# CARLI COUNTS Grant Report – Cohort One

**Institution Name**  National University of Health Sciences Library (NUHS)

**Institution Characteristics:**  private university with a FTE enrollment of 550 students, FTE library staff of 6, and 22 student library workers

**CARLI Counts Participant Name + Job Title:** Patricia Genardo, Library Director

**Project Name/Title:**  Academic Library Usage Contributes Positively to Student Academic Success

**Single Sentence Abstract:**  *We hypothesize that students who interact more with the library have better GPAs.*

**Motivation(s) for Project:**  Research has shown library usage can lead to higher achievement in GPA for the student.  The NUHS library wanted to conduct a preliminary research project to determine if this is valid.

**Partners and Stakeholders:**  Chair of IRB approved research project, Vice President of Administrative Services (supervises the library) approved library's participation in grant, library staff assisted in collecting data on library usage,  SWAN Library System staff assisted with data reports, NUHS Communications staff assisted with library online data reports,  Institutional Effectiveness supplied the GPAs for the grant participants

**Inquiry Question:**  What is the impact of library usage on student GPAs?

**Study Participants/Population:**  all students enrolled in Summer 2019 trimester, at the Lombard campus at NUHS

**Method(s) of Data Collection and Analysis:**

Students using the library and it's services were tracked for one trimester (Summer 2019).  This included online use as well as brick & mortar use of the building.  Student ID barcodes were collected for data analysis.  Reports were created that recorded library transactions daily, weekly, and monthly. Transactions tracked included:  daily checkouts, Reserve checkouts, Reserve textbook checkouts, group study room checkouts, remote web access, interlibrary loan requests and

reference requests.  The number of library interactions per student were tallied for the Summer trimester.  A list of student IDs were given to the Institutional Effectiveness Department to provide the cumulative GPA when the project was finished.

**Findings:** We collected data on 281 students using the library during the Summer 2019 trimester.  Documented library usage ranged from 1 time to 163 times by individual students.  Looked at GPAs for the students using the library.  82% of the students using the library had an average (2.5+) or honors (3.5+) GPA ranking.   18% of the students using the library had below average (less than 2.5) GPA ranking.  Can not determine if the higher GPAs are a direct use of the library.  Further research would be needed.  There was no previous library data to compare, nor were GPAs reviewed of non library users.
Looking at the high library users (50 or more library interactions)  we saw that 83% of them had GPAs at the average or honors level.

**Use of Findings:** The results of the research project will be shared with the NUHS campus, especially with Administration, Institutional Effectiveness and Research Departments.  We will look further at the data collected to determine the most used library resources /services and the underused resources /services.
Evaluate what changes can be made to address any issues ( marketing, promotion, demos, education, deleting, etc.)

**Next Steps and Other Results:**
Look at the data collected in this research project to see what more information we can find.  For example, look at the students and determine which academic program they are in.  Programs on campus include:  Chiropractic, Naturopathic, Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine, Massage Therapy, Bachelor of Science, and Prerequisite.  Analyze the numbers and see which programs are represented the most?  The least?  Create some library programming to connect with the library non users.
Consider further research projects.

**Additional Reflections:**
Start small.  Next time I would choose less data to collect.  At the beginning of the project I was concerned with setting up reports and collecting everything I could.  The data soon became overwhelming.  Find someone to help with the end of project data.  There was a lot to pull together and I changed how I wanted to layout the spreadsheet a few times.  Manually entering data was time consuming.
This was a great experience and I am looking forward to doing more research in the library.

**Timeline:**        Dec 2018  CARLI Counts Grant acceptance
                Feb. -  Grant in person session #1 in Champaign
                May- write & rewrite IRP application
                May – start research project, collect data, create reports
                July -  Grant in person session #2 in Champaign
                August – end of data collecting, end of project
                Sept. – Nov. – organize data, merge daily and weekly reports into monthly
                    reports,  create 4 month reports (May –August)  Start manually entering
                    data in single spreadsheet.
                Nov.  Poster presentation at CARLI Annual meeting
                Dec. - continue to work on spreadsheet, change layout / design
                Jan. – get GPA for participants from Institutional Effectiveness Department.
                    Work on Final Grant Report.

**Bibliography/Works Cited:**    *Recommended Readings:*
                Gaha, U., Hinnefeld, S. and Pellegrino, C. (2018). The Academic
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                Scoulas, Jung Mi, and Sandra L. De Groote. "The Library's Impact
        on University Students' Academic Success and Learning". Evidence Based
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        https://doi.org/10.18438/eblip29547.
                Scott, Rachel E. "Evidence Summary: Academic Library Use Is
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        the Difference". The Journal of Academic Librarianship, vol. 30, no. 3,
        2004, pp. 193-198. Elsevier: Science Direct,
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                Soria, Krista M. et al. "Beyond Books: The Extended Academic
        Benefits of Library Use For First-Year College Students". College &
        Research Libraries, 2017, https://doi.org/10.5860/crl.78.1.8.

**Appendices:**  N/A