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Research Skills Boot Camp: Equipping Law Students to Survive in the Wild

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Research Skills Boot Camp



Li Ka Shing
Library

Equipping law students to survive in the wild.

Charlotte Gill
Research Librarian, Law
Li Ka Shing Library
Singapore Management University
19th August 2013

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The Undergraduate Cool Cat



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SMU Learning Pyramid



Research Consultations

Individual/ Small Group Facilitation

Thematic Sessions

Subject or Topic Related

In-Class Sessions

Course Related

Legal Research & Writing

Library Orientation

Library Overview (Compulsory)

Library Initiated

Intro to basic legal research

The Need

Second Year Law Students on Internship face..



Unfamiliar territory





Pressure to perform



Unfamiliar territory



Possibly hostile natives...

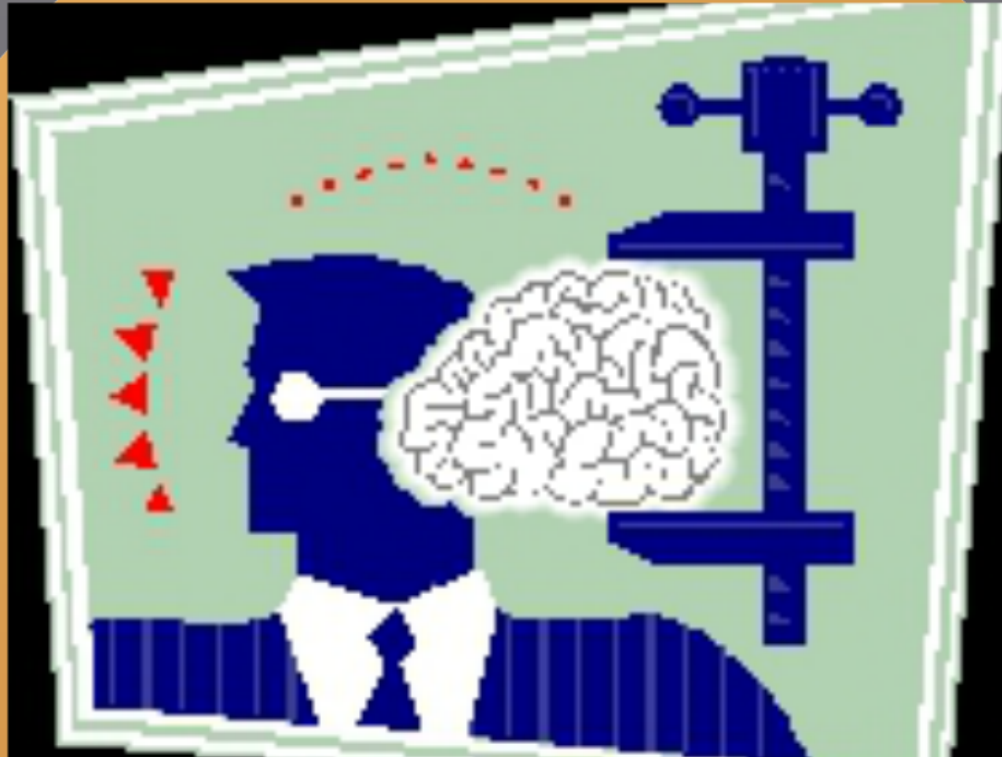


Killer deadlines

Limited resources



- No Library
- Limited access to databases
- No trusty law librarian



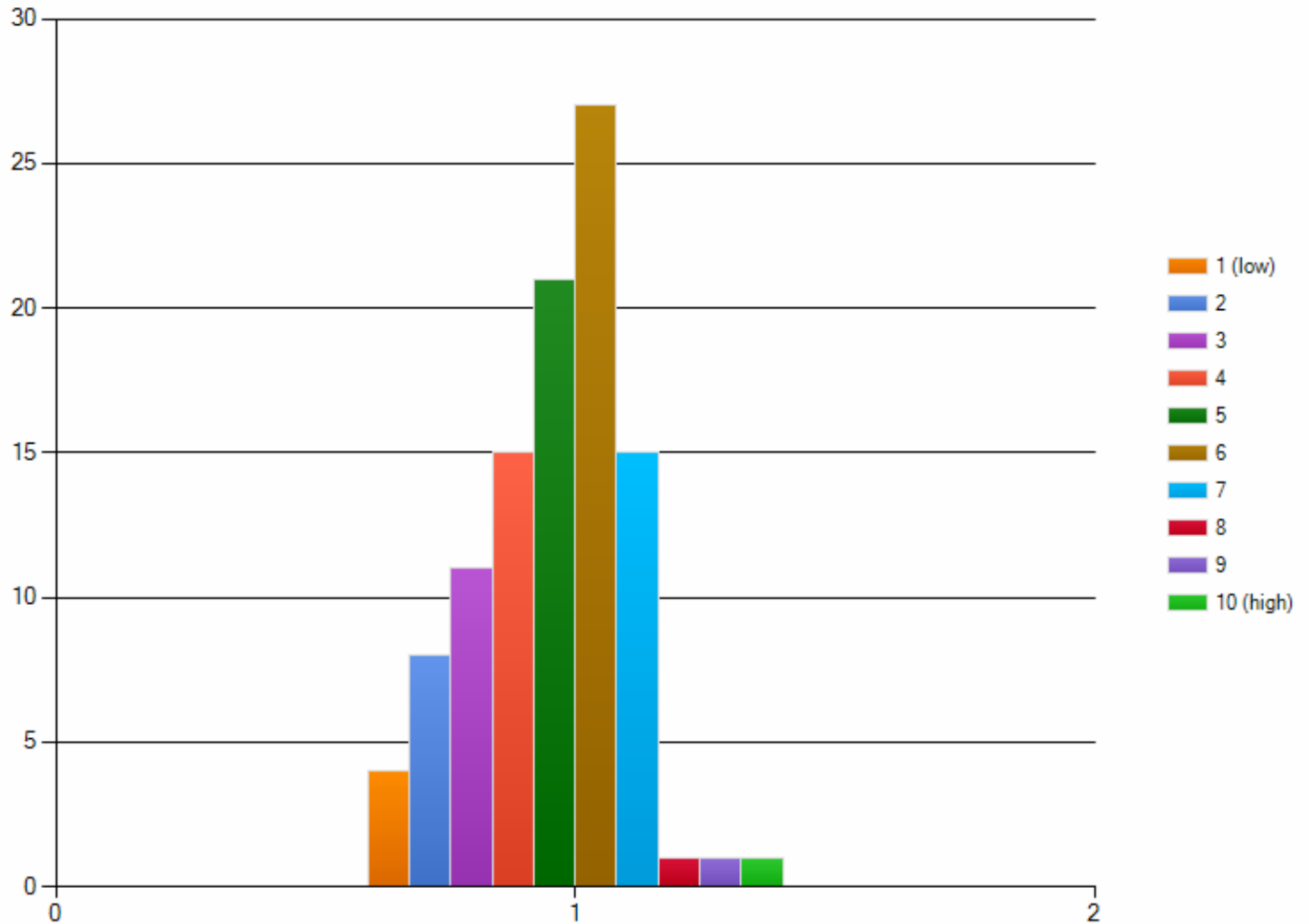
MBS - Mushy Brain Syndrome

Symptoms typically occur immediately after exams.

