



All It Takes Is One: Single-Session Data Literacy Instruction

Lisa Federer, MLIS, MA, AHIP, Research Informationist
UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library

INTRODUCTION

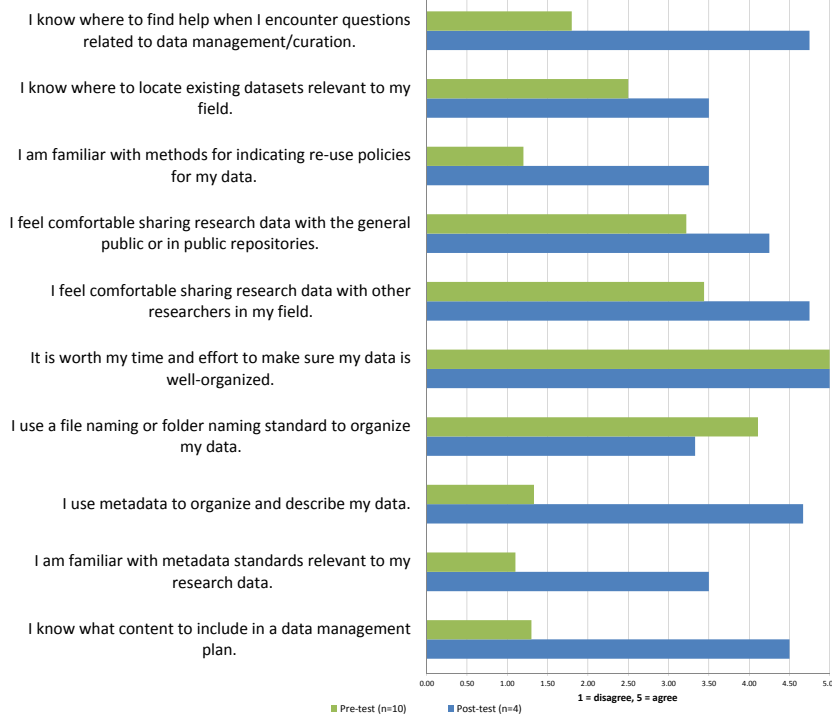
Many grant funders mandate that grantees share their findings, including research data. However, most researchers do not receive formal training in data management skills. Libraries can help fill gaps in knowledge through data literacy instruction. Since many researchers do not have time to commit to a long course, this study examined the effectiveness of one-shot data instruction.

METHODS

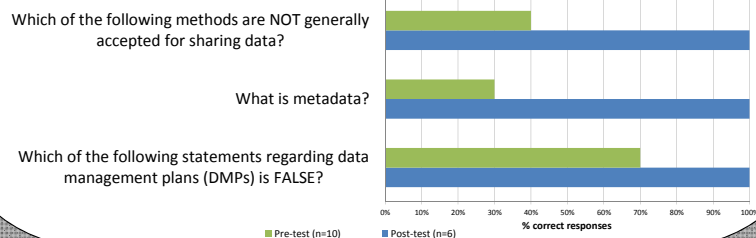
A single, one-hour course was designed and publicized to students, staff, and faculty in the sciences. Instruction focused on best practices and easy-to-use data management tools. Time was also allotted for questions. To assess effectiveness of the instruction, attendees were asked to complete a pre-course assessment, including multiple choice questions on data management knowledge and questions about data attitudes and practices ranked on a 5-point Likert scale, and an identical post-course assessment. The full survey and the class Powerpoint can be found at <http://www.lisafederer.net/mla2013.html>

ASSESSMENT SCORES

Attitudes and Practices



Knowledge



RESULTS

Of 14 attendees, 10 completed the pre-course assessment and 6 completed the post-course assessment. Scores on both knowledge and attitudes improved significantly from the pre- to the post-session assessments. Knowledge scores improved from an average of 46.6% on the pre-test to 100% on the post-test. Scores on attitudes also improved in all but one measure.

CONCLUSIONS

Though based on a small sample, initial results suggest that short, single-session data literacy instruction can be effective in teaching basic data management skills, as well as improving learners' confidence in their ability to handle data. Some attendees asked about the future availability of courses in specific data management topics, suggesting that single-session instruction may not be an entirely adequate substitute for more in-depth instruction. However, for attendees unable to commit to a longer curriculum, one-shot instruction can yield significant results.