

**VALE's Shared Information Literacy Committee  
Minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting  
At Rutgers-New Brunswick and Rutgers-Camden**

**Present:** Linda Beninghove, Leslin Charles, Anne Ciliberti, Jacqui DaCosta, Theo Haynes, Richard Kearney, Shirley Knight, Susan Kurzman, Kathy Malanga, Robert Schriek, Nancy Weiner, Donna Wertheimer.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Jacqui DaCosta convened the meeting by giving thanks to Anne for her past leadership of the SIL committee, and introduced herself as the new committee chairperson. It was also explained that Vibiana Bowman has left the committee and thanks were expressed to Vibiana for her contributions to the committee.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - A discussion of point #7 from the previous minutes began the discussion, which focused on the potential collaboration between VALE and high school librarians. Theo Haynes from Rutgers-Camden and some of her colleagues had met with some librarians from the city of Camden in May/June and learned that the library coordinator in Camden has little power in decision-making regarding funding within the school system, despite being a great leader. Theo explained that there is computer access in the Camden school system's libraries but no electronic resources. Kathy Malanga described her work at William Paterson University with a colleague from the School of Education, and a "learning literacies" committee consisting of faculty and librarians which included information literacy as one of the four literacies.
3. **Terms of Office** - The VALE Executive Committee met last March to coordinate committee work, recognize the contributions of librarians, and offer more incentive for librarians to participate in committees. A suggestion was made to have terms of service, where members can choose to sign up again. The intent is to formalize and regularize the opportunities for joining and leaving committees. At the end of a term of service, VALE would send, to the committee member and to their library administration, a letter of recognition for service.

Jacqui DaCosta asked the committee for a discussion of how to handle members who do not attend committee meetings; it was agreed that, in these cases, members could be asked whether they are still interested in participating in the committee. Jacqui asked the committee to review the SIL committee membership list, to note the terms of service, and to update contact information.

4. **FY09 Objectives**
  - a) A proposal was made for a workshop focusing on assessing IL outcomes to be included at the VALE Users Conference in January. The theme for the VALE conference will be "Ten Years of Experience, a Future of Possibilities" and the deadline for proposal submissions is October 1<sup>st</sup>. Anne Ciliberti suggested that we ask a member of the teaching faculty at one of our institutions to provide their perspective of IL assessment. Donna Wertheimer suggested that she can ask a colleague who teaches biology at Camden County College to participate in the workshop, as she integrates IL into the entire biology department there through projects, tests, and assignments. Theo Haynes suggested Roberta Tipton at Rutgers-Newark for her work in creating rubrics for evaluating bibliographies. Kathy Malanga suggested that we send

a note to the broader community asking if others have ideas or suggestions for the workshop. Jacqui DaCosta suggested TCNJ's mandatory tutorial for first-year students as an example of assessment. Shirley Knight discussed a four module tutorial for citing sources, which was not as successful as desired.

A discussion of ways to encourage people to complete surveys followed. Anne Ciliberti and Jacqui DaCosta suggested that we get a representation of what is being done and use this information to decide upon the workshop proposal content. Anne mentioned that William Paterson University will never have its own IL course and that the librarians work around this issue. Anne raised the question that perhaps the standalone course idea has come and gone.

One suggestion was to take into consideration that the VALE conference sessions are 50 minutes in length and that perhaps our committee could take the opportunity to point out Voila resources for IL assessment. Richard Kearney stated that we could submit proposals for two sessions if the content is different enough. A subcommittee consisting of Leslin Charles, Jacqui DaCosta, and Donna Wertheimer was formed to prepare for the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

b) Jacqui DaCosta asked if VALE would be interested in collaborating with high schools and elementary schools, and the ACRL User Education Committee, on a "cradle to grave" type IL program. (ACRL are also talking to CJRLC about this.) Nancy Weiner stated that she has done some work on this with a colleague and they would like to encourage further conversation with the school media specialists. Kathy Malanga said that all of the organizations should be present at this collaboration so that we can investigate whether or not we should/could do our own thing. Anne Ciliberti suggested that a summit could be hosted, with the goal of creating a standard curriculum, by using the various regional organizations in New Jersey. Jacqui will take this proposal to the ACRL User Education committee.

c) Richard Kearney discussed the transition of the VOILA resource to a Wiki format. The URL is [valevoila.wetpaint.com](http://valevoila.wetpaint.com). The database subcommittee evaluated various Wiki services and selected WetPaint as the best choice. They have built the template, created user accounts, and added the existing records to the Wiki. For now, the existing submission form will be used. Eventually they may choose to use an open source platform. Submissions will continue to be solicited. Jacqui DaCosta congratulated the subcommittee for their work and expressed thanks on behalf of the SIL committee.

d) A project to collect data on IL programs was discussed and the need for a survey was proposed. A subgroup was formed to draft the survey; the subgroup consists of Anne Ciliberti, Susan Kurzmann, Nancy Weiner, and Linda Beninghove. Some questions to consider for the survey include:

- how many librarians participate in IL?
- how many IL sessions are held per year?
- is there a for-credit course?
- how many students are reached per year?
- what is the percentage of the student body that is reached?
- how does outreach factor in?
- how does collaboration with faculty affect IL?

- is there an online tutorial component?
- what are the methods, target groups, and administrative side of the program?
- are there events like an "e-week" focusing on database training sessions?
- what academic level of students is reached?

5. **Report from the Executive Committee** - Anne's main role is to serve as liaison to our committee. At the recent June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of library directors, half had served as Middle States evaluators. A discussion was opened to share input on Middle States accreditation as it relates to libraries and assessment in general, not just IL. Anne Ciliberti will share her notes. It was proposed that these directors would be happy to meet with others, as Middle States assessment time draws near, to discuss how they measure student learning outcomes and the idea that libraries should be well-positioned and involved in the campus-wide process of Middle States assessment. Anne also stated that the Executive Committee met in June to discuss the NJKI situation.
6. **VALE LibQual Results** - Anne will send to the committee information about the VALE members' LibQual+ IL results. The VALE report on the LibQual+ website gives the combined means for each group. Anne stated that we will need to compare the numbers to the national mean. More information will come.
7. **Future meetings** - The dates will be Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We are only able to use Rutgers as a venue for 4 meetings per year and the SIL Committee has used up its quota. Anne offered to check whether UMDNJ could be used as a venue for the rest of the calendar year. The concern that video conferencing is not cohesive in New Jersey was raised. A proposal to create a committee to figure out compatibility was discussed, so that geographical problems can be overcome.
8. **Any Other Business** - Susan Kurzmann stated that Ramapo doesn't include any IL or library questions on the NSSE, and she wondered how they can go about including these topics. Kathy Malanga referred to the information compiled by Heather Huey about the NSSE. Anne and Kathy will collaborate and get some information about this to Susan.