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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