Abstract

Gaming and technology meet in the Library Online Tutorial for the School of Library and Information Science Students (L.O.T.S.S.) at San José State University. This tutorial is designed to level the playing field for new library and information science graduate students through an innovative, challenging, and enjoyable introduction to librarianship that incorporates the principles of multiple styles of learning. The tutorial begins with Lingometer, a visual indicator that tracks performance through a diagnostic quiz of 20 questions. Lingometer is followed by three interactive modules that guide students through search strategies in databases important to the discipline, each concluding with a short quiz. The crossword puzzle constitutes the final piece in this suite of instructional modules. What is unique to this learning tool is its ability to randomly generate a 25-word crossword puzzle focused on library and information science terminology, thus contributing to reinforced-learning. Scores are emailed to students. Detailed reports by class section are made available to professors and their library liaisons, enabling collaboration. Information literacy instruction can then be customized based upon group performance. Results from preliminary data indicate that the 24/7 availability of this tutorial appeals immensely to distance learners, busy professionals, and multitasking future

The Problem

Incoming SLIS students from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences must understand pertinent terminology and use the library catalog, databases, and other resources in order to complete the three core courses within their first 12 units of graduate school.

- 200 incoming students requiring information literacy instruction enter the program every semester, many of whom are unaware of their library liaisons and their role in assisting them
- Approximately 1500 students in the entire SLIS program, mostly distance education
- Great diversity of backgrounds:
- Various educational levels and majors General lack of library work experience
- Wide age range among students Varying degrees of technical knowledge and
- Lack of familiarity with databases and library jargon, especially new students

The Objective

Introduce new SLIS students to library terminology and online databases useful for completing assignments in the core classes.

De-Puzzling Library Lingo:

An Interactive Crossword Puzzle and Tutorial Suite for 21st Century Graduate Students of Library and Information on Science

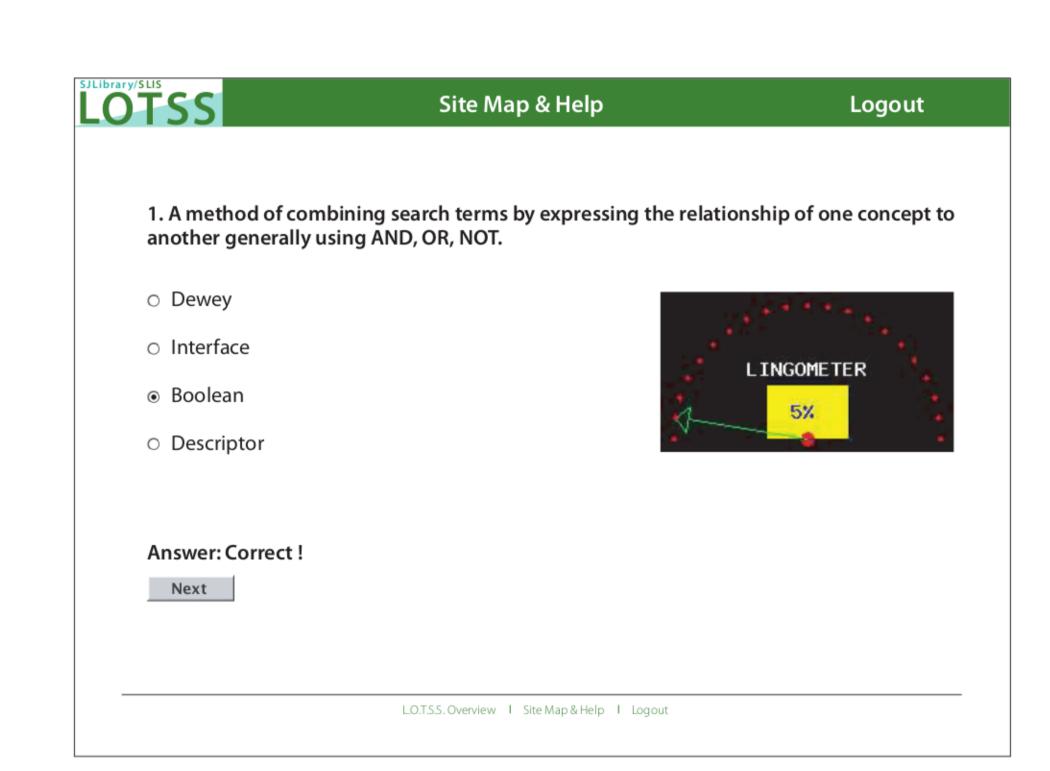
San José State University, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Library

