

# TEACHING INFORMATION LITERACY: A PERFORMANCE BASED CYCLE

Annie Downey, University of North Texas  
Gayla Byerly, University of North Texas  
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# Basic Background Facts

## University of North Texas

- ⦿ Core curriculum = lists of electives
  - Required courses include:
    - Basic U.S. History
    - Political Science
    - **Freshmen English (1310 & 1320)**

# Basic Background Facts

- ◎ **English Library Instruction Sessions**
  - Average about 90 sessions per academic year
  - Seven years of successful collaboration between the Libraries and the English department

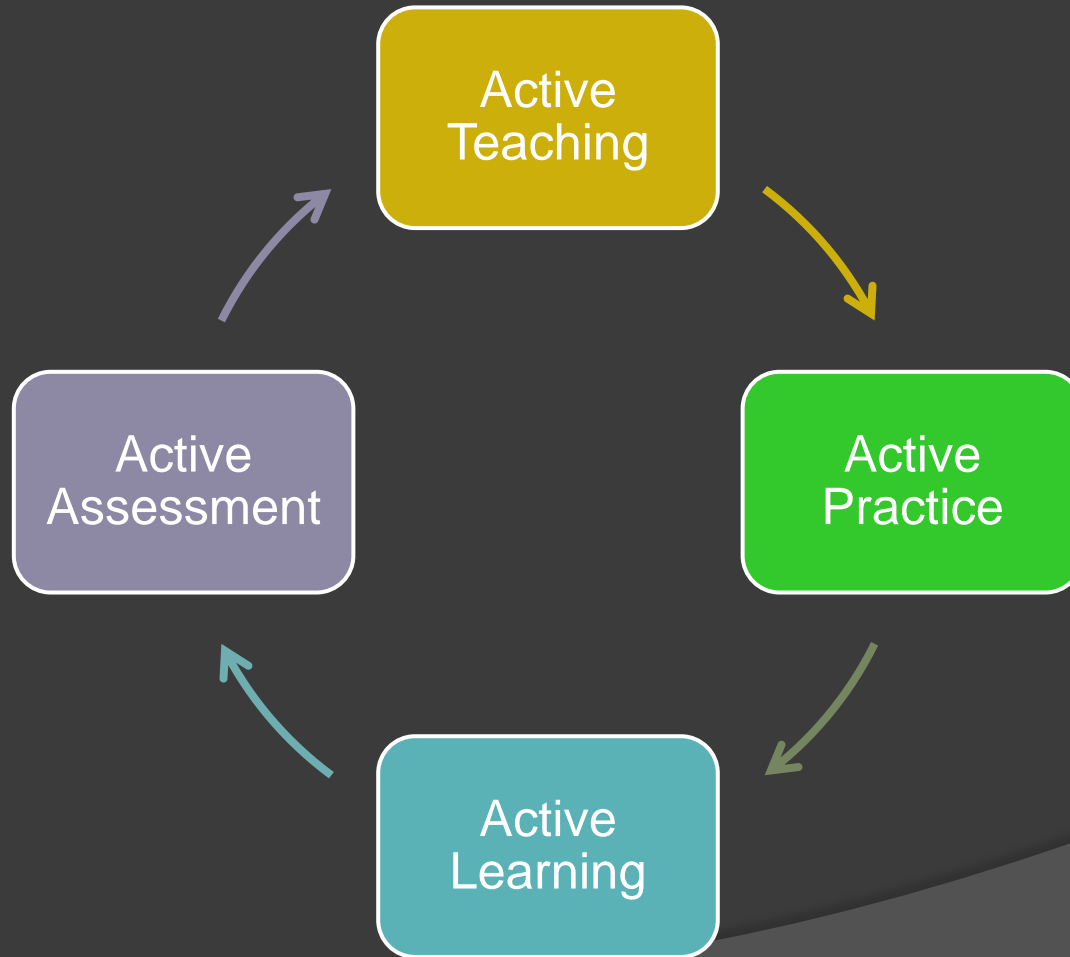
# Basic Background Facts

- 499 students tested in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006
- 76 students tested in Spring 2007
- Total of 575 students tested

