#### **Project Outcome for Academic Libraries: Data for Impact & Improvement**







A division of the American Library Association

#### Have you signed up? Visit <u>http://acrl.projectoutcome.org</u>

**Registration problems?** Email acrl@projectoutcome.org

# Had you heard of Project Outcome before today?



http://acrl.projectoutcome.org

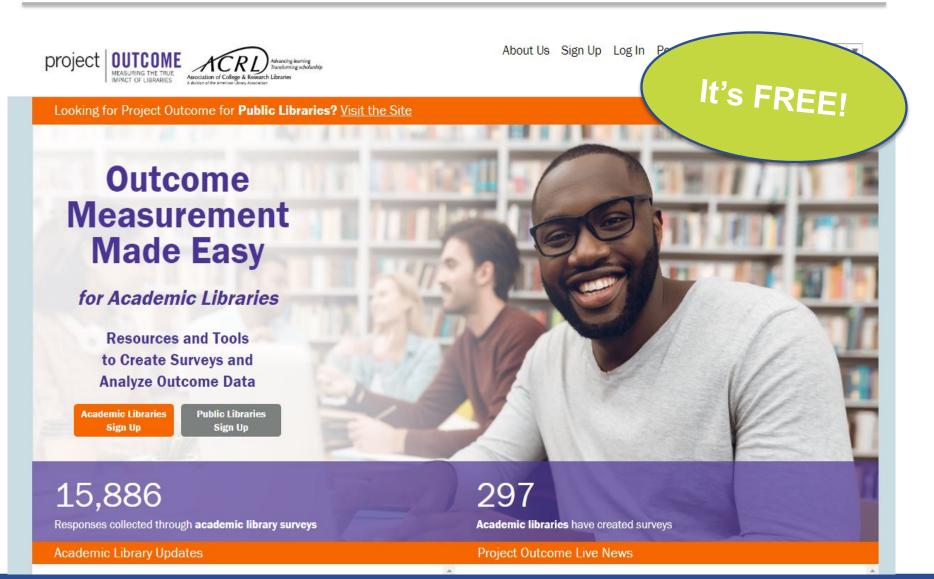
# **Outcomes for Today**

- Find out how Project Outcome can help you measure meaningful learning outcomes in academic libraries.
- Learn about using the Project Outcome for Academic Libraries toolkit, from administering surveys to visualizing results.
- Get tips on how to put your data to work in improving library services and advocacy.

# Today's Agenda

- Measuring Impact
- Outcome Measures for Academic Libraries
- Project Outcome Toolkit
- Outcome Measurement Process
- From the Field: Case Studies
- Taking Action Using Results
- Q&A

#### What is Project Outcome for Academic Libraries?







# **Measuring Impact**

Impact requires more than

- Intuition
- Gate counts or usage metrics
- Web traffic analytics
- Anecdotes

Libraries need more data and evidence to show their impact

The challenge is measuring impact when

- Library and institution needs differ
- Staff are busy
- Resources are limited
- Lack of understanding of what and why to measure



### What is an outcome?

An outcome is a *specific benefit* from a library program / service that an be *quantitative* or *qualitative*, and is expressed as *changes an individual perceives* in themselves.

It answers the question: what good did we do?

Or, in other words: how have learners been changed as a result of our interactions?

An outcome should be *meaningful*, *achievable*, *observable*, and *actionable*.



# **Measuring Impact**



# **Taking Action**

#### GRANT WORK

A library staff member explained, "[Caregivers shared] how beneficial the program was, how they're doing projects they wouldn't have thought of to do at home..., using supplies that they don't have at home... So, having that information, I could write a grant that shows **this is what the community wants, and we want to provide it.** And then, I also use the survey [results] to report during the grant period, talking about what the patrons liked most about the service, or programs...and what else they'd like to see the library doing."

#### **PROGRAMMING DECISIONS**

One library program manager explained, "Some of these workshops...were well-attended, but the feedback was such that we no longer offer [them]. It's a matter of making sure that **it's not just getting people in the door, but that people feel like it's worth their time,** and it's something that they can use. That when they leave...they're in a position where they feel they're more comfortable with whatever the topic was."

