

## Post-Visit Surveys for In-Person and Virtual Classes

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### Abstract:

I work at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library (which holds the university's archives and many state history collections). I and my former supervisor, Cinda Nofziger, distributed brief anonymous surveys to students at the end of class visits (in-person and virtual) from 2018 to 2021. While intended to give us information on the effectiveness of our own instruction, comparing the responses over time has been informative in ways that may influence future instruction choices.

The survey questions measured students' understanding and perceived understanding, and map to learning objectives based on the SAA/RBMS Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy and Peter Carini's "Information Literacy for Archives and Special Collections: Defining Outcomes," *Libraries and the Academy* 16, no. 1.

The format of the surveys shifted from paper questionnaires distributed in-person in 2018 and 2019 to an online form created in Qualtrics in 2020 and 2021, as we moved from in-person to virtual and hybrid instruction. 2020-21 responses indicated that students were relatively satisfied with online instruction, and appreciated that it was easier follow along with demos of online search tools on their own computers, though they may have had trouble with some other concepts.

Across semesters and instruction modes, students' "lingering questions" - the things they indicated they did not understand after class - often indicated not a failure to meet the learning objectives we set, but a tendency to think ahead to the next questions we wanted them to ask as part of their research process.

### About the author:

*Sarah McLusky* is Lead Archivist for Reference at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library, where she is also a member of the library's Academic Programs team. She was previously a Project Archivist at the Bentley, where she has worked since 2018. She enjoys working with individual researchers and U-M classes, as well as finding ways to evaluate and better support their experiences at the library. Before coming to the Bentley, she served as outreach and instruction librarian for East Carolina University's special collections library. She holds a Master of Science in Information from the University of Michigan and a BA in History from Oberlin College.