Assessment Librarianship 101: What does an Assessment Librarian do, anyway?

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In the past, we counted stuff.
Library assessment grew beyond inputs.
User surveys have transformed, too.
“The numbers of assessment activities undertaken in libraries over the last decade has grown exponentially. Libraries of all kinds are looking more closely at how and how well they are serving their users.”

(ARL SPEC Kit)
Which brings us to Assessment Librarians

Ball State University
Brigham Young University
Central Connecticut State
Claremont Colleges
Duquesne University
Franklin University
Harvard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Pulaski Technical College
State University of New York at Canton
University of Alberta Library
University of California, Irvine
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of North Carolina Charlotte
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Washington
Washington State University
Western University
Who does the assessing?
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When were they created?

- Assessment librarian positions - between 2002-2007*
- Assessment departments - 2000 or later
- Taken together, most were created between 2005-2007*

*Note: The SPEC kit was published in 2007.
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Which parts of the library are assessed?

- Website (usability)
- Electronic resources
- User instruction
- Reference
- Collections
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## What methods are used?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOST POPULAR</th>
<th>LEAST POPULAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statistics gathering</td>
<td>Secret shoppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestion box</td>
<td>Balanced Scorecard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web usability testing</td>
<td>Wayfinding studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User interface usability</td>
<td>Worklife/organizational climate studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externally developed surveys</td>
<td>Unit cost analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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What **job duties** do assessment librarians have?

1. Consulting with staff on assessment needs – **95%**
2. **Analyzing, interpreting, & reporting on assessment data** – **91%**
3. Coordinating data collection and reporting (to ARL, IPEDS, etc.) – **68%**
4. Collaborating with non-library departments on campus – **59%**
5. Training staff on assessment practices – **55%**
6. Participating in strategic planning - **32%**
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Questions?
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