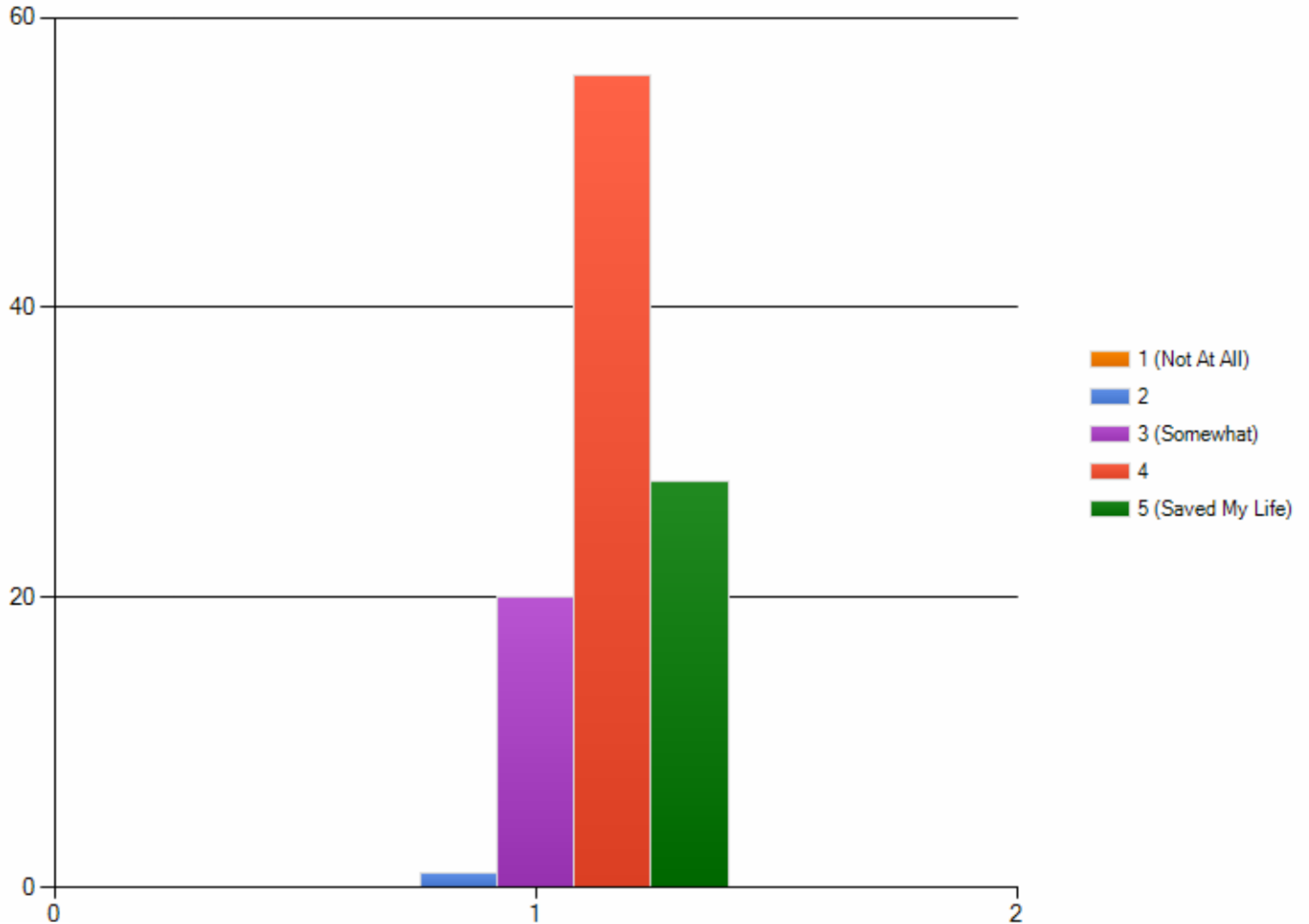
Perceptions and Fears

Pre-Course Survey
for all second year law students

Indicate your confidence level in researching at this point:



How beneficial are the trainings & workshops provided by the library?





What do you think will be your biggest challenge during your internship?

- Researching unfamiliar topics
- Efficiency and Quality.
- Asking the right questions
- Coping with the deadlines
- Adapting quickly to the environment
- Making an impression
- Legal writing

Solution: Internship Prep Boot Camp



- 2.5 hour sessions
- 6 sessions in total
- 20 students per class

SMU Learning Pyramid



Individual/ Small Group Facilitation

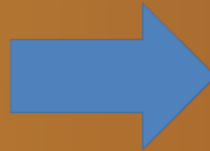
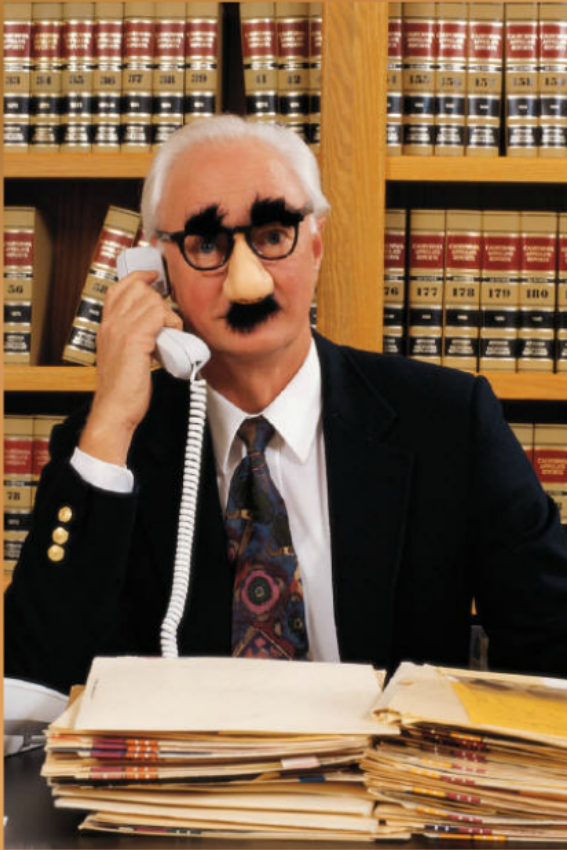
Subject or Topic Related
Internship Prep Boot Camp