#### PARTNERSHIPS

A library partner said Project Outcome surveys tell her **"a lot about what the community needs, what each person's needs are,** what else we could bring in, as far as technology is concerned, which is important as technology is changing pretty much every day now."

#### ADVOCACY

One library board member shared, **"The [outcome] data provides an objective story,** backing up much more engaging stories from staff about serving the community with objective numbers... [and] includes things the board may not think to ask for. This adds dimensions to how the board considers the library's success in serving the community."

#### FUNDING REQUESTS

As explained by a library leader, **"It was information from Project Outcome that gave us the confidence to ask** the Friends [to fund the program], and to justify asking for that money."





# What's a *goal* at your library that outcomes could help you move towards?



# DISCUSSION

# How is your library measuring outcomes now?



# DISCUSSION

What is a *barrier* to measuring outcomes at your library?





# Why Project Outcome?

- Libraries know assessment matters
- We know that learning outcomes are important
- We need to be able to better tell our library's story
- We need a consistent and convenient way to measure
- Why reinvent the wheel at every institution?

### **Project Outcome Toolkit**

- Quick and simple surveys
- Easy-to-use survey management portal
- Ready-made and customizable data reports
- Interactive data dashboards
- Resources and training
- Peer discussion board



It's FREE!

#### **Survey Topic Areas**





**EVENTS/PROGRAMS** 



**TEACHING SUPPORT** 



**DIGITAL & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS** 



**LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY** 



**SPACE** 

#### **Outcome Measures**



# **Example: Instruction Survey**

- 1. I **learned** something new that will help me succeed in my classes.
- 2. I feel more **confident** about completing my assignment(s).
- 3. I intend to apply what I just learned.
- 4. I am more **aware** of the library's resources and services.
- 5. What did you like most about this session?
- 6. What *else* could the library do to help you succeed in your classes?



# **DATA NEEDED**

- 1. What do you *need to know* about your patrons' learning outcomes to achieve your goals?
- 2. How can you collect that information?





#### Project Outcome for Academic Libraries Website

project OUTCOME MEASURING THE TRUE IMPACT OF LIBRARIES Autocidation of College & Research Libraries Autocidation of College & Research Libraries About Us Sign Up Log In Peer Discussion

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Looking for Project Outcome for Public Libraries? Visit the Site

#### Outcome Measurement Made Easy

for Academic Libraries

Resources and Tools to Create Surveys and Analyze Outcome Data

Academic Libraries Sign Up Public Libraries Sign Up



15,886

Responses collected through academic library surveys

Academic Library Updates

297

.

Academic libraries have created surveys

Project Outcome Live News

#### Who Has Access?

Free full access	Free limited access	Access at a cost
Academic library users	Users who do not work in an academic or research library	Consultants
Research library users		Groups (multiple institutions in a consortium or association)
Library school students		

*Full access* = all resources, peer discussion, survey management, and data dashboards

*Limited access* = resources and peer discussion only

More info about user types: <u>https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/pages/5</u>

### **Survey Tools**

#### Immediate Surveys

- Patron-reported learning
- Use immediately after completion of a program/service

#### **Follow-up Surveys**

- Patron-reported adoption
- Use 4-8 weeks after completion of a program/service

#### Outcome Measurement Guidelines

- Long-term impact
- Use to design your own surveys and data collection methods to capture long-term impact
- Still in development

# **Immediate Surveys**

- Patron-reported learning
- 4 Likert-scale questions
- Open-ended feedback
- Immediate impact
- End of program
- Less staff time

This workshop aims to help you use library resources for your research.

Please take a few minutes for this brief survey and let us know if, as a result of participating in the Research workshop program...

1. I learned something new that will help me with my research.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
2	. I feel more confident a	about my ability t	o conduct my resea	irch.		
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
3	. I intend to apply what	I learned to my r	esearch.			
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
4	. I am more aware of th	e library's resou	rces and services.			
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A

5. What did you like most about this research service?

6. What else could the library do to help you with your research?

Date:

Location: Chicago State University

Thank you! Your feedback will help improve this workshop.

# Using Immediate Survey Outcomes



- Assess the immediate impact of a program/service
- Inform changes to the program/service
- Get a "snapshot" for reporting and advocacy

# **Follow-up Surveys**

- Patron-reported adoption
- 3 yes/no questions
- Open-ended feedback
- Change of behavior
- 4-8 weeks later
- More staff time

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Please take a few minutes for this brief survey and let us know if, as a result of getting research assistance from the library...

