

Matthews, Joseph R. *Library Assessment in Higher Education*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 146 pages. \$45.00 (ISBN: 978-1-59158-531-2)

A culture of assessment and accountability characterize higher education in the twenty-first century. Written by noted library consultant, Joseph R. Matthews, provides an overview of the impact that the library makes on student learning and assessment. He shares perspectives regarding several facets of learning and research productivity. In addition to a review of the institutional mission and a model of the student educational process, Matthews discusses assessments of student learning outcomes and the research environment, the library's contribution to the educational process and impact on the research environment, and the development of a library assessment plan. The discussions include taxonomies, assessment guides, types of measures, and examples.

This volume is valuable for its insight regarding the understanding of how the academic library impacts student learning, faculty research agendas, and institutional goals. Each chapter is devoted to a facet of assessment and follows a well-developed format: brief overview and definitions, description of topics that fall within the topic, major subcategories, in addition to print and online resources. The summaries and citations of studies to support or dispute physical resources, electronic resources library instruction programs, and information literacy studies provide significant data for librarians to use in assessment and strategic planning activities. The appendix includes outcome questions for practitioners.

The author brings practical experience, sample forms, and rigorous research studies designed for academic librarians responsible for supporting classroom instruction information literacy skills and support to faculty researchers. A highly recommended and useful tool!

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