Course Related
Legal Research & Writing

Library Overview (Compulsory)
Library Initiated

Intro to basic legal research

The Goal



Objectives

- Refresher
- Focus on Research Strategy
- Practice related research questions
- Research unfamiliar areas of law and jurisdictions
- Highlight free reliable online sources

Programme

- Introduction to Supreme Court Library (5 Mins)
- Overview (15 mins)
- Research Activity (60 mins)
- Presentations & Feedback (45 mins)
- Tips and Tricks (25 mins)

Research Activity

- Each group is assigned a research task.
- Focus is on the “how to locate” specific sources not the final product
- Present findings after 60 minutes



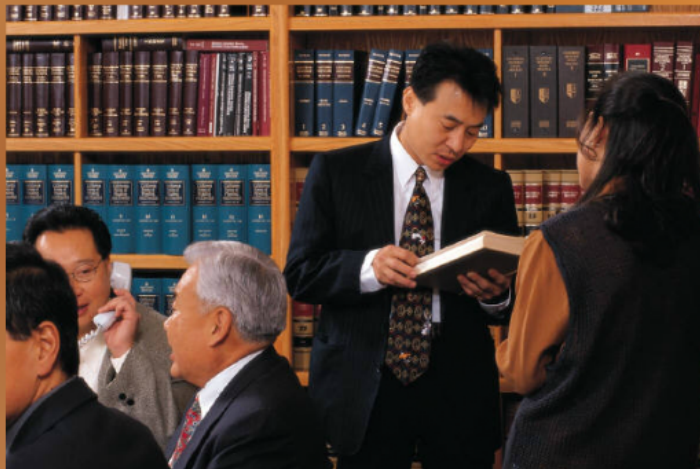
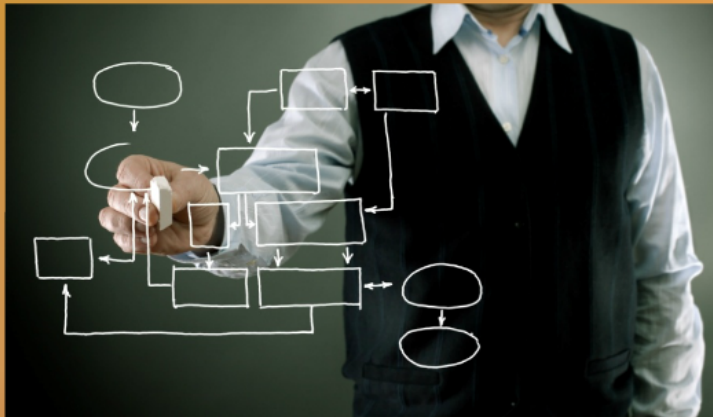
Where: Supreme Court Library



Learning Lab



Practice Drill



Strategy

① Jurisdiction

- Common Law
- Civil Law

Google "Institutions of Arbitration"

Results

- UNICTRAL
- ICC
- AAA
- LCIA
- WIPO

Results pooled individually

② Full-text rules

- USA - Cornell
- Federal AA
- Hall v Matiel
- UK - legislation.gov
- AA 1996
- Singapore - AGC
- AA
- IAA

③ Print titles/resources

International Arbitration: A handbook for AGC website

legislation.gov.uk

newyork.convention.org

* Type of Contract ← IP Shipping etc.

Process over Product

Presentation

- Outline the group's research strategy
- List resources used
- How they were useful or not?
- Challenges
- Learning points from the exercise
- Award for Best Team and MVP

- (A) - Any in-house KM templates? - Relevant statutes
- special client requests. - Print resources available
- Governing law eg Syariah Law. - Deadline, presentation, form
- (B) Print Resources
- Textbooks: Drafting trusts & will trusts in Sg - James Kessler / Lee
Drafting trusts & will trusts: a modern Approach / J.K.
Will writing: practical considerations / Richard Yeo.
- Lib catalogues → Wills, Trusts & Admn (Sg precedents & forms)
- Halsbury - Checklist: For use of making a will.
- (C) Online Resources
- Internet - Special Needs Trust (py (NGOs).
- Statutes: • Mental Capacity Act. S 23(c) - settlement for benefit
• Wills Act. • Trustees Act
• Inheritance (family Provision) Act. S 3(d) - compulsory
- Law Society Sample wills. - Singapore Wills Registry
- (D) Keywords
Will, Testament, Estate, Legacy, Trust, Survivorship,
Mentally Disabled, Mental Capacity, Executor, Power of Attorney