# Information Literacy

- to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”  
American Library Association
- “students must be able to use technology to learn content and skills – so that they know *how* to learn, think critically, solve problems, use information, communicate, innovate, and collaborate.” EDUCAUSE  
Center for Applied Research

# Performance Cycle of Information Literacy



# Active Teaching, Learning, & Assessing

- Active process of discovery
- Information literacy skills are performance task oriented
- Navigation is a central component
- Actively engaged with the information
- Assessment must be performance based to evaluate information literacy skills

# Student Navigation Skills

- 94.7% of students report using online library resources an average of once a month
- 81.6% of students report using online social networking daily
- Assumed students had good navigation skills
- Results from our study contradicted these assumptions



# Student Navigation Skills



UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

## LIBRARIES

### QUICK LINKS

- ★ UNT Library Catalog
- ★ Electronic Resources
- Electronic Newspapers
- Library Services for  
UNT Off-Campus Users

What we show  
in class.

### HELP

- Ask a Librarian
- How Do I Begin?
- How to Find Books & Articles
- Site Map

What we  
should show.

Resources for Library Research

Library Services

Exhibits & Collections

About the Libraries

New & Noteworthy

**New ID Required  
For Checkout**



**Library Workshops!**  
View the Schedule

**How Are We Doing?**  
Take the Online Survey



# Library Instruction Software for Assessment (LISA)

From the UNT Libraries' homepage, find the Webpage that has help from a librarian.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the University of North Texas Libraries website. The browser title bar reads "Library Instruction Assessment - Part 1 - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "Links". The main content area features the UNT Libraries logo with an eagle. Below the logo, there are sections for "QUICK LINKS" and "HELP". The "QUICK LINKS" section includes links to the UNT Library Catalog, Electronic Resources, Electronic Newspapers, Library Services for UNT Off-Campus Users, and a "New ID Required For Checkout" notice. The "HELP" section includes links to "Ask a Librarian", "How Do I Begin?", "How to Find Books & Articles", and "Site Map". A search bar is located below the "HELP" section, with a "Search" button and a note that it does not search books or articles. On the right side, there are links for "Resources for Library Research", "Library Services", "Exhibits & Collections", "About the Libraries", and "New & Noteworthy". At the bottom, there is a footer with various navigation links and the text "University of North Texas Libraries".

Library Instruction Assessment - Part 1 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Links

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
Library Instruction Assessment Survey

**Step 2**

From the UNT Libraries Homepage, find the Webpage that has help from a librarian.

Next Step

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
**LIBRARIES**

**QUICK LINKS**

- ★ UNT Library Catalog
- ★ Electronic Resources
- Electronic Newspapers
- Library Services for UNT Off-Campus Users

**HELP**

- Ask a Librarian
- How Do I Begin?
- How to Find Books & Articles
- Site Map

Search This Site: [Advanced Search](#) [Search Tips](#) Search

(Does not search [books or articles](#))

**Resources for Library Research**

- Library Services
- Exhibits & Collections
- About the Libraries
- New & Noteworthy

