"DO I KNOW ENOUGH TO HAVE A VOICE IN THIS?"

OVERCOMING PROFESSIONAL ROADBLOCKS ON THE ASSESSMENT JOURNEY
WHO WE ARE

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OUR RESEARCH

"A SEAT AT THE TABLE: INFORMATION LITERACY ASSESSMENT & PROFESSIONAL LEGITIMACY"

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Research questions:
- What role does information literacy play in instruction librarians' understanding of their professional identity?
- What role does information literacy play in instruction librarians' sense of agency and status at the institutional level?
- What challenges do instruction librarians experience in conducting information literacy assessment?

Methods:
- Semi-structured interviews with 26 participants at varying career points and across institution types
- Questions across four contexts: personal, within their own library, within the library profession, and within their own institution/higher education

Findings
- "Instruction librarians view teaching as integral to their professional identity & use assessment to legitimize that identity, both personally and at the institutional level."
WE ALSO ASKED PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL CONVERSATION SURROUNDING INFORMATION LITERACY ASSESSMENT: HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT IT, HOW THEY PARTICIPATE IN IT, & CHALLENGES THEY FACE FITTING INTO IT

A common theme:
There are barriers to participation in professional conversations about assessment.
1. CHOOSE A QUOTE

Choose a quote that you identify with & sit at the table numbered the same as your quote. (All group members have the same quote)

2. REFLECT & DISCUSS

Reflect on your experiences & discuss recommendations for librarians and professional organizations to address the challenge(s) you identify.
GUIDING QUESTIONS

What barriers to participation in the assessment conversation can you identify in the quote? What factors or issues might create these barriers? How might these barriers affect the respondent’s success in the classroom and/or in the profession?

How might the individual, institutional, and/or professional context affect the respondent’s experience?

In what ways does the quote reflect or contradict your own experiences with assessment? Have you experienced similar or different barriers in relation to assessment?

What emotions or affective responses stand out in the quote? Have you experienced similar or different emotions in relation to assessment?

What recommendations would you offer to break down the barriers represented in the quote? Consider recommendations at the individual, institutional, and professional levels.
"I think, for me, the challenges are just about my own sense of authority. Like do I have a right to have voice in this, do I know enough to have a voice in this? I'm on, somebody who's like a lurker on Twitter, although I have even stopped lurking, I'm not somebody who, I just don't feel like comfortable in my own self enough to kind of give you my spot judgement or like my hot takes about things in the world or things in assessment."

"Especially being at a community college the last six years as opposed to a university, I think the challenges are resources. We don't have, and this is a problem in the whole college, enough funding, for example, to send us every year to ACRL. And I think that's where a lot of the dynamic conversations are happening. A webinar we can pay for, but that's nothing like being there and being a regular part of the conversation."

"I enjoy listening to the conversation. And I provide input when and where I can, but I always feel like I'm a few steps behind, especially the larger universities or the schools with lots of instruction librarians or a team that can work on things, which can then be disheartening at times. It's hard [laughs] to force yourself to keep working on it when you know that you're light years behind what some other people have been able to set up. And that sort of thing."

"A challenge for me is communicating through social media, I'm not comfortable with, I'm not comfortable with media backlashing, and so when assessment conversations are in that form, like I feel comfortable, you know, in the committee work that I do talking about assessment. You know, on my campus, writing about it, publishing about it, but when it comes to social media, just throwing something out, that's a challenge for me and so I don't do it very often."

"Well I've never been formally trained in assessment--I haven't been to Immersion, or I don't have a degree in education, so all of my training has been self-training. You know, going to a conference and attending an assessment session. Or reading a book about the topic. You know, those types of things. So it is hard to kind of like... you know, if you publish something, you want to feel kind of like an expert in it, although I never really felt like an expert. And I think assessment is one of those areas where it's just like, do I really know enough to... like the imposter syndrome thing. Do I really know enough to share?"

"I mean I think right now my own personal is just my status as a new librarian. I feel like since I have little, like smaller professional experience, the experience I do have is a little devalued on the wider stage."
SHARED SPACE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

tiny.cc/4w073y
(it's a zero!)
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QUESTIONS?