

## Final Report - MATH 103 FIG - Fall 2013

<b>Group Members:</b>	Sarah Frye, Dave Patterson, John Erdmann, Laurie Ordin
<b>Inquiry Question:</b>	Does access to course textbooks impact student success in MATH 103?
<b>Brief description of inquiry method:</b>	<p>John Erdmann, Dave Patterson, and Sarah Frye collaborated with Laurie Ordin's MATH 103 courses to collect feedback regarding MATH 103 textbook affordability and accessibility via a paper survey. The survey included 9 questions and was designed to take 5-10 minutes to complete. Laurie administered the survey to her students during a class period in early November.</p> <p>Additionally, the librarians conducted 10-minute interviews with individual students to get more detailed perspective on the question.</p>
<b>Brief, bulleted description of key findings:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We asked students to indicate how they currently access the course textbook for MATH 103. (Students were asked to check all responses that apply, which accounts for the sum being 109% rather than 100%). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 46% - Bought new book</li> <li>· 27% - Bought used book</li> <li>· 19% - Bought used book online</li> <li>· 3% - Rented a book</li> <li>· 0% - Used Math Lab/Library's book</li> <li>· 14% - Other</li> </ul> </li>   <li>2. We asked about students' awareness of library's textbooks on reserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 76% - Knew the library had textbooks</li> <li>· 49% - Knew the library had their specific math book</li> <li>· 24% - Used library's textbooks on reserve for other classes</li> </ul> </li>   <li>3. We asked students to rate the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being no impact and 5 being significant impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· To what degree does the price of the textbook impact your ability to obtain a copy? <b>Average response 3.7 / 5</b></li> <li>· To what degree does access to the textbook impact your ability to be successful in this class? <b>Average response 4.2 / 5</b></li> <li>· If the Library could provide you with a free copy of an older edition of the textbook (which your professor has agreed to use) for personal use over the entire semester, what impact would you expect it to make on your success in this course? <b>Average response 4.5 / 5</b></li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>4. Additionally, we collected comments and suggestions from students regarding the textbook for MATH 103:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· “The cost is prohibitive, even used.”</li><li>· “If I did not have some good parents, I would not be able to afford [<i>sic</i>] the books.”</li><li>· “Sometimes [I use the library’s textbooks], but I can’t be in the library all day!!”</li><li>· “Assuming there haven’t been any major breakthroughs in algebra since the last edition, having a new text every couple years just fosters confusion.”</li></ul>
<p><b>Application: How will this inform your work in the upcoming semesters?</b></p>	<p>The survey results support what our team suspected, that access to course textbooks does impact student success in MATH 103. Based on this information, we will proceed with planning a pilot program in which the Library will purchase older editions of the MATH 103 text to rent to students in one section of Laurie Ordin’s MATH 103 course for the entire semester. We anticipate that we will launch the pilot program during fall 2014.</p>