Lorene Sisson, Head, Academic Services; Rob Bruce and Marci Hunsaker, Graduates of SJSU School of Library & Information Sciences; Bridget Kowalczyk, SJSU Library, Information Literacy Specialist





Lingometer (Diagnostic Quiz)



Methodology

Performed needs assessment based on

instructors' syllabi and SLIS student input

Created discipline-specific online tutorial

Analyzed student quiz results to determine

a plan for future modifications

focusing on library terminology and databases

relevant to core course assignments, including a videostreamed introduction from the library

Pilot-tested on students in Library 200 in Spring

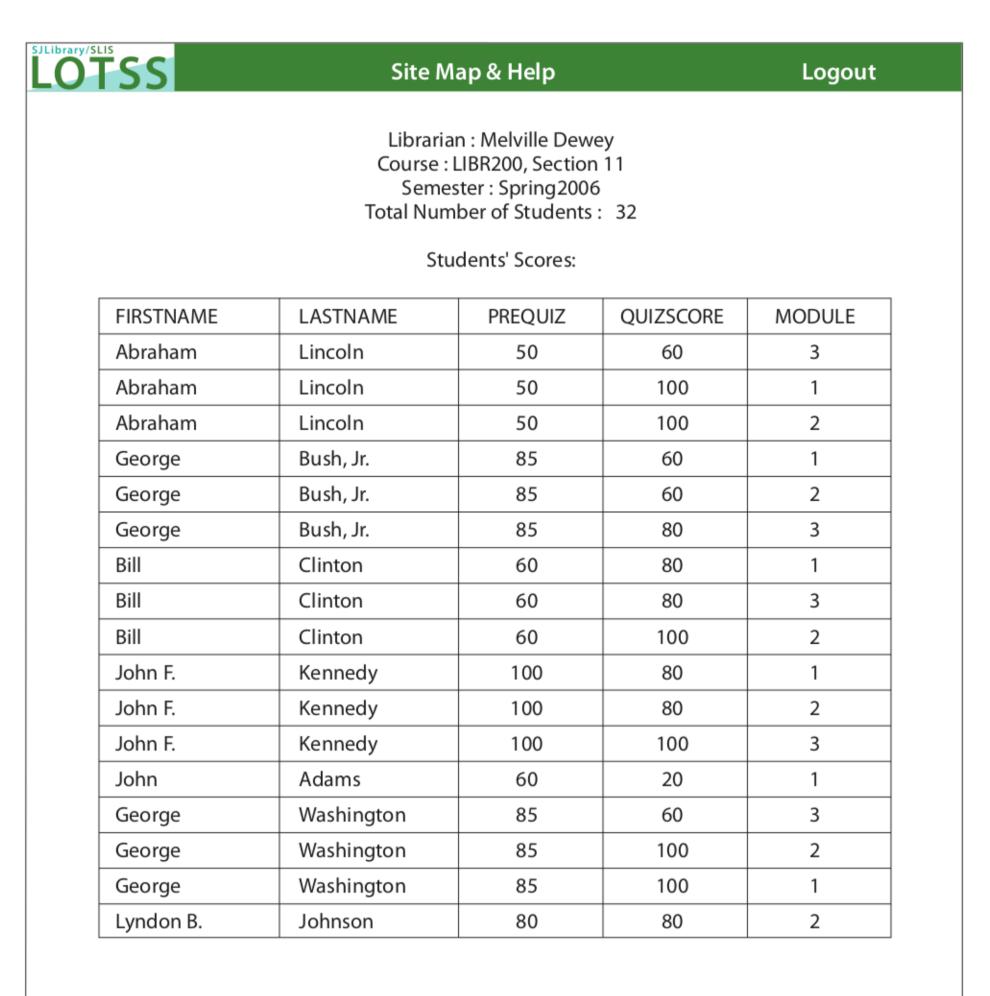
strengths and weaknesses of the instrument and