1. I used what I learned to complete a research task or goal.

0	Yes
0	No
0	N/A

Please Explain:

2. I applied what I learned to other research tasks or goals.

Yes
 No
 N/A

Please Explain:

3. I used another library resource or service.

0	Yes
0	res

- No
- o N/A

If yes, please explain: what other resource or service did you use?

5. What did you like most about this research service?

6. What could the library do to continue to help you with your research?

Date:

Location:

Thank you! Your feedback will help improve library programs and services.

This survey is part of Project Outcome, a national initiative to help libraries measure the impact of their programs and services. For more information about this effort, please visit acrl.projectoutcome.org.

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# Using Follow-up Survey Outcomes



- Assess the impact of a program/service after some time has elapsed
- Inform internal planning
- Measure progress towards strategic goals
- Provide evidence for advocacy

# **Open-Ended Responses**

Everything is great! I enjoyed how the program was tailored Have more open to our specific assignment. Instead of hours (at night). focusing on different services the library offers, she decided to focus on our major It was really helpful writing assignment and how we can use Make their website and services when it comes to the library's services specifically to more known. Before this program, I finding the correct succeed on our current assignment. was **unaware** of a lot of the things resources and they offered, and I feel like the databases for have more same goes for many students on information. It will That I learned a new database people to help campus. The library offers so many help very much in that I can use in my studies. us individually things to help students succeed, future assignments but students aren't utilizing these and research. things because they are unaware. I liked seeing what I can use in I enjoyed how my potential interviews w/ interactive it was future employers I think that it would help if we had these meetings in more of our classes. I like how they give us resources to help us succeed and Make website make the best work possible! It's really awesome how more compatible they give us the resources and also take time to teach us Keep supplying research w/ phones how to use the resources efficiently and inform us resources for as many about what things to do and what things to stay away subjects as possible. from when using each different resource. Nothing, I always love coming in!

# **Outcome Measurement Guidelines**

Designed to help libraries:

- Develop their own outcome measures;
- Implement data collection methods other than the existing Project Outcome standardized surveys;
- Measure outcome data over time; and,
- Develop strategies for working with partners on outcome measurement projects (e.g. contributions to institution-wide initiatives).

Share additional resources that you found useful on the peer discussion board or email us (acrl@projectoutcome.org)





Admin Survey Management Data Dashboard Resources Peer Discussion

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**Survey Management** Resources Create New Survey Project Outcome 101 Published 07/28/2015 **Preview Surveys** View All Surveys Published 07/24/2015 Writing Open-Ended Survey Questions Published 04/28/2017 Data Dashboard View All Resources Report Peer Discussion **Edit Survey Post Creation** Updated 04/25/2019 **Deleting surveys** J Updated 04/18/2019 Welcome to Project Outcome Updated 03/18/2019 View All Discussions **Events** View Data Dashboard

> Webinar on April 30 Apr 30, 2019 | Online





#### RESOURCES

Project Outcome provides resources to help libraries throughout the outcome

measurement process.

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Search Project Outcome Resources

