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### Transformational Instruction Building an Inclusive Learning Community for Asian Students

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# Transformational Instruction

## Building an Inclusive Learning Community for Asian Students

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### Introduction

According to the Open Doors 2014/15 Report, the number of international students in the United States increased 10% to a record high of 974,926 students, with the largest percentage of them coming from Asia.

This presentation shares results of a research study focused on providing pedagogical insights to instruction librarians and faculty members working with international Asian students. The data sources were a demographic survey for the Asian students, two semi-structured interviews conducted for the Asian students and the instructors who teach classes with Asian students and a First-Year-Experience (FYS) class as a focus group to explore effective teaching methodologies and strategies for these students. The data reviewed areas like their positive and negative classroom practices; perceptions of the way American faculty and students perceived Asian international students; Asian students' perceptions of American students and faculty; their current and past academic and library experiences; and their social-cultural experiences on campus. The presentation is to cover how social, cultural, language, and academic differences contributes to academic struggles for Asian students; how instructor can design a culturally sensitive classroom; and how collaboration between the academic and service departments can help to improve Asian students' academic and social experiences on campus.

### Research Findings



### Research Methods

Survey	To assess Asian students' language, academic, and social-cultural adjustments including their information literacy skills
Asian Student Focus Group	To identify associated learning needs and explore effective teaching strategies for working with international Asian students
Faculty Focus Group	To draw out issues they may not have previously considered and identify opportunities for collaboration between the library and institutional entities that provides services to those groups
FYS Pilot Class	To identify effective ways to integrate information literacy and instruction services into pre-existing academic programs and services

### Teaching Strategies



#### Collaborative Learning

- On-going Feedback
- Smaller Groups
- Peer Pair up
- Multidimensional Sharing



#### Culturally Aware

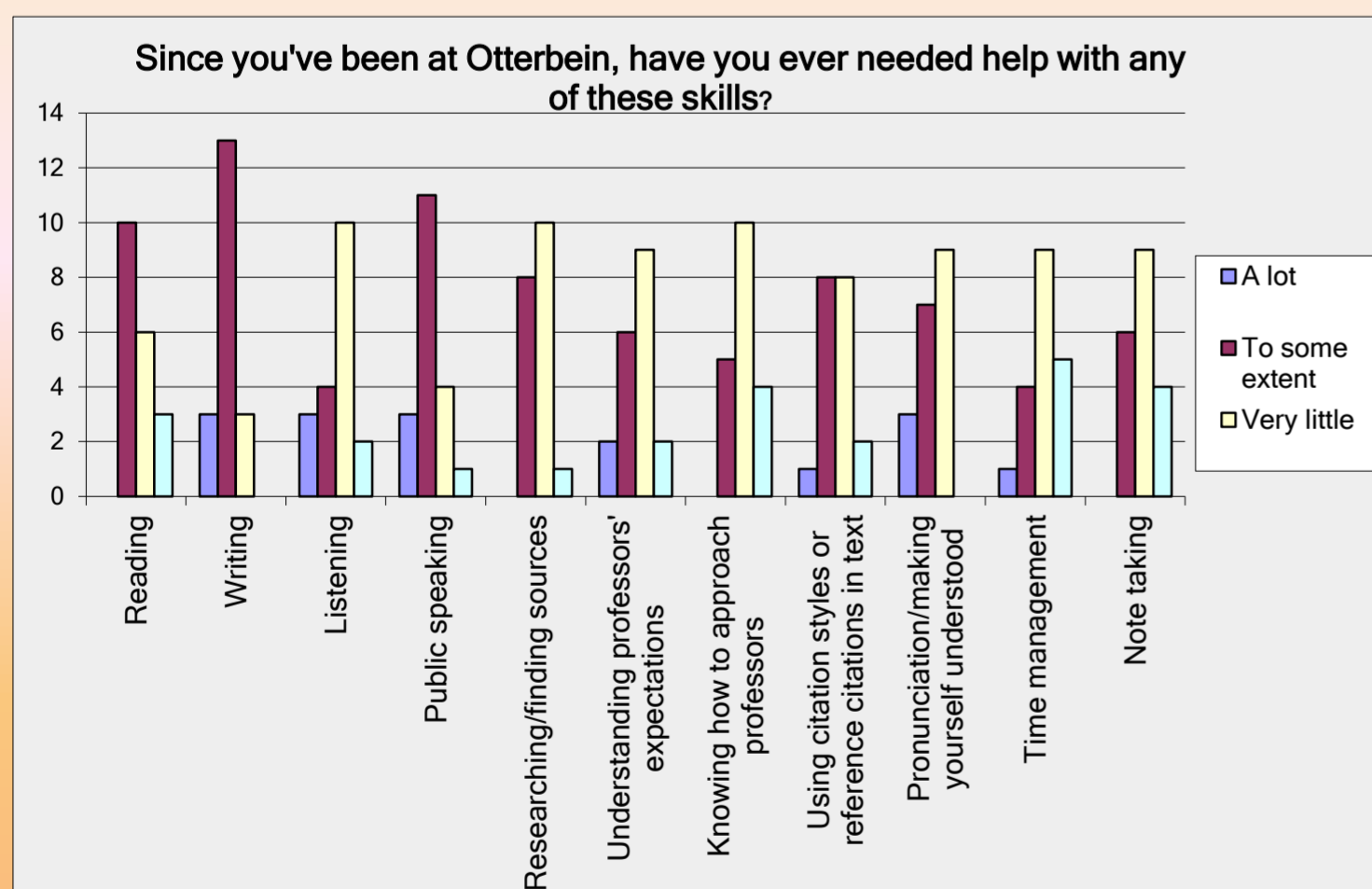
- Embed Values
- Multiple Methods of Delivery
- Advertise Resources
- Repeat, or Rephrase, Limit jargon & idioms
- Relevant Learning Models



