

**Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE) of New Jersey  
Shared Information Literacy Committee Meeting  
December 18, Alexander Library, New Brunswick**

Present: A. Ciliberti (WPUNJ), D. Hoover (Rutgers), R. Kearney (WPUNJ), K. Malanga (WPUNJ), R. Sweeney (NJIT), W. Vincenti (Montclair)

The main focus of the meeting was the index of shareable materials project. Malanga reported on the results of a survey/solicitation she and P. Libutti conducted using an online data collection form (at [http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/document\\_survey/](http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/document_survey/)). The survey returned 25 items from VALE member libraries; Malanga's committee selected another 15 items for potential inclusion in the index, for a total of 40 items from 15 VALE member libraries. The items vary widely in terms of subject, scope, audience, and file format, but they are representative of the kinds of materials being produced by VALE teaching librarians and it is likely there are many more examples.

Although response to the call for materials was modest, the committee agreed there were enough items to move forward and create a web-based index. Hoover led a discussion of the options available for this next step. The document survey tool Libutti created for the web uses the proprietary ColdFusion application and currently sits on the Scholarly Communication Center's server. At the June meeting it was agreed that the SIL index should be created on the VALE server, with the possibility of migrating the data collection tool there as well, and that free/open source tools should be used for development. Hoover reported that he has installed the Apache HTTP Server Version 1.3, PHP Version 4.3.4, and MySQL database software to support SIL projects. He is also looking at a survey tool created with PHP called phpESP (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/phpesp/>). This software could be used to replacate the Malanga/Libutti data collection form on VALE's server, with the additional advantage of writing the data to a MySQL database that would also function as the data source of an online index. In the interim, however, Hoover indicated he would build a browseable, web-based index for the items already collected using the bibliographic and subject indexing details contained in the original form. Hoover acknowledged committee concerns about the quality of the data collected to date (e.g., possible bad URLs, insufficient subject indexing, etc.) but pointed out that checking for data quality is a separate and distinct process that would not affect the index design. The committee agreed Hoover should move forward with the initial version of the index; onnce available, it could be used for demonstration purposes and to promote the project. Hoover also agreed to give Kearney and Vincenti development accounts on request for SIL projects on the VALE server.

Kearney volunteered to obtain "link-to" permissions from the authors of the pages selected by Malanga and Libutti for inclusion in the index. He also briefly discussed another open source development project from the University of Minnesota Libraries that could be of use to VALE librarians. Called LibData [<http://libdata.sourceforge.net/>], it offers authoring environments for the creation of subject pathfinders (Research QuickStart), course related pages (CourseLib) and general purpose web pages (PageScribe) using Apache/PHP/MySQL. The LibData project was recently featured at the Digital Library Federation's Fall Forum and an online presentation is available [<http://www.diglib.org/forums/fall2003/fallforum03.htm#p19>].

The committee agreed to the following next steps:

- 1) Sweeney will inquire about the possibility of the SIL Committee obtaining a table at the January 7 VALE Conference (situated in the luncheon hall) where materials from the indexing project can be displayed and committee members can be on hand to discuss the project and call for additional contributions;
- 2) Hoover will develop the first version of the online SIL Index of Shareable Materials;

3) Kearney will obtain "link-to" permission from the authors of the items in the Index;

The committee should also revisit the data collection form to consider changes before a new version is developed.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Kearney