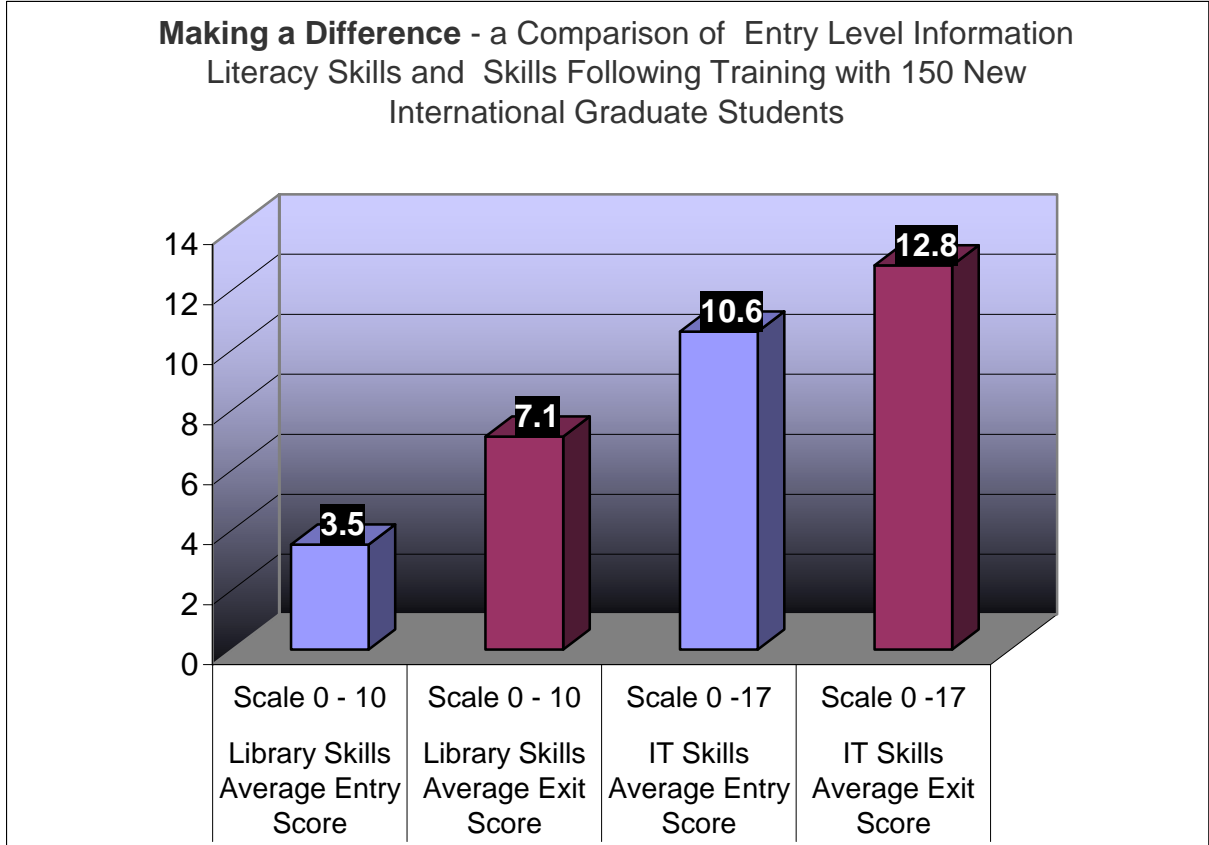


The APSEG and IAP Prep Course Program for New International Graduate Students

Since 2003 the Information Literacy Program has offered preparatory courses for students in the Australia Pacific School of Economics and Governance. These preparatory courses are offered twice a year and cater in the main for new international graduate students. In 2006 for the first time we tested students entry and exit skills. In Figure 1 you can see the impact of the training they received.

Figure 1



The Library skills audit tested students' familiarity and ability to use an online catalogue, search databases and the web. While the average score was 3.5 it is worth pointing out that 39 percent of students had scores ranging from 0 to 2. Students IT skills were tested on a very basic understanding of file management, and their ability to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The average IT skills of the students were high. However there were a number of students who had done undergraduate degrees in information technology. 30% of students had scores in the range of 1 to 9 out of 17.

How GILP used the Audit Results and will adapt the Prep Program as a result.

In January 2006 students were placed into classes according to Skill Levels. In June, we plan to extend the Skills Audit to allow students to "test out" of some training. In addition

we are planning to reduce the number sessions for students whose skills need “just of bit of improvement”.

The Exit Audit was introduced to actually test students’ skills, the questions were the same as those asked in the Entry Audit, students who passed the Exit Audit received a certificate of completion. What became apparent from the Exit Audit was that students with “reasonable” skills in either Library research (7 or above out of 10) or IT (14 or above out of 17) did not usually improve with training. This prompted us to provide a means for students’ to “test out” of training.