

VALE SIL COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting November 9, 2007

Attendees: L. Beninghove, V. Bowman, J. Cassel, L. Charles, A. Ciliberti, C. Geck, R. Hamann, T. Haynes, C. Herz, D. Marshall, K. Malanga, E. Parker, C. Rosenberger, D. Scharf, N. Weiner, D. Wertheimer,

The meeting was held via video conferencing involving two locations: Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick and the Robeson Library, Rutgers University, Camden.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Anne Ciliberti provided a brief overview of the SIL response to the VALE Assessment Committee Survey. Having solicited input from SIL members, Anne prepared the report and confirmed its submission to the VALE Assessment Committee on November 5, 2007.

Anne also confirmed that the proposal submitted to the VALE Users Conference Committee for participation in a poster session was accepted. This poster will be used to advertise our efforts as a committee and attract more support. Caroline Geck and Linda Scanlon Beninghove will be working with Anne on the poster.

Prior to the committee breaking into groups, a few issues pertaining to the DSILM were discussed and ideas and recommendations were made regarding the DSILM as follows:

1. That the Database of Shared Information Literacy Materials (DSILM) be renamed to something more palatable and easier to pronounce. Brainstorming was done and the group agreed to the new name VOILA...VALE Online Information Literacy Archive.
2. When people use a shared resource from the DSILM, as a courtesy, the creator should be contacted to inform them of this. Such information is useful for statistical data and can be an asset for the author/developer when going for tenure
3. We might want to consider asking SCILS students to participate in submitting materials for the DSILM. Anne and Kathy will reach out to the Library Garden blog folks on this. A related topic was that SCILS students often seem to need information about how to become academic librarian. A question was raised about the Job Shadowing program and Vib Bowman offered to investigate this with Luis Rodriguez or NJLA.
4. While discussing the job shadowing program, it should be noted that VALE and NJLA must be seen as complementary groups, not rivals. One way to ensure this

is to co-sponsor events/programs. We also need to determine if there is really the need to have two separate groups or if the groups should merge.

The committee broke into two groups: those dealing with the poster for the conference and the other subcommittees (assessment and best practices), who agreed to continue the meeting as one group.

GOALS/DECISIONS:

Using the minutes of the last meeting on October 8, 2007, we tried to understand and redefine where we are so far, and where we need to go. The following ideas and recommendations were discussed:

Short Term

1. It was decided to merge the two subgroups, Student Learning Assessment and Best Practices, since there are overlapping interests.
2. Assessment of information literacy skills of students became a focus of discussion and how this can be achieved on the local level. How to accomplish this task and the myriad obstacles faced by our various institutions were debated and discussed, and a few members shared their experiences with the committee. Ultimately, it was decided to disseminate Davida Scharf's rubric and evaluate it to determine how well it might work with other colleges through a pilot project similar to the one Davida completed at NJIT. Her article, 'Direct Assessment of IL using Writing Portfolios' published in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship* was cited as the context for the rubric developed at NJIT and represents a collaborative effort between the library and the English department. While many librarians are not afforded this type of opportunity, it does provide the Committee with an excellent model of directly assessing information literacy skills of students. While Davida's rubric will be the initial template, a call for other rubrics will be placed on the listserv and they should be sent to Davida by the end of November. She will then distribute the file to members. Funding of such a project may certainly be an issue and the suggestion was made to investigate potential grant sources to develop a statewide assessment program was suggested.
3. Another major goal of the committee is to create a model Information Literacy Plan template that could be adapted by VALE libraries. The content would be obtained by blending ideas/strategies from existing plans at NJ institutions and those from other areas of the country. Individual institution plans will be shared by email and discussed. These will be compiled and Anne will work with Denise identifying a deadline for these examples.

4. The experience of VALE member libraries with recent/upcoming Middle States visits was also identified as an area of interest. All agreed that this type of information would be valuable to all VALE member libraries and it was suggested that the Committee investigate ways to gather this information and disseminate it to member libraries. Details as to how this information will be collected will still need to be worked out, but would represent an important initiative for the upcoming year.
5. While not identified as a major initiative, members of the committee are still interested in ways to make most of one-shot library instruction sessions. Best practices will be identified during the upcoming year and a suggestion was made to develop future workshops on this topic for the coming year.

Long Term

1. To investigate the Information Literacy skills articulation from 2 year to 4 year institutions.
2. To raise awareness among faculty of the importance of independent research in the development of information literacy and critical thinking skills.

Next meeting date was tentatively set at January 3, 2008. Anne will confirm this date after she arranges reservations at the Alexander Library.