**New ID Required For Checkout**

**Library Workshops!**  
View the Schedule

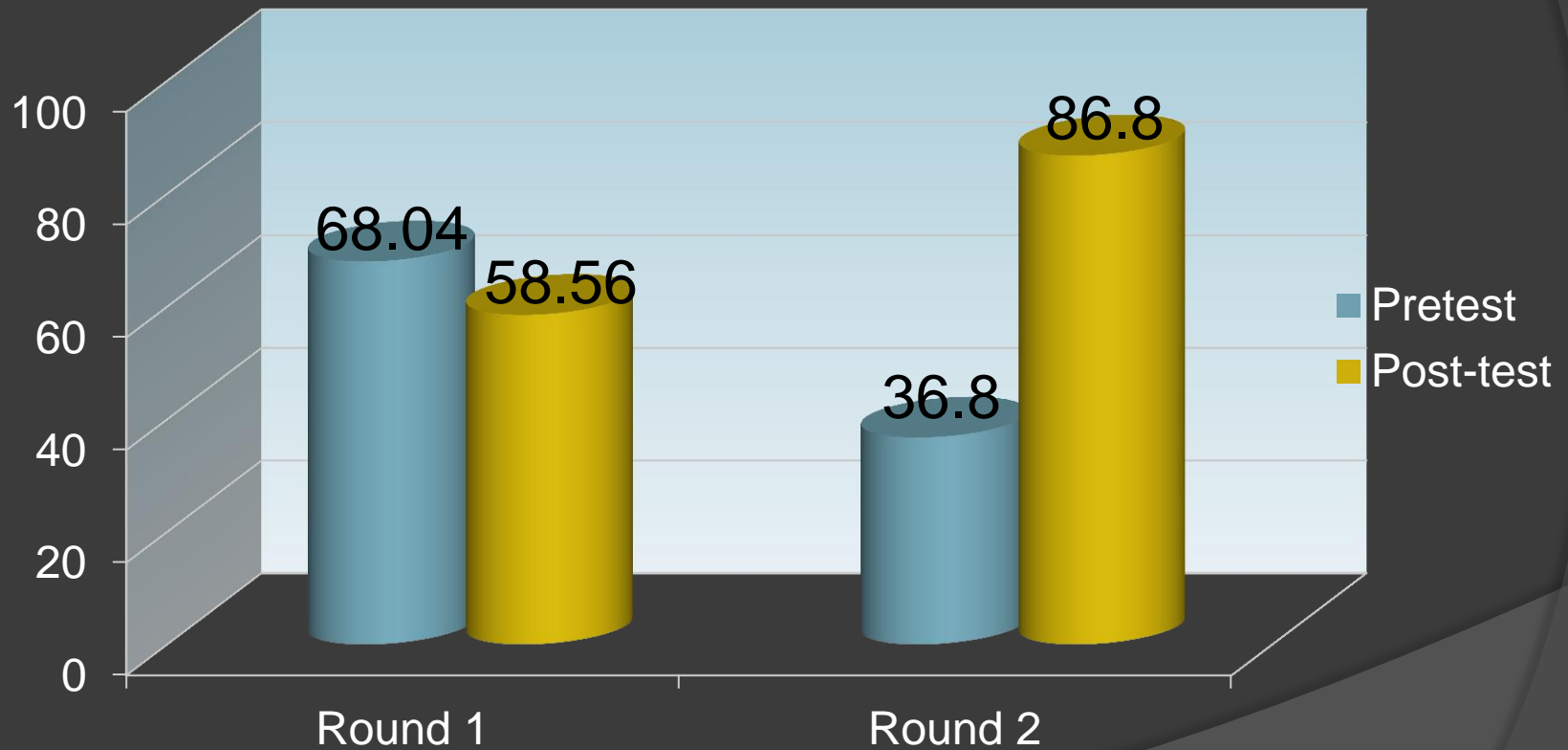
**How Are We Doing?**  
Take the Online Survey

UNT Libraries Home Page / [Resources for Library Research](#) / [Library Services](#) / [Exhibits & Collections](#) / [About the Libraries](#) / [New & Noteworthy](#) / [UNT Libraries Catalog](#) / [Electronic Resources](#) / [Library Services for UNT Off-Campus Users](#) / [How Do I Begin?](#) / [How to Find Books & Articles](#) / [Site Map](#) / [Search This Web Site](#) / [AAVE/ADA](#) / [Privacy Statement](#)

University of North Texas Libraries

Done Unknown Zone (Mixed)

# Results – Ask a Librarian



# Student Searching Skills

- 40.3% of freshmen rate themselves as excellent or very good at using online library resources
- 3% of the students in our study were able to perform a successful subject search in the catalog
- Only 11% were successful after instruction