Assessment



Observations



Tools

Legal Internship Research Toolkit

The screenshot shows the SMU Li Ka Shing Library website for the Legal Internship Research Toolkit. The header includes the SMU logo and the text "Li Ka Shing Library". The breadcrumb trail is "Li Ka Shing Library » Research Guides » Legal Internship Research Toolkit". The page title is "Legal Internship Research Toolkit" with tags: law, law course, legal, legal research. It is dated "Last Updated: Apr 25, 2012" and provides a URL: "http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/internship". There are links for "Print Guide", "RSS Updates", and a "SHARE" button with social media icons. A navigation menu includes: Home, Research Strategy, Books/ Journals, Case Law, Noting Up, Legislation, Reference, Citing, Evaluation, Google, Tools, Terms & Connectors, Law Apps, Current Awareness, and Additional Reading. A search bar is present with a "Search" button and a "This Guide" dropdown. The main content area is divided into three columns: "Quick Links" with links to Law Research Navigator, SMU PYXIS, and School of Law; "Welcome" with a photo of a man in a library and text stating the guide was created for the annual Legal Internship Prep Course; and "Research Librarian" with a photo of a woman.

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Li Ka Shing Library

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Legal Internship Research Toolkit Tags: law, law course, legal, legal research

Last Updated: Apr 25, 2012 URL: <http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/internship> [Print Guide](#) [RSS Updates](#) [SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

Home Research Strategy Books/ Journals Case Law Noting Up Legislation Reference Citing Evaluation

Google Tools Terms & Connectors Law Apps Current Awareness Additional Reading

Home [Print Page](#) Search: This Guide [v](#) Search


Quick Links

- Law Research Navigator
- SMU PYXIS
- School of Law

Need more help?

Request a Research Consultation.
Make an appointment to meet the


Welcome



This guide was created as part of the annual Legal Internship Prep Course the Library runs for law students preparing for internship.

The aim of the session is to:

