

# Information Literacy Comps Support by the Numbers

Librarians provide student-initiated comps support in the form of individual and group appointments, and we also provide comps support initiated by departments or by the library in the form of instruction sessions and guides. What follows are descriptions of how departments and students make use of these options.

Project-specific work with librarians is a key component of the library's support of comps. This can take the form of individual or group appointments as well as substantive asynchronous communication. Averaged over this four year period, the librarians provide 257 appointments per year. The five departments that generate the most appointments account for 72% of all comps appointments. Looking at the average number of appointments by division, we see that the Natural Sciences and Social Sciences together generate two thirds of all comps appointments.

## *Average Annual Numbers of Appointments by Division, 2007-08 through 2010-11*

	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent of All Appts.</i>
Arts & Literature	29	11%
Humanities	48	19%
Interdisciplinary	10	4%
Natural Sciences	71	28%
Social Sciences	97	38%
Unknown	2	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>257</b>	

Numbers of appointments are a limited metric, especially below the division level since departments vary widely in size. To get a better sense of which departments make the most consistent use of appointments, we can look at ratios of appointments to total number of comps projects (group and individual) completed. You will notice that some departments have students coming to see librarians more than once. Keep in mind that there is no easy way for us to remove duplicate students from our data, so it is not possible for us to calculate a percentage of how many comps projects involved librarian appointments.

## *2010-2011 Appointments per Comps project*

	<i>Appts. per Project</i>	<i>Comps Projects Completed</i>
Asian Studies	3.5	2
American Studies	2.8	5
Economics	1.59	27
Sociology/Anthropology	1.29	17
History	1.23	30
African/African American Studies	1	1
Religion	1	12
Latin American Studies	1	2
ENTS	0.5	6
Japanese	0.5	4
Biology*	0.49	51
Political Science	0.49	59
Chemistry	0.44	9

*\* In 2009-2010 Biology would have had a value of 1.02 appointments per comps project.*

Since any comps student may make an appointment with an appropriate librarian, it is useful to think about points of contact initiated by departments or the library. "Points of Contact" in the tables below therefore include research guides, sessions taught as part of methods courses, junior colloquia, senior seminars, and comps-specific research sessions that are built into a department's formal comps preparation process. (We are not currently involved in any comps support via Moodle.) Thirteen of the 38 departments with comps have only a research guide as their point of contact with a librarian. However, seventeen have three or more formal points of contact. At least one department from each of the five divisions has five or more points of contact with librarians in the comps process.

***Current Average Points of Contact by Division***

	<i>Points of Contact</i>
Arts & Literature	2.2
Humanities	3.8
Interdisciplinary	1.7
Natural Sciences	2.3
Social Sciences	5.1

Quite a bit of formative coursework happens in 100- and 200-level courses. Some departments, like CAMS, do most of their library-related instruction during these courses so that students know their librarian and the collection by the time they get to comps. In most departments that do formalized information literacy instruction, though, there are specific junior- and senior-level courses that prepare students to complete comps work. When we look at where each department has integrated information literacy instruction, we see that most have opted to include it in junior level courses if they have formalized instruction at all. Note that there are several departments that integrate information literacy instruction into multiple course years.

***When Information Literacy Comps Instruction Happens by Division***

	<i>Junior Level</i>	<i>Senior Level</i>	<i>Comps Specific</i>	<i>No Comps-Prep Sessions</i>
Arts & Literature (11)	4	2	1	7
Humanities (4)	2	2	0	1
Interdisciplinary (9)	2	2	0	6
Natural Sciences (9)	1	1	4	4
Social Sciences (6)	6	5	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>