Outcomes & Discoveries

- Students expressed appreciation for the immediate feedback the tutorial provided
- Faculty who received student results indicated strong appreciation for this tool
- According to the student registration information, approximately one-third of the incoming students had no prior library work
- Few students completed the crossword puzzle
- Approximately half of the students had difficulty with the concept of Boolean operators
- Crossword puzzle clues need to be more specific

Quiz Results



TSS	Site Map & Help	Logout			
Librarian : Melville Dewey Course : LIBR200, Section 11 Semester : Spring2006 Class Average Scores per Question:					
QUESTIONNUM		QUIZSCORE	MODUL		
1	Which feature in Library Lit database allows you to select and search for synonyms, related terms, and preferred terms?	60	3		
2	To find articles written about someone, which type of search is the best method to use?	100	1		
3	After finding an SJSU book in the Online Catalog, which of the following is the most useful in locating the book on the shelf?	100	2		
4	What feature of a database would contain a controlled vocabulary list of subjects and related terms?	60	1		
5	When the database you are searching only has a citation or abstract for an article, which SJSU customized feature allows you to retrieve the full text from another SJSU database? Hint: This is made possible by the link server: SFX.	60	2		
6	Which Boolean operator "expands" your search? If you are doing a keyword search for journal articles on a topic, which is the best source to use?	80	3		
7	Which term is used to describe journals which put articles through a process of professional review before such articles are published in that journal?	80	1		
8	When doing a proximity search in ABI-Inform what does W / # accomplish?	80	3		
9	Which symbol do Library Lit and ABI/INFORM use for truncation?	100	2		
10	Web of Science is a citation index, which means: In the Web of Science Advanced Search screen, "TS" means:	80	1		
11	Which Boolean operator(s) will narrow your search?	80	2		
12	The "Analyze" button in Web of Science will rank results by:	100	3		

DTSS	Site Map & Help	Logout
Librarian : Mel	ville Dewey Course: LIBR200, Section 11 Se Students' answers per Question:	mester : Spring2006
	rary Lit database allows you to select and sea erms?The "Analyze" button in Web of Science	
Answer:		Students
A Get Text		1
B Thesaurus ***		22
C Proximity Operato	rs	3
2 To find articles writt	en about someone which type of search is th	ne hest method to use?
Answer:	en about someone, which type of search is th	Students
Answer: A Get Text	en about someone, which type of search is th	Students 2
Answer:		Students
Answer: A Get Text B Thesaurus *** C Proximity Operator which of the following		Students 2 4 0 ok in the Online Catalog, e shelf?
Answer: A Get Text B Thesaurus *** C Proximity Operator which of the following in the f	rs 3. After finding an SJSU boo	Students 2 4 0 ok in the Online Catalog, e shelf? Students
Answer: A Get Text B Thesaurus *** C Proximity Operator which of the following in the f	rs 3. After finding an SJSU boo	Students 2 4 0 ok in the Online Catalog, e shelf? Students 0
Answer: A Get Text B Thesaurus *** C Proximity Operator which of the following in the f	rs 3. After finding an SJSU boo	Students 2 4 0 ok in the Online Catalog, e shelf? Students