Research Librarian



iPads & Apps



Logistics



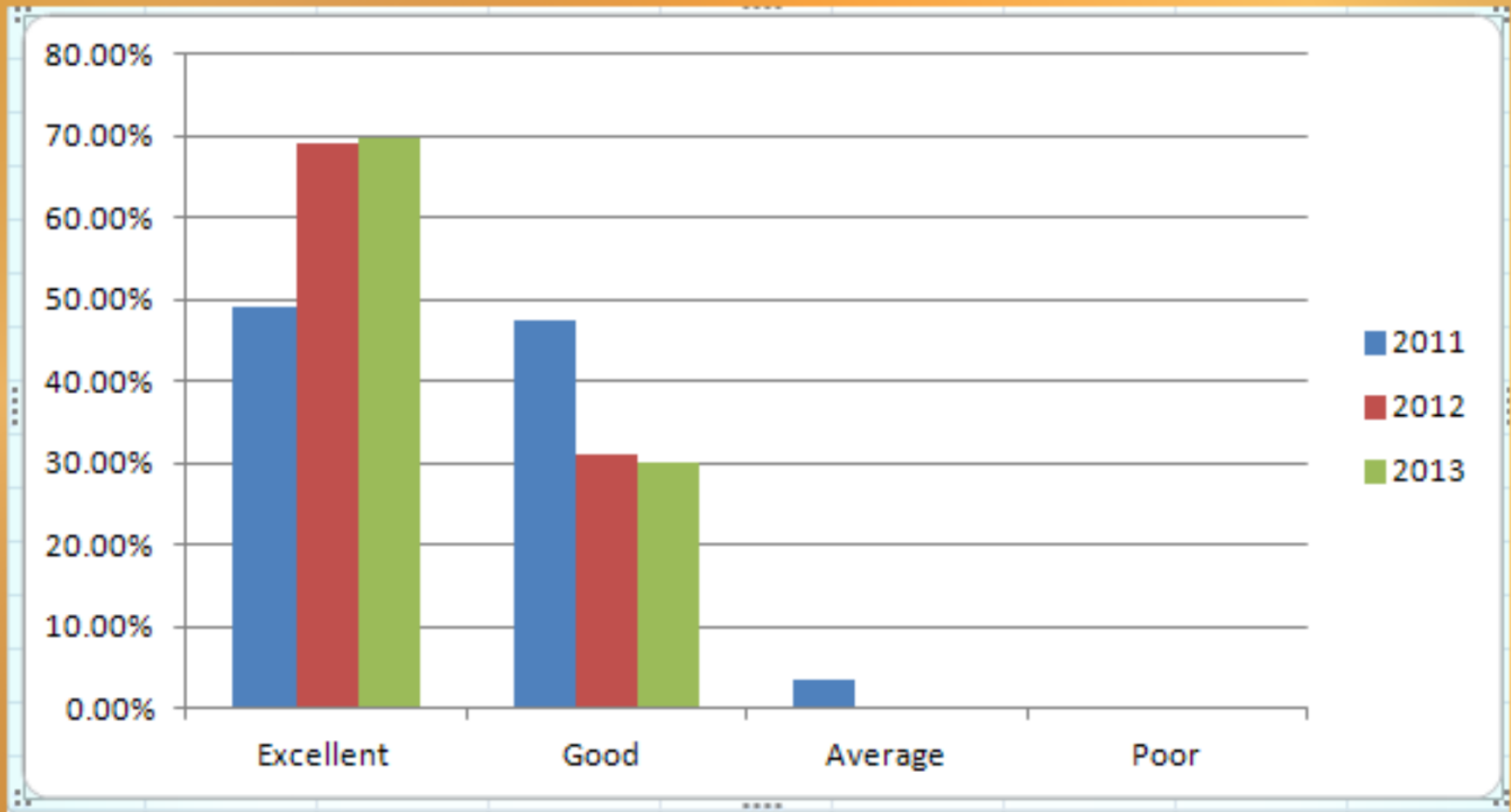
Response

- 100% Registration
