Hinchliffe, Rand, and Collier (2018) conducted focus groups with librarians to develop an inventory of first-year students' information literacy misconceptions.

OBJECTIVE
To test the validity of the misconception inventory with first-year students at Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA).

ABOUT PBA
Private, Christian university located in South Florida
Full Time Enrollment in Fall 2019 was 3,118, of which 520 were first-time freshmen
A Quality Initiative Grant from Palm Beach Atlantic University was used to fund this study.

METHODS
Three focus groups conducted in October 2019
Participants were solicited via student listserv
25 total participants, 5% of all first-time freshmen

RESULTS
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE
• Contrary to the inventory, participants indicated a willingness to ask for assistance when needed.
• The library was the #1 source for assistance, followed by professors and peers.

THE INTERNET
• Our participants were divided regarding the sufficiency of the Internet for research needs.

INFORMATION LITERACY
Average 3
Confident 11
Participants believe they are information literate.

CONCLUSIONS
Participants think that:
• The library is more than a place to get books
• Accessibility is an indicator of a resource's quality

Implications:
• Misconceptions will vary by student body
• Instructors can address these misconceptions by highlighting the benefits of using the library and designing academically rigorous assignments in collaboration with librarians

RESOURCES
For more information, contact:

Michelle Keba, Reference Librarian
561-803-2230
Michelle_Keba@pba.edu

Elizabeth Fairall, Digital Services Librarian
561-803-2224
Elizabeth_Fairall@pba.edu