




2017

Implementing A First-Year Research Assessment

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ABA Standard 314:

A law school shall utilize both formative and summative assessment methods in its curriculum to measure and improve student learning and provide meaningful feedback to students

Key Findings

- Student performance was stronger in classes with a robust librarian presence. For example, Prof. D's class received five, 75-minute classes over the semester.
- 31% of students had problems finding the appropriate statute. Most often, this was because the initial search was overly broad or showed heavy reliance on the "Google-bar" functions of the search platforms.
- Students who used both Lexis and Westlaw scored marginally higher than students who used one platform; students who exclusively used Lexis had a higher correlation of mistaking a bill for the statute.

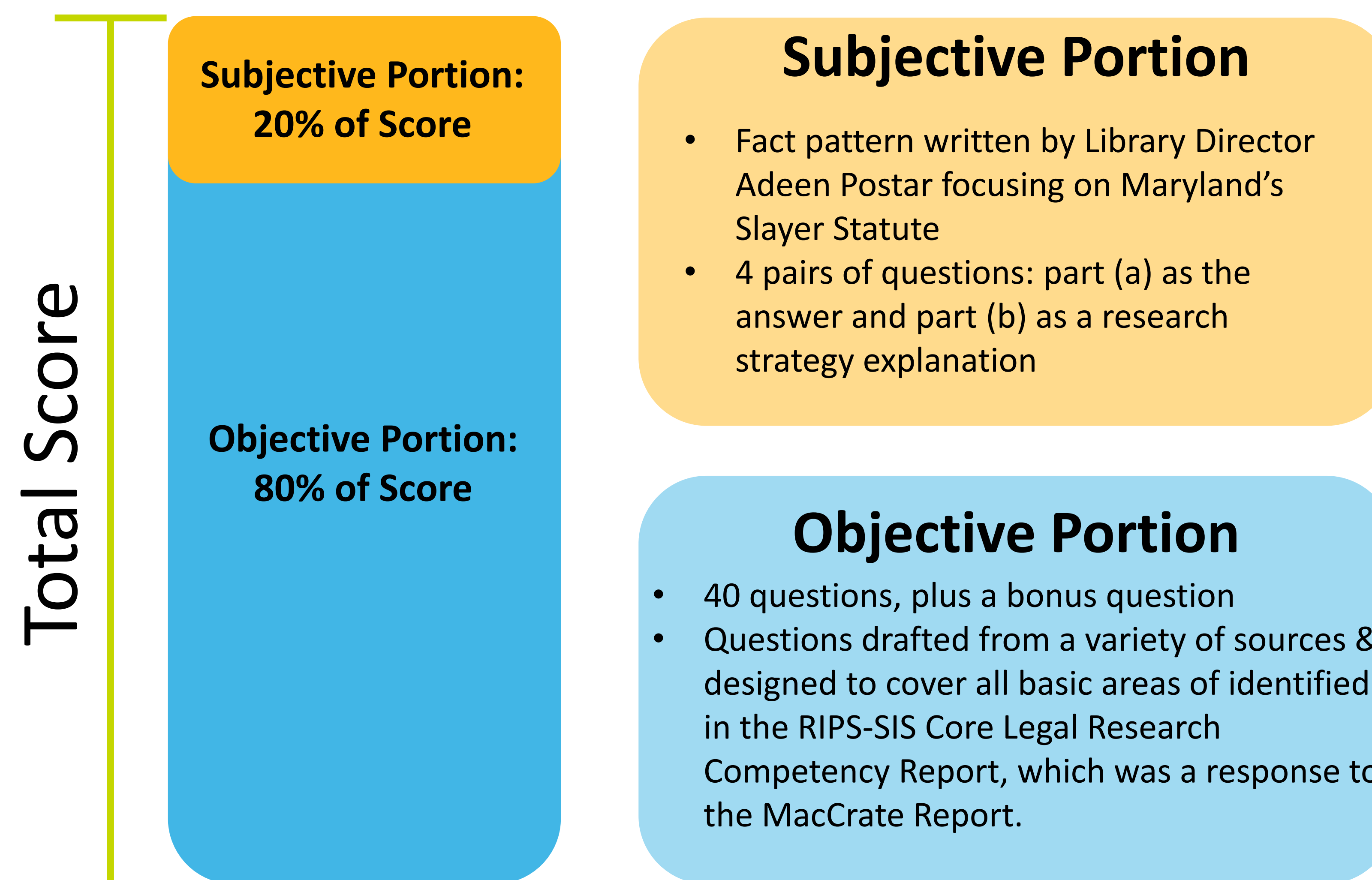
Next Steps

- For Fall 2017, librarians will go into each legal research class for a minimum of four classes.
- Classes will cover 1) case law, 2) statutes and codes, 3) secondary sources, and 4) a review session.

Want more information? A detailed report on this project is available at: scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/all_fac/1051



1. Design



2. Execution

Automated Honor Code incorporation with custom language

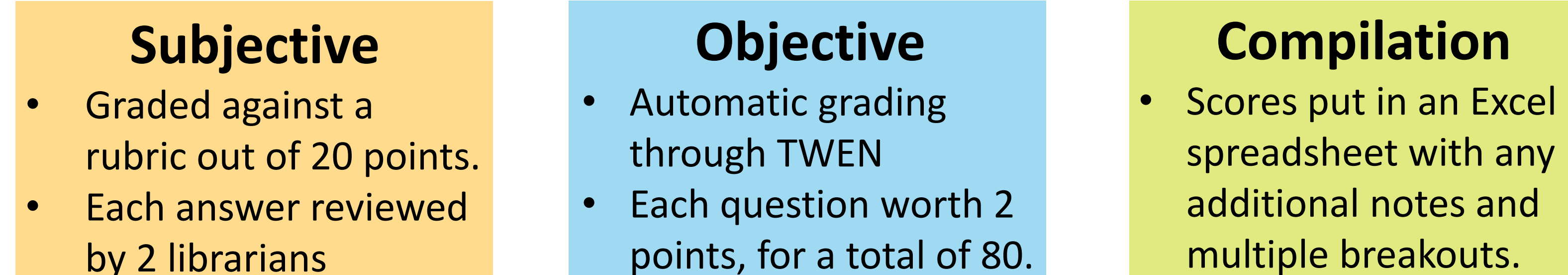
Grade Books for each session split by professor