#### **Featured Resources**

#### Project Outcome 101

What to know about Project Outcome

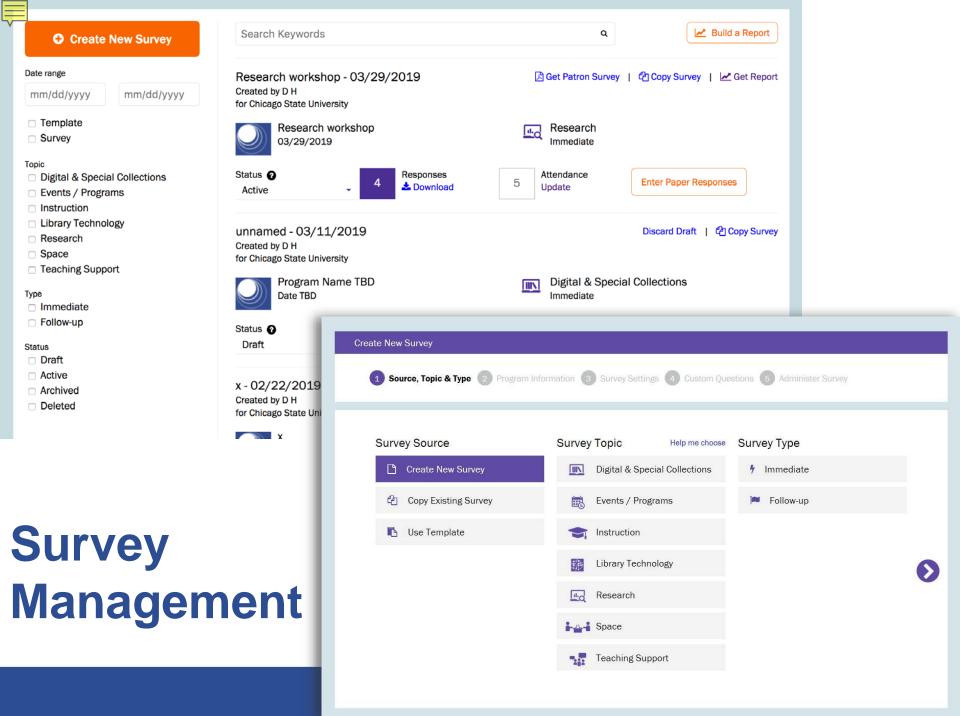
#### **Preview Surveys**

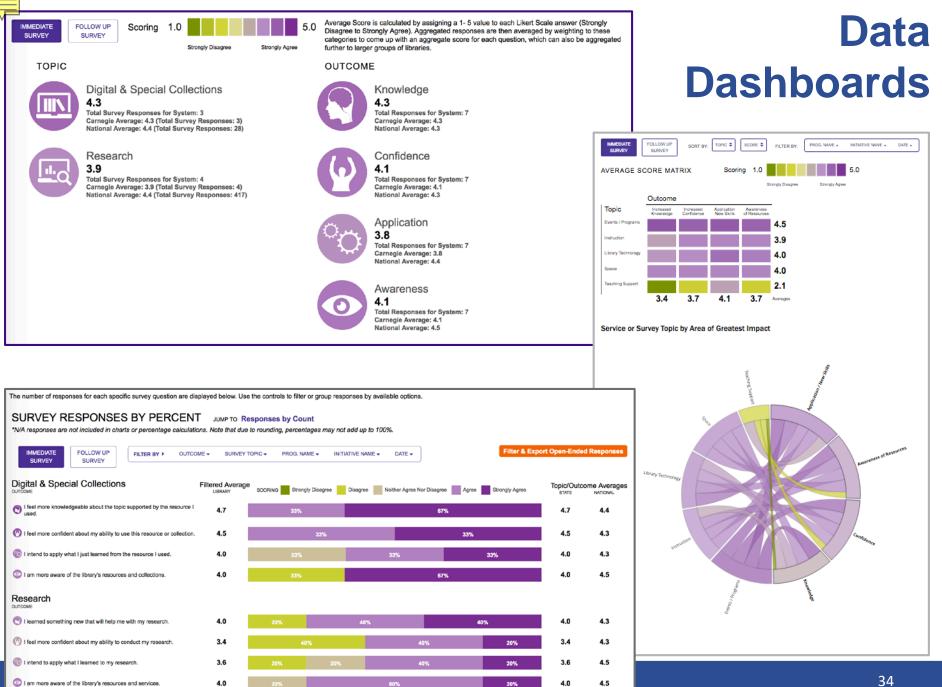
Preview the standardized Project Outcome for Academic Libraries surveys

#### Writing Open-Ended Survey Questions

Tips for writing your own open-ended survey questions

Getting Started	Surveys	Data Collection
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Analyzing Quantitative Data	Advocacy Tips	Meet the Task Force
Framing Survey Results	Advocacy Resources	Feedback Form
		Workshops





EVIEW YOUR REPORT cted criteria: s, Research, Immediate, Research workshop, Research workshop - 03/29/2019, 9/2019	after 3 01/02 🔊
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### **Benefits of Project Outcome**

- ✓ Short & simple surveys = higher response rates
- ✓ Capture snapshot data and make immediate improvements
- ✓ Open-ended comments are a goldmine
- ✓ Standardized outcome measures
- ✓ Aggregate, national benchmarks
- Ready-made reports and data visualizations do the heavy lifting for you
- Work at your own pace: pick & choose surveys based on program, capacity, and learning objectives
- Customize: add context and custom questions to surveys, and create reports that highlight the information you need

# **QUESTIONS** about the functionality of the toolkit?







## DISCUSSION

- Which survey would you use to measure a program / service at your library using Project Outcome?
- 2. Who (staff) needs to be on board?









