Goals of the workshop
1. Using Griswold Library’s homepage, select and access a periodical database appropriate to your research needs
2. Using a periodical database, differentiate between keyword, subject, and advanced searches and execute appropriate searches
3. Using search results from a periodical database, modify search query to produce a different set of results
4. Using search results from a periodical database, retrieve articles by viewing, printing, downloading, or e-mailing articles

Assessment method
Students were asked to find 3 articles (1 journal article, 1 newspaper article, and 1 magazine article) on the topic of the effect of immigration on community politics and to e-mail the articles to the workshop instructor using the “My Research” feature of the Proquest database. In the results discussed below this task is divided into 3 different parts:
1. Find 3 articles
2. Identify articles from specific types of publication sources
3. Find articles relevant to the topic
Together these components demonstrate different database searching skills and relate to specific goals of the workshop.

Assessment participation
Approximately 124 students from 7 Voices of Community classes attended the database instruction workshop and were assigned the task of finding 3 articles. Of the 124 students in attendance, 92 completed the task for a participation rate of 74%.

Factors that could have influenced participation rate:
- Some students may have not had enough time to complete the exercise. Time for this activity varied from 5-10 minutes depending on the class.
- Some students may have completed the task, but misspelled the e-mail address to submit the assignment. In this case, the assignment would not have been delivered to the instructor of the workshop and not able to be included in the assessment.
Assessment Results

Part 1: Find 3 articles
76 out of 92 students (83%) retrieved 3 documents from the database
11 out of 92 (12%) students retrieved 2 documents from the database
5 out of 92 (5%) students retrieved 1 document from the database

What does this indicate:
92 out of 92 (100%) of students were able to complete this task and retrieve articles from a database on a specific topic. A large majority of students (83%) were able to complete this task as assigned. 17% of the students partially completed this task by delivering fewer articles than requested. This task demonstrates students’ ability to access, search, and retrieve articles from a database and meets workshop goals 1, 2, and 4.

Part 2: Identify articles from different types of publication sources:
58 out of 92 (63%) students retrieved articles from 3 different types of publications
15 out of 92 (16%) students retrieved articles from 2 different types of publications
18 out of 92 (20%) students retrieved articles from 1 type of publication
1 out of 92 (1%) students retrieved articles from publications others than those specified

What does this indicate:
The majority of students (63%) were able to retrieve 3 articles from 3 different types of publications demonstrating an ability to find articles from a specific type of publication. 36% of students were able to partially complete this task by submitting 1 or 2 articles. 1% of students were not able to retrieve articles by publication type as requested. This task demonstrates student’s ability to modify a search query and meets workshop goal 3.

Part 3: Find articles relevant to the assigned topic
66 of 92 (72%) students delivered 3 articles on the assigned topic
10 of 92 (11%) students delivered 2 articles on the assigned topic
13 of 92 (14%) students delivered 1 article on the assigned topic
3 of 92 (3%) students delivered 0 articles on the assigned topic

What does this indicate:
The majority of students (72%) were successful in finding multiple articles that matched their information need. 25% of students were able to identify a smaller number of relevant articles (1 or 2) and 3% of students were not able to identify any relevant articles. This task demonstrates the ability to use appropriate search terms and search methods as well as the ability to identify relevant information and meets workshop goals 1, 2, and 4.
Conclusions
Students demonstrated a high level of success searching and retrieving articles from a database. All students participating in this activity were able to submit at least 1 article from a database for this exercise, demonstrating a basic understanding of database searching. The majority of students exhibited skills beyond basic searching by retrieving multiple articles on a specific topic from different publication sources, a task that requires the ability to select appropriate search terms and search methods, the ability to modify a search query, and the ability to identify articles pertinent to a particular question. Though most students were able to modify a search and identify articles by publication type, this task proved to be the most challenging for participants.