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Variations on an Information Literacy Theme: Student Research Consultations and Multiple Oral Communication Sections

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Variations on an Information Literacy Theme: Student Research Consultations and Multiple Oral Communication Sections

About the Course

- 8 sections during Spring 2016
- Mostly First Year Students
- Consultations were for informative speech
 - Speech 5-7 minutes in length
 - Could choose any topic
- Required at least 5 sources
 - Only one could be a website

Consultation Models

#1 – 2 sections – Students had submitted topic sentences and received feedback from professor. Started with catalog demonstration and more time spent one on one with students researching their topics. Small groups of 3-4.

#2 – 2 sections – Students had chosen one article from a popular magazine on which to base their topic. Worked one-on-one to refine topic and find additional sources. Entire class was present.

#3 – 4 sections – Met students before they had decided on topic and thesis statement. Mainly helped them refine topic, basic information on catalog and databases. Small groups of 3-4.

Our Findings

- 166 bibliographies analyzed
- 955 total sources – average 5.75 per speech
- Consultation model #1 shows slightly different chart line than the others.
- Identifying the sources was difficult because of incorrect citations
- Hard to place some resource into categories – gray areas between our source types
- Anecdotal – consultations were valuable in getting the students to know the librarians and ask us questions later.

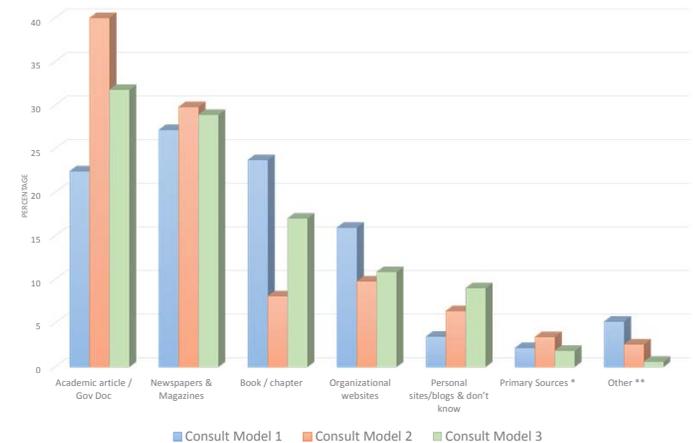
What's Next?

- Plan on completing a more comprehensive study this fall
- What to see if students retain research skills for the persuasive speech later in the semester
- Interested in identifying resources students found through library v. those found through online searches

Cori Strickler, Information Literacy Librarian &
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Bridgewater College Mack Library

Percentage Comparison of 3 models of Consultations and types of resources used in citations



* Primary Sources = Special Collections and Personal Interviews
** Others = Reference (Ency., Dict., Quotes) and Documentaries / film / music

Percentage comparison of resources used in all consultations / citations

