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Rethinking the Way We Teach: A Look at Online Classes

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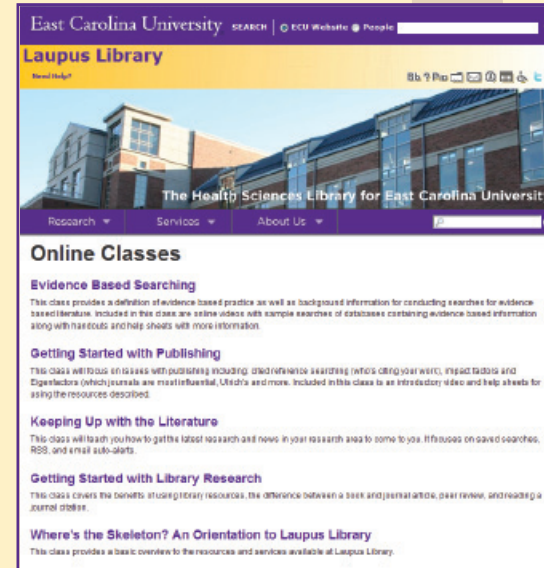
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Objective

The purpose of this research project was to find out if creating online classes for existing standing classes is useful for patrons. The goal was to determine:

- Who is using the classes?
- What are their perceived needs?
- What can be done to improve their experiences?

www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary/research/Classes/OnlineClasses.cfm

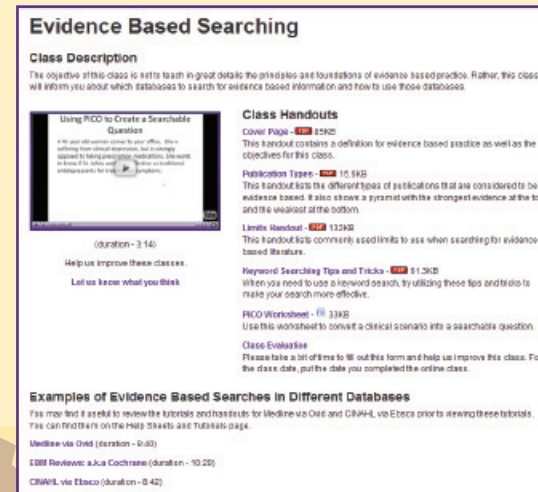


Methods

An online survey was used to capture data for this research study. In order to maximize responses the survey was:

- placed directly on the online class pages (December 9, 2010)
- sent out via monthly emails to faculty (January 14, 2011)

In addition, statistics were gathered using Google Analytics.



Example of online class layout

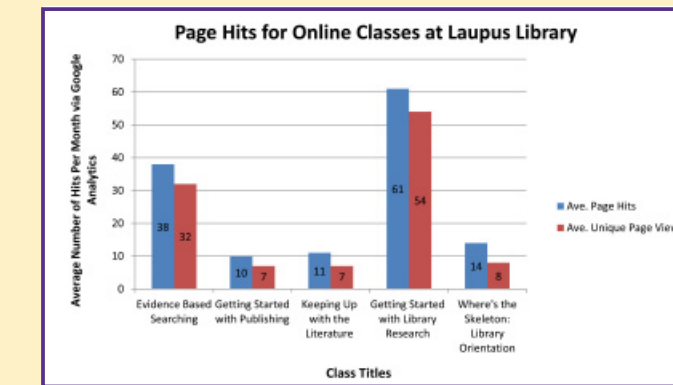
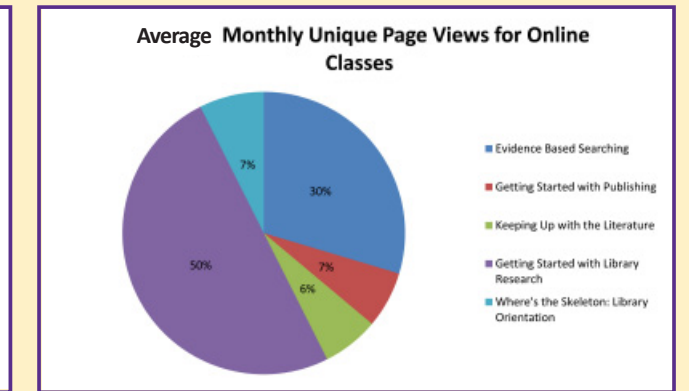
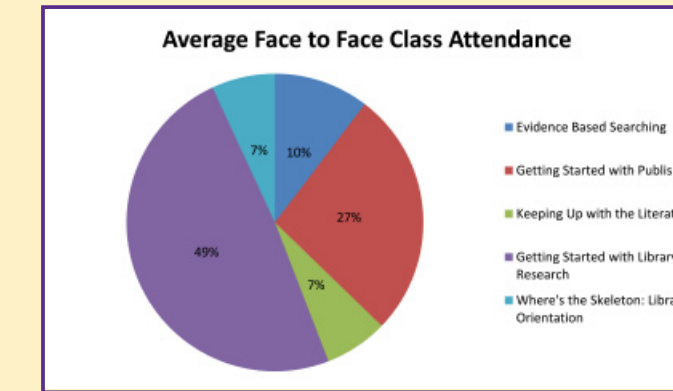
www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary/research/Classes/EvidenceBasedSearching.cfm

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Results

Google Analytics:



The online classes landing page received a monthly average of 80 hits, 69 of which were unique.

Survey Responses:

Survey Responses* (Out of 6 responses)	
Status	100% Faculty/Staff/Resident
Affiliation	100% ECU
How did you find out about this class?	100% Email from Library
Why did you choose to view this class? (open ended)	100% To evaluate course
Satisfaction level on a scale from 1 - 5	100% scored 5
Which do you prefer for library instruction?	17% face to face, 83% Online
Have you attended drop-in classes in the past?	17% Yes, 83% No
Comments	Getting Started with Research "Well organized, clear and precise." Getting Started with Publishing "Well articulated." Keeping Up with Literature "Clearly spoken, great speed, well articulated."

"An excellent set of resources! TY!"

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Conclusion

Although it is unclear who is accessing the online classes, the statistics show that they are getting used. Anecdotal evidence from chatting with face to face drop in class participants showed interest in having materials available after class. Patrons have been referred to the online classes to assist in answering email reference questions, during consultations, and during other face to face classes. The benefits of online classes as alternatives or supplements to face-to-face instruction create blended learning opportunities, making them worth creating in the future.