



VALE Assessment Committee
Minutes of Meeting, July 2, 2007

Present: Jeanne Boyle, Anne Ciliberti, Benjamin Fisher, Judy Jeng, Jia Mi
Excused: Richard Stern

Materials distributed:

1. Agenda
2. Membership
3. Charge
4. Email and VALE Assessment Surveys from Anne Ciliberti
5. Visions for VALE: VALE Strategic Planning Retreat Report
6. VALE Users Conference Information
7. VALE 2006-07 Impact Assessment Survey Proposal
8. NJKI Instructions For Obtaining Use Statistics
9. StatsQUAL and LibQUAL web pages
10. MINES flyer
11. 2007 VALE Assessment Survey
12. VALE Assessment PowerPoint Presentation

Committee members introduced themselves and reviewed the charge of the former assessment, evaluation, and statistics committee. Several revisions were suggested. The revised charge will be shared with the executive committee and posted to the committee website. The revised charge is:

The VALE Assessment Committee will collect and review statistics and other data to be used by the VALE Executive Committee for formal assessments of VALE activities and resources and will serve as a clearinghouse for pertinent assessment, evaluation, and statistical information and resources for the VALE membership, including activities of other consortia. The Committee will seek to recommend assessment methodologies for evaluating organizational goals and outcomes that will measure and express the value of VALE to the membership as well as to outside bodies. Assessment methodologies may include the use of focus group interviews conducted by member libraries with their campus constituencies, statistical reports, or other qualitative and quantitative methods for collecting the desired data. The Committee will work closely with other VALE committees to determine needed information and the best methods for collecting the desired data.

Anne Ciliberti spoke about the PALINET survey, which was two years in the making. The contract with PALINET was graciously managed by William Paterson University, and Anne Ciliberti was project manager. The survey had three components: a web survey, telephone interviews with library directors, and an analysis of cost savings by sector, i.e., community college, private, public, etc. Analysis by institution will be available on request. There was a brief discussion about the web survey. Anne reviewed the methodology for the telephone interviews. The next step is a joint executive and assessment committee meeting at which the PALINET consultant will present the results. Anne will work with Judy Cohn on the scheduling.

The committee will coordinate the Spring 2008 round of LibQUAL. We will send a call to the directors' and VALE elists and host a small introductory meeting. Possible agenda items are an introduction to LibQUAL; what institutions did with their 2005 findings; costs, deadlines, and other housekeeping matters; and an analysis of the VALE consortium report from 2005. It was suggested that the committee might develop advice for analyzing LibQUAL results. Anne observed that 40% of survey respondents give comments.

The committee developed goals for 2008, which will be shared with the executive committee and posted to the committee website. Jai agreed to work on the committee website. During the discussion, it was suggested that links to website usability studies would be useful. The draft goals are:

- Contribute substantively to the VALE 2008 biennial report
- Coordinate the spring 2008 LibQUAL survey
- Develop a breakout session for the January 2008 VALE users' conference.
- Develop a committee website
- Examine VALE database usage statistics and devise a means to analyze and present the data
- Explore ways of conducting end-user surveys
- Keep apprised of VALE member institution assessment activities

There was a round robin sharing of assessments activities at committee members' libraries.

Committee members decided that the next meeting would be later this month with the executive committee, date still to be set, and that the assessment committee will meet August 15, 10 am, in New Brunswick. Agenda items will include LibQUAL, planning a breakout update session for the VALE users' conference, and the committee website.

Submitted by,
Jeanne Boyle