### Project Outcome Roadmap





**Register:** Create your Project Outcome account at acrl.projectoutcome.org

**Onboard Staff:** Have conversations with staff about importance of outcomes



**Review Resources:** Review "getting started" resources

**Choose Survey:** Choose survey topic and type based on community needs and library goals

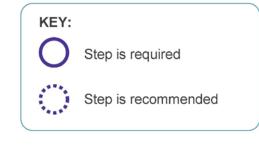


Enter Responses: Enter survey responses, include location if applicable

 Add Attendance: Enter
 program attendance to get response rates

### **Review Results**

Analyze Quantitative Data and Qualitative Results: Use survey reports and dashboards to understand your results



### **Create Survey**



**Create Survey:** Select survey topic and type, enter program name and date, choose location, confirm survey name

**Customize Survey:** Add library logo, internal notes, custom intro and/or footer message

### Administer Survey

**Distribute and Collect Surveys:** Print out surveys and access survey links; ask patrons to complete surveys after program is complete

Talk to Patrons: Explain to patrons the importance of outcomes and honest feedback

**Reduce Bias:** Have an anonymous drop-box or ask a volunteer to collect surveys

### **Take Action**

**Plan Advocacy:** Tailor advocacy messaging to your audience

Share Results: Share results with internal and external audiences

## **Outcome Measurement Process**





### RESOURCES

Project Outcome provides resources to help libraries throughout the outcome

measurement process.

Q

Search Project Outcome Resources

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#### **Preview Surveys**

Preview the standardized Project Outcome for Academic Libraries surveys

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### Space Survey

In the field-testing process, participating institutions used the space survey to assess **group study rooms**, among other things.

Case studies:

- Iowa State University Library
- Nevada State College
- Central Piedmont Community College



SPACE

## Iowa State University Libraries

Aspires to be the most welcoming land grant university library

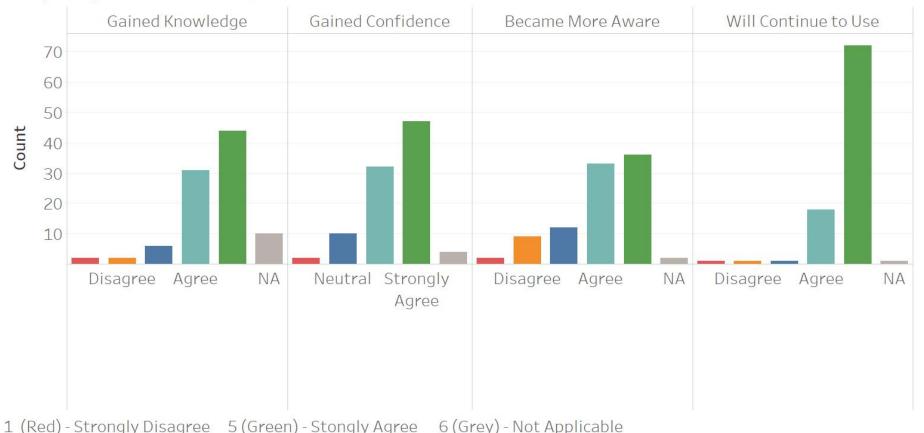
### Space

- Eight group study rooms (reserve-able)
- 2,300 seats (16:1 ratio)
- Open 112 hours/week
- Open 24X7 Dead and Finals week



## Iowa State University Library Results

### Survey results (130 responses): Study Rooms



Group Study Room Outcomes Fall 2018

## Nevada State College

### Space

- This space contributed to my ability to learn something new. (*M* = 4.45)
- Using this space makes me feel more confident about my ability to achieve my goals. (*M* = 4.73)
- I am likely to use this space again in the future.
   (M = 4.95)
- After using this space, I am more aware of library resources and services (*M* = 4.23)