- 83% Attendance Rate
- 100 students trained

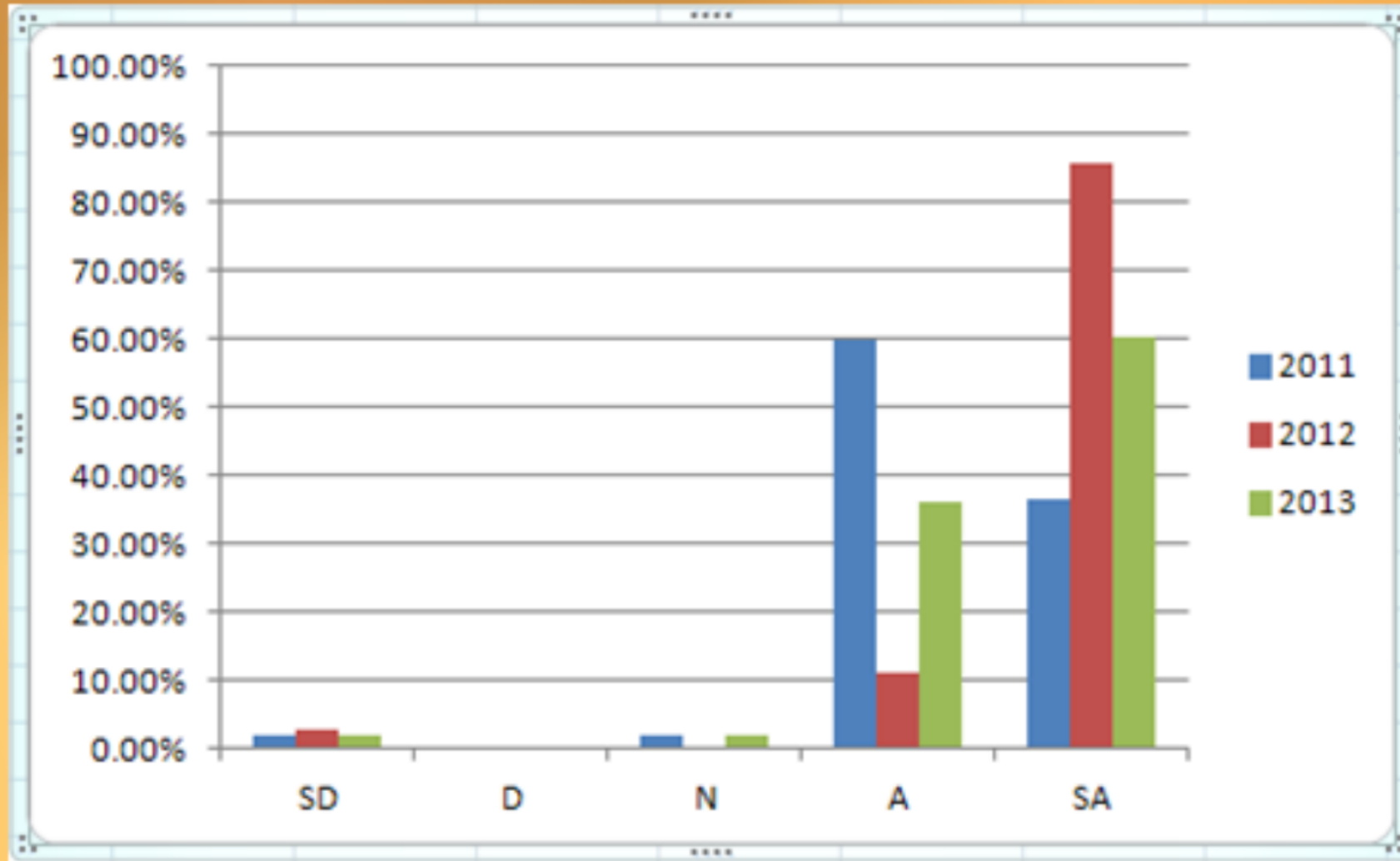


Feedback

Overall how would you rate this session?