# Library Instruction Software for Assessment (LISA)

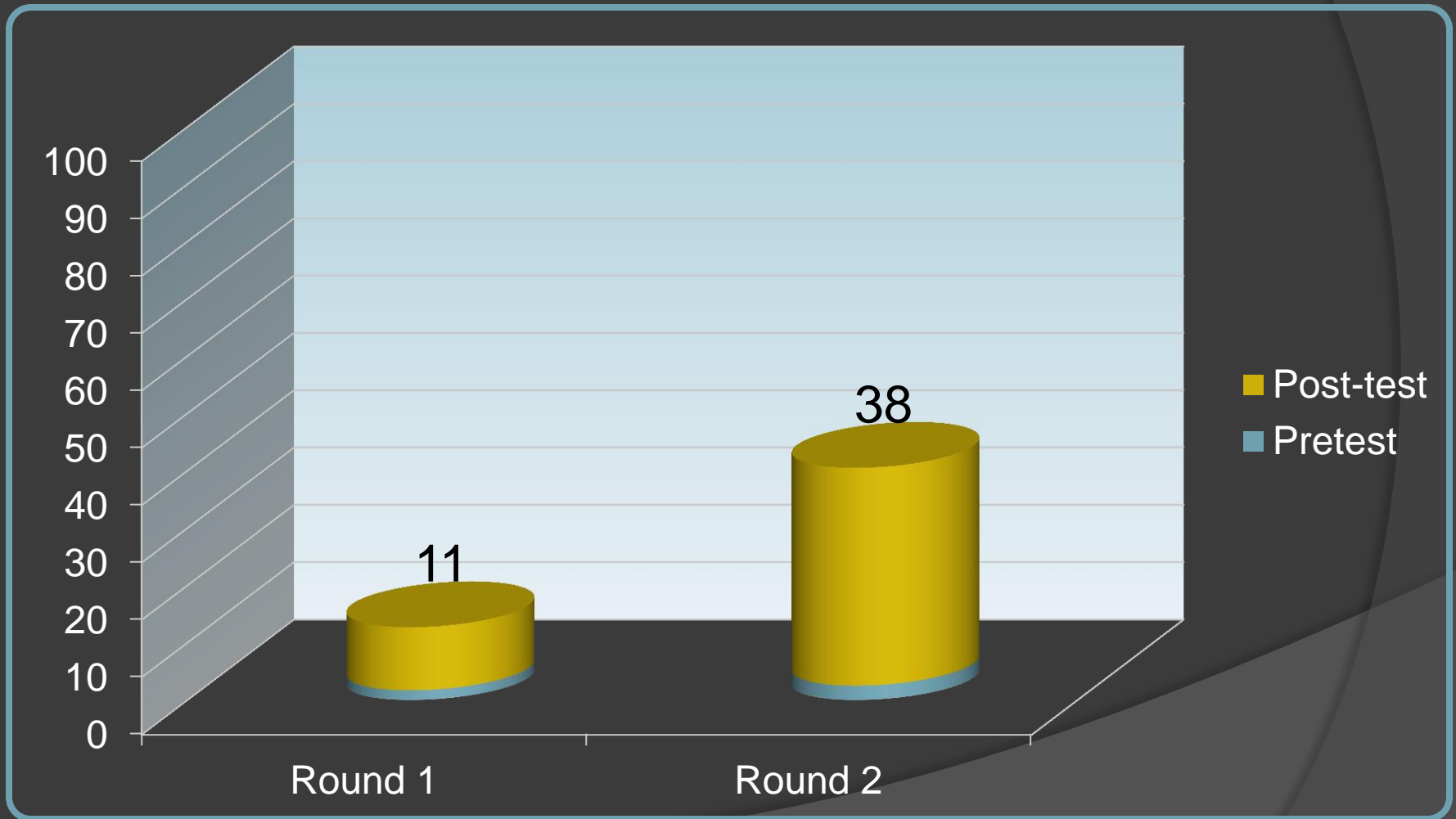
Perform a subject search for Robert Frost in the library catalog.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Library Instruction Assessment - Part 1 - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The page is the University of North Texas Libraries website. On the left, a sidebar contains the text "UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS Library Instruction Assessment Survey" and "Step 3" with the instruction "Perform a subject search for Robert Frost in the library catalog." and a "Next Step" button. The main content area features the "UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS LIBRARIES" logo, a "QUICK LINKS" section with links to the UNT Library Catalog, Electronic Resources, Electronic Newspapers, Library Services for UNT Off-Campus Users, and a "HELP" section with links to "Ask a Librarian", "How Do I Begin?", "How to Find Books & Articles", and "Site Map". A search bar is present with the text "Search This Site:" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, it says "(Does not search books or articles)". On the right side, there are sections for "Resources for Library Research", "Library Services", "Exhibits & Collections", "About the Libraries", "New & Noteworthy", "New ID Required For Checkout" (with a small image of a person), "Library Workshops! View the Schedule", and "How Are We Doing? Take the Online Survey" (with a small image of a survey form). At the bottom, there is a footer with navigation links and the text "University of North Texas Libraries".

