Increasing Writing Center Visibility: The Political Rationale

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Repository Goals:

Help demonstrate the scholarly nature of writing center work
Expand what counts as writing center research

(Rhetorical Exigency = Make our research visible!)
Why The Struggle for Visibility Persists

Prevailing service model myths

Administrative attraction to service myths

“If we define ourselves only as what we are not, we cannot be much, to ourselves or to others” (Enriquez, Haviland, Olson and Pizurie)
1) **Scholarly Presentations:** Previously unpublished conference presentations or workshops formally presented at academic conferences

2) **Theses and Dissertations:** Writing Lab research conducted by Purdue graduate students/alumni

3) **Workshops:** Brown bag series, in-lab workshops, open attendance workshops, requested or solicited workshops
Writing Center Administration as Research

Writing center administration = “localized, contextualized inquiry in which a director studies aspects of his or her own center as part of the process of shaping the writing center” (Harris 76)
Writing Center Administration as Research

‘Offering ‘research’ publications as the only evidence of writing center work does not really reconceptualize the sites for intellectual projects or force the reevaluation of nontraditional materials as evidence of intellectual work...evaluation [of intellectual work] ought to be based on written documents that writing centers routinely produce” (Marshall 76)
Administrative Research

1) Annual Reports
2) Writing Lab Histories (Written and Oral)
3) Training Materials
4) Promotional Materials
5) Data Sets
6) Technical Reports