

VALE

Shared Information Literacy Committee

Minutes of the April 14, 2003 Steering Committee Meeting

Present: Anne Ciliberti (Co-Chair, SIL), Richard Kearney (Chair, Standards and Protocols Subcommittee), Patricia Libutti (Co-chair, Indexed Site for Material Sharing Subcommittee), Kathy Malanga (Co-chair, Indexed Site for Material Sharing Subcommittee), Eileen Stec (Co-chair, Collaborative Development Subcommittee), Richard Sweeney (Co-Chair, SIL), Bill Vincenti (Co-chair, Collaborative Development Subcommittee) and Karen Wenk (Chair, Technical Subcommittee)

1. Ciliberti convened the meeting and explained that the goal of the meeting was to hear progress reports from the subcommittees and then discuss how the larger group might reorganize or refocus to gain some forward momentum.
2. Libutti noted that the Committee's representation on the VALE website needs updating and correcting and Ciliberti indicated she would take care of it.
3. Sweeney reported that the preliminary FIPSE proposal submitted by NJIT on behalf of VALE failed to make the first cut in review. More than 1500 preliminary applications were reviewed and only 150 of them were invited to submit final proposals, from which 30 will be funded. Reviewers' comments will be available after July 31 so that we can learn what were considered to be the weak points of the proposal. Sweeney and others will be looking for additional funding opportunities for the proposal.
4. Stec suggested that there may be funding opportunities for collaborative projects between secondary and post secondary institutions and information literacy is an issue for both sectors. Libutti agreed that NJ high school media specialists are also actively engaged in information literacy projects and there may be some grant opportunities from the NJ Department of Education.
5. Libutti and Malanga reported that there have been only about 25 responses to the survey of shareable literacy materials. All present agreed that the Indexed Site subcommittee should proactively solicit other submissions since many more materials have been developed.

Libutti suggested that there may be some reluctance on the part of VALE librarians and their institutions to share literacy materials because of potential copyright issues. In their solicitation efforts, the group will try to determine if this a problem.

6. Libutti presented a preliminary database located at http://digital-projects.rutgers.edu/vale_infolit/ that takes the data from the indexed site survey form and populates the database fields. It can be used to add additional sites as well as to search for materials. The group discussed whether it

should be located on the VALE server or remain on the Rutgers' server. Libutti will explore these issues and further refine the database.

7. The group agreed that once a reasonable number of materials are available and searchable, others around the state will be more motivated to contribute their own projects.
8. The need for a core group of librarians to develop criteria and to review candidate sites prior to making them available on the website was another issue discussed. Libutti will spearhead this effort and Malanga will work on getting assistance with the solicitation efforts.
9. Wenk raised several technical questions about the database, such as the need for persistent urls, metadata standards and updating of content. Kearney noted that his Standards and Protocols group will address some of these concerns now that there is a tangible project with which to work..
10. Kearney's group will also conclude their work on the "open license" statement that may satisfy some librarians' copyright concerns.
11. Stec and Vincenti reported that their group's efforts to collaboratively develop web subject guides have been hampered in part by geographic distance. They also discussed the problem of trying to teach librarians the concepts and techniques of instructional design. The group discussed that there may be collaborative opportunities for this kind of instruction with groups like the Regional Library Cooperatives, NJLA/ACRL and/or NJEdge.

Another complication that was discussed is the need for access to an open source server and software. Sweeney and Ciliberti will explore this issue relative and report back to the group. Expertise in the use of the software must also be sought and/or learned. Some suggestions were made for seeking staff around the staff who have these skills and might be interested in participating.

After discussion, it was generally agreed that this aspect of the broader plan should be put on hold until some more momentum has been developed and actual literacy sites made available.

12. The idea of stimulating interest and a broader response from the VALE community by reaching the library directors and deans was discussed. Sweeney and Ciliberti will explore the possibility of making a brief presentation on this issue at the May 16 meeting of the Council of NJ College and University Librarians, Deans and Directors.
13. Another suggestion for motivating librarians to submit literacy materials is to provide awards, such as stars, on superior sites. The "best of the best" could be highlighted at a program at the VALE Users' Conference in January. Other incentives might be cash or book awards.
14. In summary, the group agreed 1) to continue to explore grant opportunities for the FIPSE project; 2) to work to get a critical mass of literacy materials on the VALE website as soon as

possible; 3) to revisit and come to closure on such ancillary issues as the copyright/license problem and the technical concerns of metadata standards; 4) to develop a timeline for these projects so that a significant website/service can be rolled out to the VALE community over the summer for use in the fall; and 5) to explore the availability of access to an open source server and software.

Minutes provided by Ciliberti