# Adding Active Learning

- In initial testing, students were following along with the librarian on their own computers while the librarian modeled proper searching techniques.
- Students were not engaged
- Added a simple worksheet to increase engagement with the information

# Results – Subject Searching

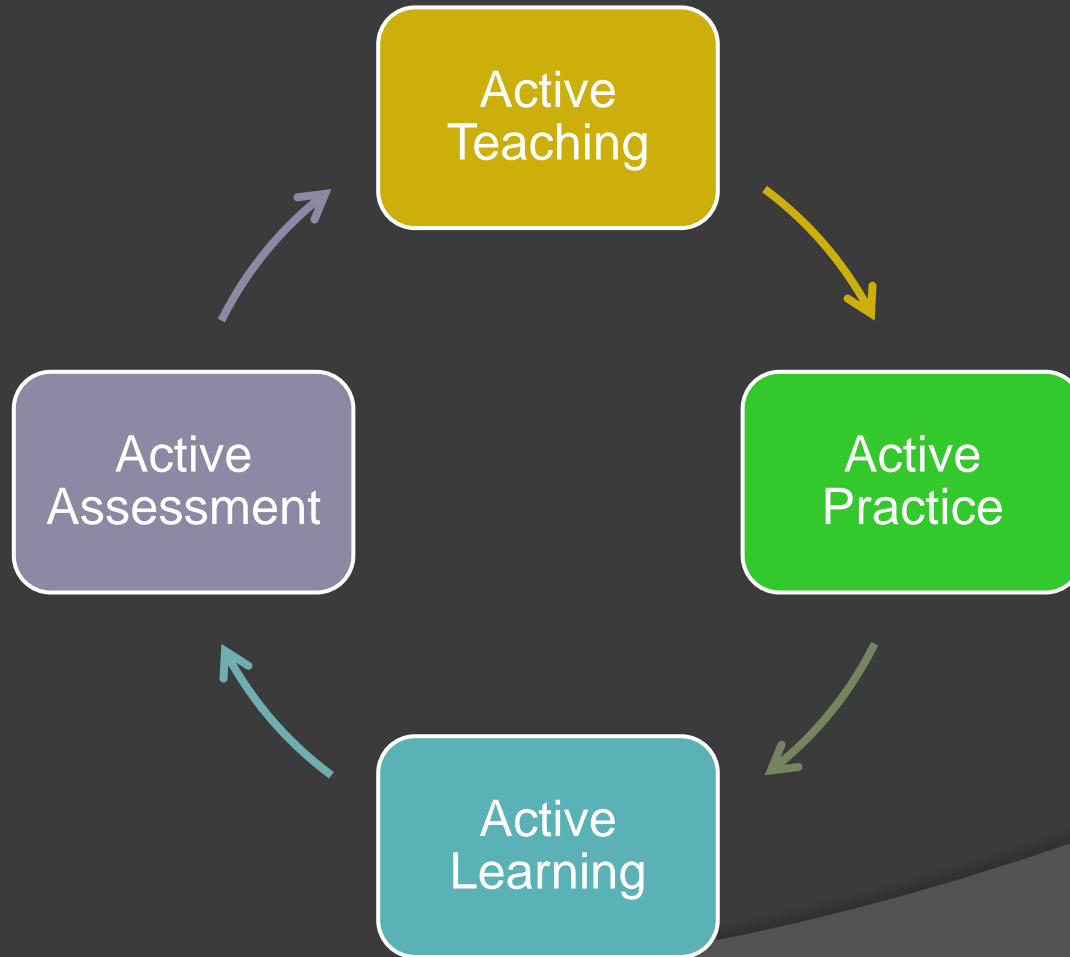


# Active Assessment

- ⦿ Must be performance-based
- ⦿ Surveys are useful for attitudinal measurements
- ⦿ Surveys are not useful for performance-based measurements
- ⦿ Performance-based assessments require students to demonstrate what they actually know rather than what they think they know



# Performance Cycle of Information Literacy



# Acknowledgments

- ◉ We would like to thank the following people for their support in this project:
- ◉ Frank Gosnell, Programmer Analyst, University of North Texas, - for developing the software and continuing to work with us on improvements.
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