Collaborating for Student Success: An E-mail Survey of U.S. Libraries and Writing Centers

Abstract:
After re-starting a collaborative partnership between the library and writing center at Wright State University, those involved wanted to compare data with other existing collaborations. With a limited amount of data available in current literature, they conducted an e-mail survey of librarians, writing center staff, and writing tutoring services staff from across the country. This survey found that the majority of participants had a writing center on campus and that around two-thirds of respondents had an existing partnership. The scope of these collaborations varied and many commented on a need for more communication, planning, and a shared space. Moving forward, many existing and future relationships between libraries and writing centers, or writing tutoring services, could benefit from increased strategic planning, assessment, training, and regular communication, whether or not they share a space.

Demographics

Who participated?

Carnegie Classification

- Librarians (59%)
- Writing Center staff (30%)
- Tutoring staff (11%)

43 states, plus the District of Columbia

Writing Center on campus?

- Yes (94%)
- No (6%)

Where?

- Commons (41%)
- In the Library (27%)
- Freestanding (22%)
- Comb. in Library/Commons (2%)
- Multiple locations (4%)
- In another building (1%)
- Within English Dept (1%)
- Virtual (1%)
Comparative Data

Top 5 Collaborative Methods
- Library/Bibliographic instruction: 21%
- Student orientations/trainings: 16%
- Individual appointments: 14%
- Class presentations: 14%
- Embed tutors in the library: 14%

Top 5 Ideal Collaborative Methods
- Library/Bibliographic instruction: 17%
- Student orientations/trainings: 15%
- Faculty orientations/trainings: 15%
- Embed tutors in the library: 14%
- Class presentations: 12%

Top 5 Ideal Collaborative Methods
- Shared space/commons: 25%
- Referrals between both places: 16%
- Focus on student needs/success: 13%
- Defined roles: 10%
- Mutually beneficial relationship: 8%

Other areas included in the survey
- ★ Strategic Goals
- ★ Strengths
- ★ Assessment
- ★ Weaknesses
- ★ Training
- ★ Promotion

Read the full article:
http://works.bepress.com/holly_jackson/