

# Selected Resources for Assessment Librarians

*3x3 in Search of an Assessment Plan* :: BC Library Conference :: April 20, 2017

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## Websites & Blogs

### ***Value of Academic Libraries (VAL)***

ACRL web site on assessing value and impact of academic libraries; in addition to the VAL report, offers a blog and extensive bibliography on topics such as student retention, achievement and engagement, faculty research productivity and teaching, and communicating value. <http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>

### ***LibValue Toolkit***

Describes a range of methodologies and project to assess teaching and learning, scholarly reading, comprehensive value, information or learning commons, digitized special collections and e-books. Also provides a bibliographic database of more than 1,000 citations. Culmination of a 3-year study led by Carol Tenopir and Paula Kaufman. <http://www.libvalue.org/about/toolkit>

### ***Information is Beautiful***

Web site and blog by David McCandless; focus is on data visualization. Truly beautiful.

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/>

### ***Everyday Analytics***

Blog by Myles Harrison; focus is on using tools and techniques appropriately.

<http://www.everydayanalytics.ca/>

## Listservs

### ***ARL-ASSESS***

Open to anyone interested in library assessment. Focus is on academic libraries, but it's a good way to find out about professional development opportunities, tools, and methods.

<https://groups.google.com/a/arl.org/forum/#!forum/arl-assess>

## Conferences & Workshops

### ***Library Assessment Conference***

Biennial (in even years) international conference on assessment in libraries of all types. Held in the US. Next: Fall 2018 in Houston, TX. <http://libraryassessment.org/>

**Canadian Library Assessment Workshop**

Biennial (in odd years) workshop with a focus on developing skills and strategies for library assessment. Next: October 26-27, 2017 in Victoria, BC.

<http://www.carl-abrc.ca/strengthening-capacity/workshops-and-training/canadian-library-assessment-workshop/>

**International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries and Information Services**

Biennial (in odd years) international conference, also known as “Northumbria.” Held in the UK. Next: July 31-August 2, 2017 in Oxford, UK. <https://libraryperformance.org/>

**International Evidence Based Library and Information Practice Conference**

Biennial (held in odd years), held in various countries around the world. Next: June 18-21, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA. <http://library.usask.ca/ceblip/eblip/eblip-conferences1.php>

**Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries Conference (QQML)**

Annual, usually held in Europe. Next: May 23-26, 2017 in Limerick, Ireland. <http://www.isast.org/>

**Southeastern Library Assessment Conference**

Biennial (in odd years), held in the southeastern US. Next: November 13-14, 2017 in Atlanta, GA. <http://www.southeasternlac.info/>

**Association of Institutional Research (AIR) Forum**

Annual conference, held in the US. Not specifically focused on libraries, but focuses on many of the same tools and issues as academic libraries. Next: May 30-June 2, 2017 in Washington, DC. <http://forum.airweb.org/2017/pages/home>

## Data Analysis & Visualization Software

**Microsoft Excel**

For basic statistical analysis and charts, Excel is a powerful tool that most of us already have in our toolkit. Take the time to learn how to use pivot tables and functions.

**SPSS**

Probably the most ubiquitous software for sophisticated statistical analysis of data. Often available through an institutional license. <https://www.ibm.com/analytics/us/en/technology/spss/>

**Alternatives to SPSS:**

- Minitab (<http://www.minitab.com/en-us/>) - commercial
- SAS/STAT ([https://www.sas.com/en\\_ca/software/analytics/stat.html](https://www.sas.com/en_ca/software/analytics/stat.html)) - commercial
- R (<https://www.r-project.org/>) - free, installs on UNIX server

**Tableau**

Data visualization software. Offers free and paid versions; fully functional desktop software, but free version only allows sharing through Tableau Public server. <https://www.tableau.com/>

**Dedoose**

Inexpensive, web-based software for qualitative data analysis. <http://www.dedoose.com/>

**nVIVO**

Software for qualitative data analysis. Pricey, but many institutions have licensed it.

<http://www.qsrinternational.com/product>

**Voyant Tools**

Free, web-based environment for analyzing and visualizing digital texts. <https://voyant-tools.org/>

TAPoR (<http://tapor.ca/home>) is the updated and expanded version, but requires login.

**Books & Articles**

Baird, B. J. (2004). *Library collection assessment through statistical sampling*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

Barbrow, S., & Hartline, M. (2015). Process mapping as organizational assessment in academic libraries. *Performance Measurement and Metrics*, 16, 34-47.

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Broadly-Preston, J., & Lobo, A. (2011). Measuring the quality, value and impact of academic libraries: The role of external standards. *Performance Measurement and Metrics*, 12, 122-135. <https://doi.org/10.1108/14678041111149327>

Carlsson, H. (2016). Library assessment and quality assurance - creating a staff-driven and user-focused development process. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 11(2), 28-33. <https://doi.org/10.18438/B81W5X>

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Durante, K., & Wang, Z. (2012). Creating an actionable assessment framework for discovery services in academic libraries. *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, 19, 215-228.

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- Oakleaf, M. J. (2012). *Academic library value: The impact starter kit*. Syracuse, NY: Dellas Graphics.
- Pedramnia, S., Modiramani, P., & Ghavami Ghanbarabadi, V. (2012). An analysis of service quality in academic libraries using LibQUAL scale. *Library Management*, 33, 159-167. <https://doi.org/10.1108/01435121211217144>
- Secolsky, C., Ed, & Denison, D. B. (Eds.). (2011). *Handbook on measurement, assessment, and evaluation in higher education*. New York: Routledge.
- White, A. C., & Kamal, E. D. (2006). *E-metrics for library and information professionals: How to use data for managing and evaluating electronic resource collections*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- Wright, S., & White, L. S. (2007). *SPEC kit 303: Library assessment*. Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries.
- Yau, N. (2011). *Visualize this: The flowing data guide to design, visualization, and statistics*. Indianapolis, IN: Wiley.

## Journals

- College & Research Libraries
- Evidence Based Library and Information Practice
- Journal of Academic Librarianship
- Journal of Library Administration
- Library Quarterly
- Performance Measurement & Metrics
- portal: Libraries & the Academy
- Reference & User Services Quarterly