

# VALE

## Shared Information Literacy Committee

### Minutes of the March 27, 2008 Meeting

Present: Linda Beninghove, Beth Bloom, Vibiana Bowman, Jeris Cassel, Leslin Charles, Anne Ciliberti, Ruth Hamann, Theo Haynes, Christine Herz, David Hoover, Heather Huey, Shirley Knight, Susan Kurzmann, Kathy Malanga, Donna Wertheimer

Anne Ciliberti announced that Davida Scharf has resigned from the committee and that Heather Huey from NJIT will take her place.

**I. VOILA update:** Kathy Malanga provided an update: the problem with the submission date (which ended in 2006) has been fixed. As of today, there are 19 records in the database, although not all have been vetted. The issue of where specific documents can be stored has arisen, since they need to be accessible to others from a webpage. If they are stored on the VALE server, they cannot be easily edited by their owners or others. This issue will need to be resolved soon.

It was suggested that PBWIKI be used for storage and information dissemination of the Voila materials rather than the VALE server. The committee discussed issues of who would access the WIKI and how spammers would be kept out. This option needs to be considered and evaluated.

The search interface will be worked on this summer. It was suggested that additional information on desired outcomes, objectives, and assessment will be incorporated into the submission template. Ruth Hamann agreed to work with staff at WPU to discuss this idea further.

There was some confusion as to whether criteria for vetting new submissions have been developed. Ciliberti stated that initial criteria are available although they may need to be reviewed. This issue can be explored with Hamann and the WPU staff and brought back to the group at the next meeting.

**II. SAKAI.** Members are encouraged to submit Information literacy plans to the SAKAI website for sharing among the group. Jeris Cassel will re-send the instructions on how to do this.

**III. IL Assessment:** Shirley Knight discussed an assessment rubric she and colleagues created. It was patterned after one used at her institution's writing center. Rubrics have also been developed at NJIT and WPUNJ. The latter is tied to a reading assignment. It includes evaluation of sources and questions that test students' understanding of citation segments. Ruth Hamann discussed assessment at her institution in which librarians work with freshmen twice. Students are expected to work on a research topic.

Beth Bloom reported that she and her colleagues at Seton Hall have developed a series of training modules for the faculty to assist in the integration of information literacy skills into their teaching. All present were interested in this work and Beth will demo the modules at the next meeting.

Chris Herz described an information literacy assignment developed at Gloucester County College. Students are required to research and report on an aspect of the death penalty controversy and a rubric was developed to assess student work. The assignment is included in the Voila database.

Heather Huey discussed two articles that tie information literacy behaviors to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). This idea is of interest since research shows that that “engaged” students are more successful than those who are less engaged. Another reason this connection is significant is because the NSSE surveys are widely used across the country, thus affording another means of acquiring data about students’ information literacy behaviors. The value of this connection may be limited, however, as the NSSE measures student self-reported behavior rather than measures of outcome performance. The two articles that discuss the relationship between NSSE and information literacy related behaviors are: Bonnie Gratch-Lindauer in C&RL News, July/August 2007 and Amy Mark and Polly Boruff-Jones in C&RL, November, 2003. Ciliberti volunteered to explore this research further with Huey.

**IV. Middle States visits:** Ciliberti reported that she has reached out to VALE library administrators to see if there is interest in meeting informally to discuss preparations for Middle States accreditation visits. More than one dozen deans and directors who have either recently participated in accreditation visits or who are preparing for visits soon responded that they are interested. She will be setting up this meeting for the end of April or early May. This interest stems from the fact that in recent years, Middle States has focused more on outcomes than on inputs and information literacy and assessment have become important elements in the library evaluations.

**V. VALE Executive Committee** commissioned Palinet to conduct an assessment of the consortium. The assessment provided information on dollars spent on each database. The study concluded that members of the consortium spent 46% less on the databases than if they had subscribed individually. The savings were approximately \$3.5 million. The survey, which is found on the VALE website, shows a high degree of satisfaction among its members. Many lauded the VALE User’s conference, for example.

The survey also provided feedback on what could be improved. Several suggestions noted that the work of individual VALE committees could be facilitated through better information channels. In response to this finding, the VALE Executive Committee met with the chairpersons of all VALE committees recently to discuss the various ways in which the work of the committees could be enhanced. Ciliberti outlined several aspects of the new plan:

- Committees will be asked to review their current charges and recommend revisions, as necessary.
- Committee chairs will submit brief annual reports in May/June and these reports will include specific objectives recommended by the Committee for the upcoming academic year.
- Membership will consist of two-year terms, although there is no limit to the number of terms served.

As a follow-up to this discussion, the group reviewed the charge on its website and all present agreed that it is an accurate and well-stated summary of the Committee's interests. Ciliberti will be in touch with all members to establish one and two-year membership cycles.

**VI. VALE SIL committee plans and assignments:**

- Think about specific objectives for fiscal '09; these will need to be determined at the next meeting for inclusion in the Committee's annual report due in June.
- A suggestion for one objective is to focus on connections between high school and college/university librarians relative to improving students' information literacy skills. Vib Bowman will explore this idea further and discuss at the next meeting.
- Another suggestion was to develop a workshop for other VALE librarians on assessment rubrics, since so much of our work this year has centered on that aspect of information literacy
- We will try to set priorities by the next meeting; these will be put forth in a document for the Executive Committee to evaluate at its July meeting.

The committee discussed the next possible meeting dates: week of May 12, perhaps. Anne will contact committee members with possible dates.

The meeting ended at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Bloom