developing a Research Strategy
- Skill Set 2: Scholarly Communication/Structure of Disciplines
- Skill Set 3: Identifying and Distinguishing Among Types of Sources
- Skill Set 4: Selecting Finding Tools
- Skill Set 5: Selecting Search Terms
- Skill Set 6: Constructing the Search
- Skill Set 7: Understanding Information Retrieval Systems
- Skill Set 8: Evaluating and Revising Search Results
- Skill Set 9: Retrieving Sources
- Skill Set 10: Evaluating and Selecting Sources
- Skill Set 11: Documenting Sources
- Skill Set 12: Economic, Legal, and Social Issues



Analyze

- ❖ We used SAILS test results to carry out a task/needs analysis
- ❖ Average student performance on the 12 SAILS skill sets was analyzed
- ❖ For each skill set, we identified test questions that were difficult for Auburn students

Design

Based on the above analysis, Instruction Committee members formulated a list of learning objectives, prioritized according to “Need to know vs. Nice to know.”

Develop

We asked: What kinds of activities will help our students achieve these basic competencies? Our conclusions:

- ❖ More active learning exercises geared to critical thinking
- ❖ Less “teaching the research tool”
- ❖ A key first step—Teach the teachers!

Implement

- ❖ Instruction Committee prepared internal report outlining key learning objectives
- ❖ Library instructors participated in a workshop on active learning led by the campus teaching center
- ❖ Instructors shared teaching portfolios
- ❖ Library presented SAILS results to campus stakeholders:
 - Freshman English Composition faculty
 - Core Curriculum Oversight Committee
 - Office of Institutional Research and Assessment
 - Academic deans, schools, & departments

Evaluate

- Instruction librarians held a mid-semester “debriefing” session.
- ❖ We shared instructional materials
 - ❖ Reported on what worked & didn’t work
 - ❖ Discussed ways to improve the current instruction program

Future work

- ❖ Formalize training plan for library instructors
- ❖ Supplement SAILS data with formative assessments of student learning
- ❖ Identify additional faculty development opportunities