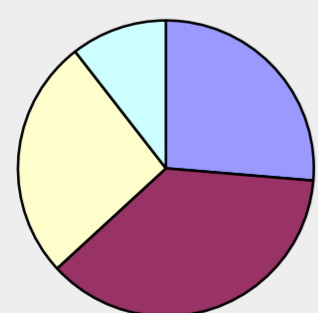
#### Empower Learning

- Build on Strength
- Define Expectations
- Contextualized, Authentic Assessment
- Share Personal Knowledge
- Simulations & Case study Model

### Research Results

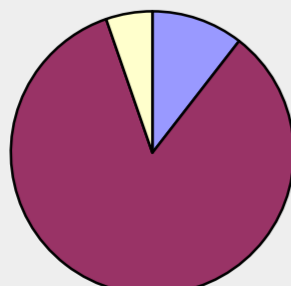


Are there any information retrieval classes or classes that teach how to use library resources offered at your university in your home country?



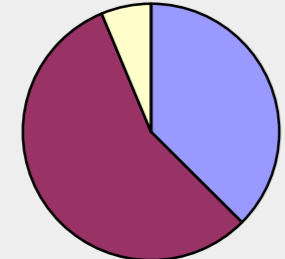
- Yes, I heard of it, and attend
- Yes, I heard of it, but never attend
- No, I never heard about it.
- No, there is not any.

At your previous university library, which article databases (if any, like EBSCOHost, H. W. Wilson, etc.) were available for you to use for research?



- None.
- I don't know
- Yes. Please list a few:

How can the library improve services for you? (Please check all that apply)



- More orientation to the library
- More personal help, explain in details

### Transformational Learning Support



#### Report to Administration

- Research Findings
- Teaching and Learning Issues
- Cultural Adjustments and Student Life Issues
- Financial and Policy Issues
- Communication and Organizational Issues

#### Faculty Training & Reports

- Faculty Common Hours
- Faculty Fall Conferences
- Faculty Diversity Teaching Workshop Series
- LibGuides On Inclusive Teaching & ESL Learners

#### Administrative Support Units Collaboration

- Conversation table from Academic Support
- Collaborative New International Students' Orientation
- Policies change based on the Issues Found

### References

- Wlodowski, R. J., & Ginsberg, M. b. (1995,2009). *Diversity & Motivation: Culturally Responsive Teaching*.
- Gay, G. (2000). *Culturally Responsive Teaching : Theory, Research, and Practice* (Multicultural Education Series, No. 8). New York: Teachers College Press.