## **Central Piedmont Community College**

Large, urban, multi-campus institution located in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, NC

- CPCC Libraries
  - 7 libraries on 6 campuses
  - 32 full-time staff and 14 parttime staff
- Enrollment: 18,885
  - o Male: 44.8%
  - o Female: 55.2%
  - o African-American: 31.5%
  - o Hispanic: 13.2%
  - o Asian/Pacific Islander: 6.6%
  - o White: 43.7%

### Space survey results

- Led to changes in group study room policies
- Informed process of designing a new library

### Future use

- Comparisons / benchmarking
- Trends
- Continuous improvement and advocacy
- Telling the story of what the library does and what it means to students

## Library Technology Survey



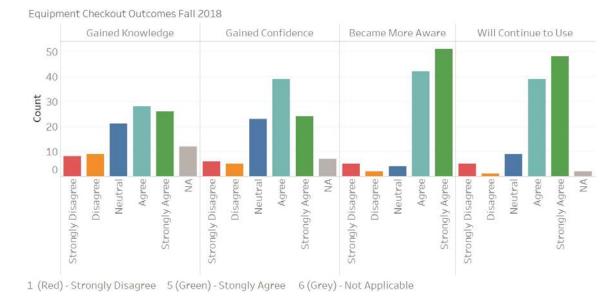
Field-testers used the library technology survey to assess use of **equipment checkouts** and **shared technology in the library**.

LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY

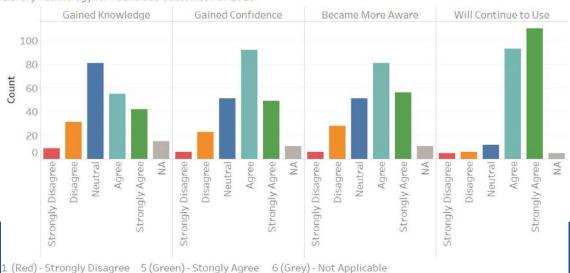
## Iowa State University

Equipment checkout results (top): 64 responses

Shared technology (bottom): 264 responses

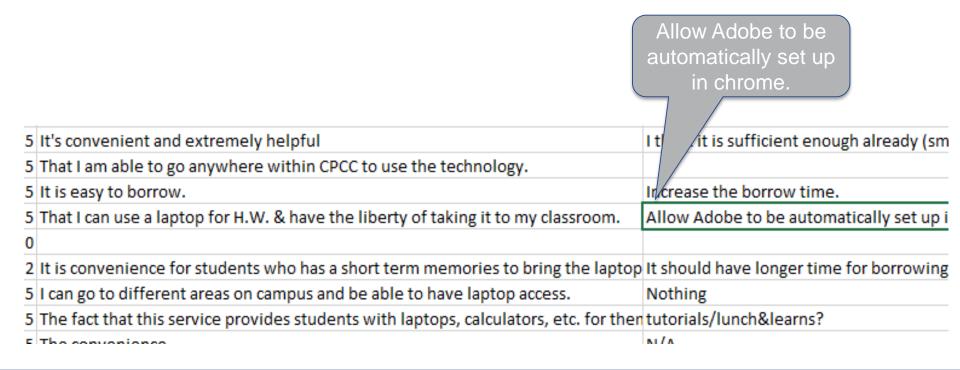


#### Library Technology for Public Use Outcomes Fall 2018



## **Central Piedmont Community College**

Only 30 responses, but enabled **evidence-informed decision making** in changes to circulating laptops











## WHAT'S NEXT?

What's your plan of action at your library?

What's the first thing you need to do to get your ducks in a row?





## **QUESTIONS?**

Further questions after today?

Use the peer discussion board (<u>http://acrlcommunity.projectoutcome.org</u>)

or email us (<u>acrl@projectoutcome.org</u>)



### Keep in touch...

- Watch the **resources** page, as more will be added
- Keep up with news and events including upcoming workshops and webinars – on the website: <u>https://acrl.projectoutcome.org/news\_posts</u>
- If you are a registered user, you'll get occasional email updates (opt-out available)
- Follow Project Outcome on Facebook and Twitter (@ProjectOutcome)

### 

### **Thank you!**





Advancing learning Transforming scholarship

Association of College & Research Libraries A division of the American Library Association