Extensive metadata on student usage

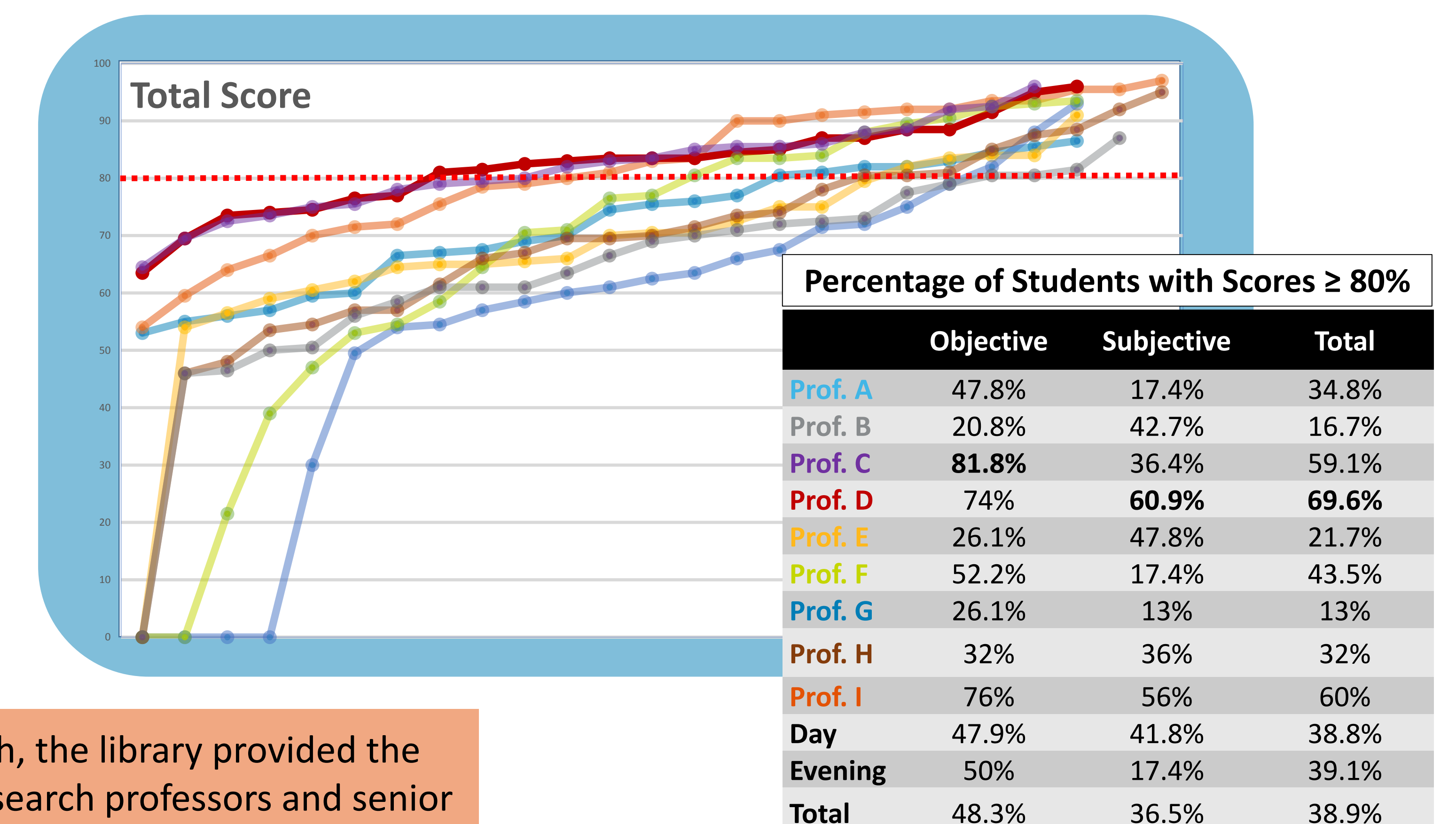
Automated grading of objective section

3. Grading

	C	E	G	H	I	J	
	Full Name	ILS Professor Name	Grade- Mult. Choice Total	Grade- Open	Total Grade		Notes
1							
41	Student A	Professor I	58	13.5	71.5	71.5	
42	Student B	Professor I	68	10.5	78.5	78.5	
43	Student C	Professor I	76	14	90	90	
44	Student D	Professor I	68	11	79	79	
45	Student E	Professor I	74	18	92	92	
46	Student F	Professor I	74	17	91	91	
47	Student G	Professor I	64	19	83	83	
48	Student H	Professor I	66	17.5	83.5	83.5	
49	Student I	Professor I	60	6.5	66.5	66.5	
50	Student J	Professor I	74	19.5	93.5	93.5	Session 1A
51	Student 1	Professor D	64	18.5	82.5	82.5	
52	Student 2	Professor D	78	17	95	95	
53	Student 3	Professor D	70	18.5	88.5	88.5	
54	Student 4	Professor D	68	19	87	87	
55	Student 5	Professor D	62	19	81	81	
56	Student 6	Professor D	64	19.5	83.5	83.5	
57	Student 7	Professor D	66	17.5	83.5	83.5	
58	Student 8	Professor D	68	16.5	84.5	84.5	



4. Reporting to Stakeholders



In March, the library provided the legal research professors and senior staff with a 55-page report on the assessment. It included charts like the one above and an in-depth qualitative discussion.

The library also created a 30 minute video review of the research assessment for students. It presented ideal answers and addressed common mistakes.