

VALE's Shared Information Literacy Committee

Minutes of the April 24, 2009 Meeting

held by videoconference at UMDNJ, Newark and UMDNJ, Stratford

Present: Linda Beninghove, Anne Ciliberti, Jacqui DaCosta, Megan Dempsey, Bonnie Fong, Leigh Keller, Shirley Knight, Nancy Madacsi, Kathy Malanga, Miriam Mlynarski, Roberta Tipton, Nancy Weiner

1. Welcome and Introductions

DaCosta (Chairperson) greeted group members from the two locations and welcomed new members Megan Dempsey and Leigh Keller.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the February 12, 2009 meeting were accepted. Matters arising from the minutes, not appearing on the agenda were:

2c – Members of the ACRL/NJLA User Education Committee were not so enthusiastic about merging the committees and made the point that it might be difficult for some institutions to release more than one person to attend. However, it was suggested that we hold more joint meetings where there can be a specific agenda theme. Thursday August 6 was proposed as a joint meeting to discuss program proposals for the VALE Users' Conference and the NJLA Conference. For those interested, there will be a session in the afternoon to share information literacy experiences from conferences. Something that came up in the merger talks was how VALE SIL is still viewed as just the VOILA database rather than an active information literacy group. This is something that we could attempt to address with a poster presentation at the VALE Users' Conference.

10 - The new web site for VALE will be launched before the VALE Conference.

3. FY09 Objectives:

b. Information Literacy Program

DaCosta, Ciliberti and Richel have been working on an IL program, covering high school to college, to be held June 25, at Brookdale Community College. It was intended to work with CJRLC on this but they are unable to actively participate until Fall 2009.

DaCosta asked for comments on the draft flyer to further finalize a few things for the program. It was suggested that a SIL member (NJIT?) be the speaker for the College/University segment and a real life perspective be added after College/University. It was suggested that Leslie Burger from Princeton Public Library be contacted. Weiner will follow-up on Elementary and Middle School speakers with NJASL.

Ciliberti reported that the VALE Executive Committee is funding \$200 to cover the non-VALE speakers' travel and that we should charge a small fee of \$15 for lunch. Ciliberti and DaCosta will work out the mechanics of these costs.

DaCosta also suggested that if we reached out to CJRLC, they could help advertise and get school librarians to participate. It was mentioned that most public schools would be out for summer vacation by June 5, and school librarians would be available to come.

c. VOILA Wiki

Following on from the discussion at the February 12 meeting, Weiner reported that Kearney evaluated a number of free file sharing/hosting services, including Google Docs (eSnips, Hotshare, Driveway, BigFileBox, Docstoc, and Scribd). These are sites that could host files in a number of common formats and provide URLs for download. Kearney found that all of these sites were unsatisfactory. They either presented potential downloaders with special requirements for access or they deleted files which have not been downloaded in a period from 30 to 90 days. Kearney's recommendation is that files be hosted on the VALE server. Files can be emailed to the VIOLA managers (Kearney, Huey, and Mlynarski) at the time the submission form is processed. The instructions will be edited to this effect.

For those who do not have easy access to a web server but wish to share documents or presentations, the public URL can be provided. Kearney has set up a Google Account for the SIL so such materials can be kept in one place.

After NJLA, recent submissions will be circulated to Huey and Mlynarski for vetting then posted to the wiki.

d. Information Literacy Survey

Weiner reported outcomes from the Information Literacy Program Survey. Some of the key items Weiner mentioned were: 28 individuals completed the survey, representing 53% of the 53 VALE member libraries. 18 respondents were from 4 year schools. A total of 6 schools surveyed (Felician, Raritan Valley Community, NJIT, Rutgers, The College of New Jersey and Princeton University) have an IL requirement that students must fill for graduation and they all use different IL modules. It was suggested that:

- We adapt some of the practices they are using
- Identify the challenges and ask these institutions how they got faculty buy-in
- Learn what they are doing and invite them to a meeting
- Think about how questions from the survey are asked and how we use the word "program".

Weiner also pointed out that the majority of libraries did not complete all questions. It was suggested that Weiner send out another email asking librarians to complete the survey and to specify anyone needing further information about the survey is to contact Nancy Weiner.

DaCosta suggested that the results could be presented at the Annual VALE Conference in a two-part session with presentations from the institutions where there is an IL graduation requirement.

4. Information Literacy Progression Standards

DaCosta reported on the work of the Task Force. The full Task Force met March 20 at TCNJ then one half of the Task Force met April 21, to reduce a nine page document to four pages. The document will be shared with the VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee and discussion list prior to the NJLA conference session.

DaCosta invited all who would be attending NJLA to come and share their comments and suggestions on the draft document at 9am on April 29 in the Atlantic IV room. Those who would not be coming to the conference could send their feedback to DaCosta via email, as soon as possible. DaCosta restated that the purpose of the session was for gathering feedback from a wider audience. Endorsement by the Academic Officers Association and other college governance bodies will be sought in the future. The Task Force will be working on the final document after NJLA.

5. VALE Executive Committee

a. Ciliberti reported that the feedback from the chairs of the VALE Committees on March 10, 2009, was on “What Does and Doesn’t Work.” Their major concerns were:

- Lack of participation from the members and what to do about it.
- Liaisons not knowledgeable about what the committee does
- People on the roster never showing up for some of the committees
- How do they recruit new members?
- Should there be two year memberships for members?
- Should they work and streamline as they go along?

Ciliberti also commented on several activities; revised committee guidelines and a project form developed by Judy Cohn, which committee chairs could use when submitting resource needs requests to the Executive Chair. Ciliberti reported that at its next meeting, Tuesday, April 28, the VALE Executive Committee will work on a written proposal of VALE becoming an incorporated non-profit organization. VALE plans to expand efforts into this in the future.

b. DaCosta asked for comments on the draft letter to the General Education Coordinating Committee, which had been previously circulated. It is proposed that this be sent by the VALE Executive Committee, on behalf of the SIL Committee. Suggestions for changes were: also define the technological competency goal to show the difference; change the word ‘different’ to ‘distinct’; replace ‘skill’ with ‘competency’

It was suggested that members from William Paterson University might share the work of their University Literacies Strategies Team at the next meeting.

6. FY09 Annual Report

DaCosta asked for comments and additions to the draft annual report, which had been previously circulated. Weiner and/or Ciliberti were asked to provide content for Part 2, d.

7. FY10 Objectives

DaCosta asked if other goals should be included in the FY10 objectives listed in the annual report. It was suggested that two programs be presented at the Annual VALE Conference, along with a poster, and that SIL content be updated on the new VALE web site.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Minutes by S. Knight