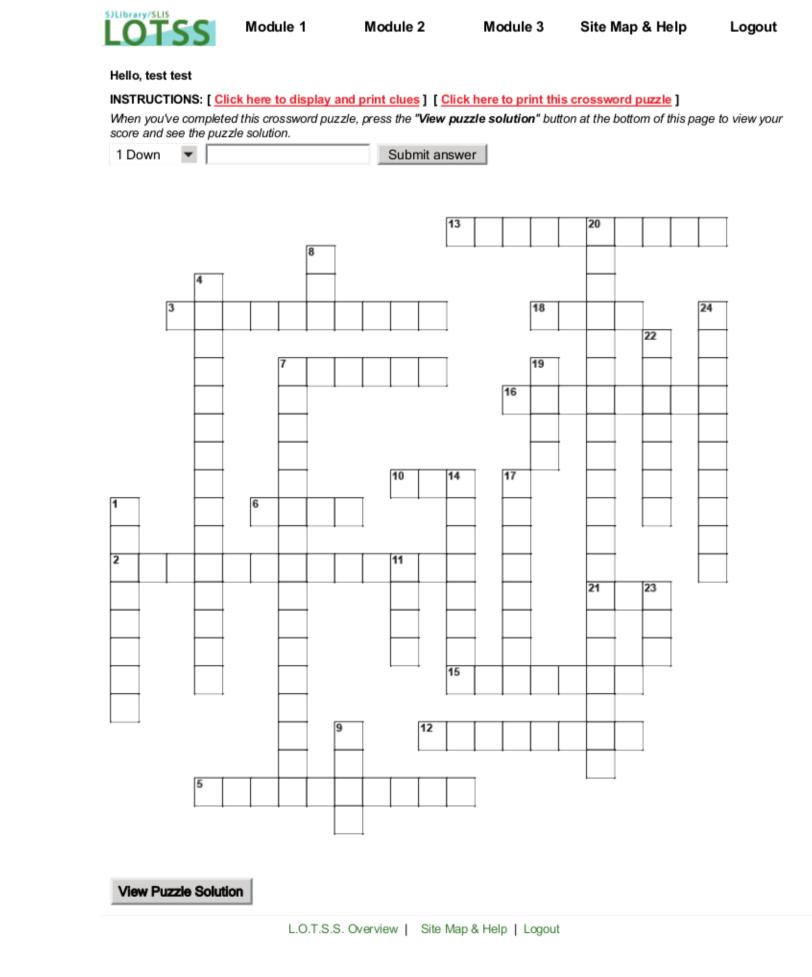




Conclusions

- Information literacy skills would be enhanced by post-tutorial, in-person information literacy instruction sessions
- Students would benefit from periodically revisiting the tutorial for self-assessment
- Collaboration with SLIS faculty to create course specific modules could enhance the information literacy experience

Sample Crossword





OTSS	Site Map & Help	Logout		
Library Online Tutorial for the School of Library & Information Science Students Welcome test test. After completing Library Lingometer, you should complete Modules 1 - 3 sequentially. If you prefer, you can complete L.O.T.S.S. in stages - just make sure to log off between visits and log back in again with your student ID. Good luck!				
Library Liaison	View this videoclip of your SLIS library liaison, Lorene Sisson.	View		
Module 1: Library Lit	Search the database Library Literature and Information Science Full Text by author and subject. Useful for LIBR 200.	Start Module 1		
Module 2: ABI/Inform	Search the database ABI/INFORM Global by keyword. Useful for Library 204.	Start Module 2		
Module 3: Web of Science	Search the database Web of Science to locate cited references. This may be useful for Library 202 but is specifically recommended for students who have completed at least half of the courses towards their degree.	Start Module 3		
Crossword Puzzle:	Test your knowledge of Library Science terminology by	Crossword		

L.O.T.S.S. Overview | Site Map & Help | Logout



Significance

- Students will be better prepared to complete their assignments using online databases
- Professors can gauge their students' information literacy levels to guide instruction
- Educators can adapt the crossword puzzle for use in any discipline

