The UOW Library

Cube

library resources + student use = value

University of Wollongong Library, Australia
There are many approaches to evaluating the value of libraries.

This is our story
Problem statement I:

Does a student’s academic performance improve through the use of library information resources?
Problem statement II:

Which students make little or no use of library information resources?
Libraries and other units produce lots of discrete data
but....

our systems typically don’t talk to other university systems
The challenge was to build a relational database (or cube)

• books
• ereadings
• databases
• ebooks
• student grades
How?

Book loans:
> Weekly export of flat files from LMS
> Monitor weekly ‘snap shots’
Eresources:

- Authentication logs (ezyproxy)
- Monitor use in 10 minute blocks (144 ten minute periods p/day)
- When used – database name captured

Other benefits

- logs are updated weekly
Is it perfect?

>Some limitations in correlations
>Arbitrary measures; business rules
>Many external factors affect grades, e.g. academic influence
WHAT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES WILL THE CUBE SUPPORT?

- Accountability
- Marketing
- Continuous improvement
But........

A first at UOW Library:
> for true integration of data silos
> getting answers to our problem statements
> evaluating our communication and intervention strategies
> for a new way of demonstrating the value of the Library
QUESTIONS?