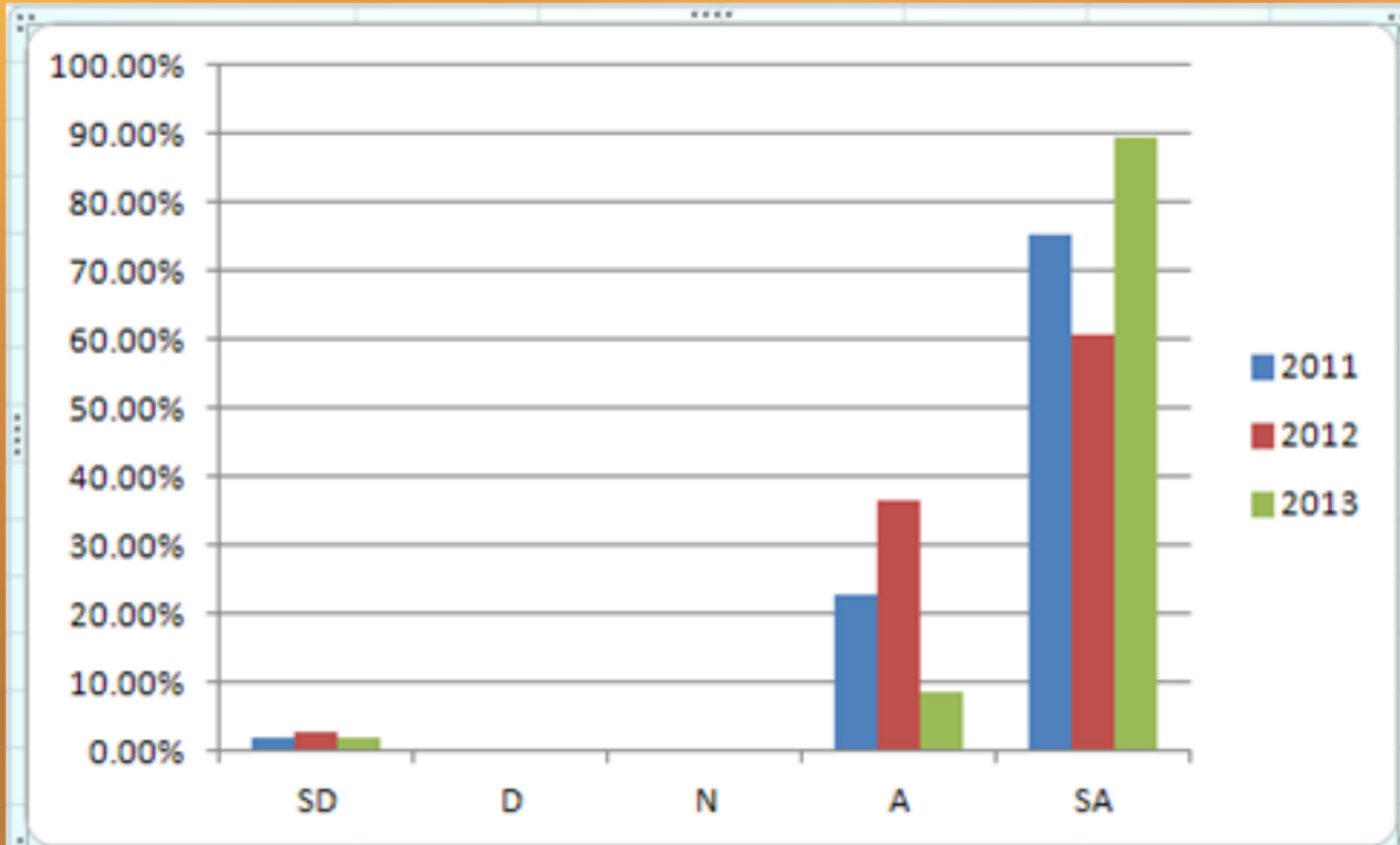


I have benefited from the session



SD - Strongly Disagree to SA - Strongly Agree

The trainer was well prepared



SD - Strongly Disagree to SA - Strongly Agree

 A blue icon of a hand with the index finger pointing down, representing a 'dislike' or 'thumbs down' gesture.

Dislike

- Stressful
- Environment
- Limited internet access
- No boolean refresher



The Final Product

Learning Points

- S** - Size up the situation
- U** - Undue haste makes waste
- R** - Remember where you are
- V** - Vanquish fear and panic
- I** - Improvise
- V** - Value living
- A** - Act like the natives
- L** - Live by your wits

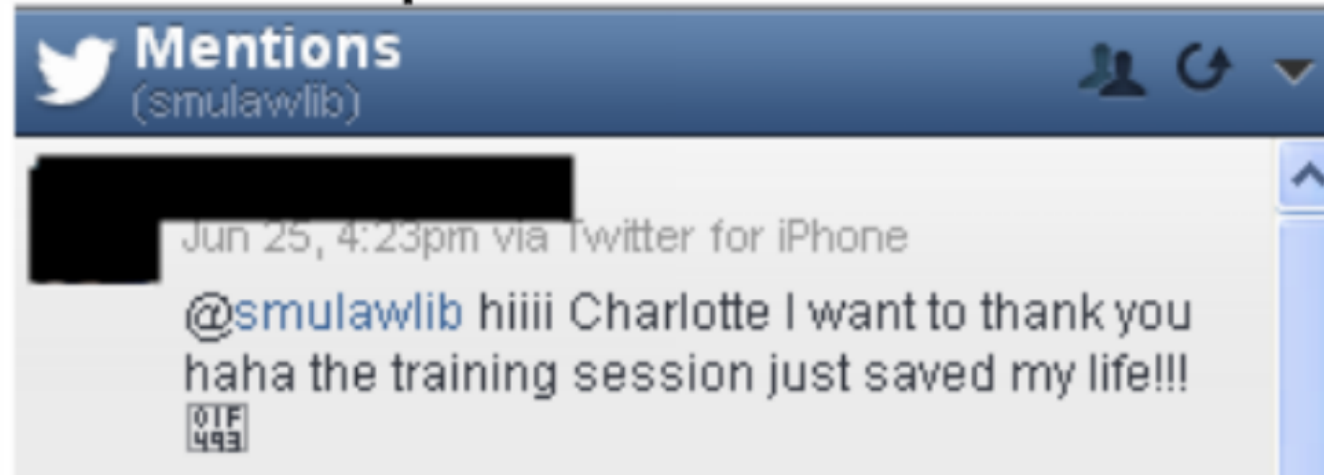
Photo by Rich Bartell, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs
License Attribution Some rights reserved <http://tinyurl.com/24xvum>

It's okay to fail



Saving Lives

Twitter from student on
internship after the course



No, I did not pay her to send it.



Taking it
to the next level!

Couldn't have done it without...

- Joseph Kennedy
- Yuyun Wirawati Ishak
- Priyanka Sharma
- Janelle Chin
- Chrissy Tan
- Jennifer Warburton
- Cheryl Ng
- Nerissa Tan
- Supreme Court Library
- SMU School of Law

Thank You



Li Ka Shing
Library

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Prezi: <http://tinyurl.com/k8dlb5q>

Research Guides:

<http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/profile/charlottegill>





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