

VALE's Shared Information Literacy Committee

Minutes of the May 13, 2008 Meeting

At Rutgers- New Brunswick and Rutgers-Camden

Present: Beth Bloom, Vibiana Bowman, Jeris Cassel, Leslin Charles, Anne Ciliberti, Jacqui DaCosta, Caroline Geck, Theo Haynes, Heather Huey, Shirley Knight, Susan Kurzmann, Kathy Malanga, Denise Marshall, Miriam Mlynarski, Nancy Weiner

1. Anne Ciliberti convened the meeting by inviting Beth Bloom to give a brief presentation on the Blackboard materials Seton Hall librarians had prepared for use by faculty as they embed information fluency skills in their courses. Beth explained that information fluency has been accepted as one of the University's core concepts and that a great deal of work has been done to encourage and facilitate inclusion of information fluency concepts into the curriculum. Beth will discuss the project further when anyone interested in learning more.

2. Introductions were made at both the Camden and New Brunswick locations.

3. Heather Huey reported that the NSSE survey is not promoted at NJIT, where staff is encouraged to assess students based upon performance standards. She shared with the group examples of performance-based questions that NJIT may include in a student survey/assessment they are developing for their own campus.

4. Anne shared with the group a little more background on the NSSE's interest in experimenting with information literacy correlations. Based upon a 2007 article in *College and Research Libraries News*, it seems that an ACRL committee has been working on and testing information literacy questions in the NSSE for several years. Most recently, they found moderate to strong correlations between IL and certain of the NSSE benchmarks, although it does not appear that the IL questions have been formally adopted and added to the survey. Rather, authors of the article suggest that individual campuses consider adding the IL questions in the section of the survey that NSSE makes available for local questions.

5. Anne also reported that the LibQUAL survey has several IL questions embedded, but again, these are not performance-based. The LibQUAL questions ask students and others to rate their own skills, behaviors or service perceptions.

6. The purpose of this discussion about campus-wide surveys is to suggest that staff explore all efforts on their campuses to learn more about IL perceptions and skills. While none may be perfect, together they may show a more granular profile.

7. Vib Bowman suggested that a future SIL project might be to focus on sharing expertise and materials regarding IL with high school librarians. She noted that Camden has been approached by the local high school system to partner on IL issues and there may be enough synergy to develop some grant proposals for funding. She cited the STARS program by which high achieving NJ high school students receive free tuition to attend community colleges and to transfer to 4-year schools. The group discussed this proposal and several members stated that their campuses also had some outreach to local high schools, such as Columbia HS from Seton Hall and Paterson from WPUNJ. Contacting high schools that participate in Project Acceleration was suggested, as was the idea of working with the NJ Association of School Librarians.

8. Anne urged the group to consider identifying two or three objectives for the coming year and a series of five ideas were put forward based upon topics that had been discussed during the year. After discussion, the group agreed to two primary and two supplemental interests:

- a. A workshop or program at the Users' Conference on various assessment strategies. Perhaps two or three panelists could present successful assessment efforts and these could be followed by a workshop approach to share additional methods. The idea of including successful teaching faculty in this program was suggested and all were in favor of including the faculty point of view.
- b. A program or workshop on the connections and partnerships with local school districts relevant to IL. This program could reach out to NJASL and its focus could be on networking, forming liaisons/partnerships and learning more about what is being done in this "cradle to grave" approach.
- c. Underpinning both of these objectives should be the importance of further development of content in the Voila database. Assessment tools, materials for working with high school students, one-shot strategies should all be shared via the database and promotion of the database should be emphasized in the programs/workshops.
- d. Another strand of interest was that of collecting information about the IL programs, including how they are staffed in VALE libraries. This could be achieved by developing an online survey.

9. Relative to committee mechanics, Anne suggested that she randomly assign members to one and two-year terms. The Executive Committee wishes to have terms established so that disinterested persons can step down and since there are no limits on the number of terms, members can simply reenlist.

10. The idea of regular meeting dates, alternating between Thursdays and Fridays, was agreed upon and Anne will call a meeting in early to mid August.

11. Anne announced that she will be stepping down as chairperson, explaining that new leadership and new ideas are always good. She will stay connected as the liaison to the committee from the Executive Committee and she urged members to contact her to express their interest in becoming the new chairperson.

12. The suggestion put forth at the last meeting by Heather to reconceptualize the Voila database as a wiki was discussed. Richard Kearney had prepared a brief analysis of the ways in which a wiki might be well suited as a vehicle for collecting and sharing IL materials. Denise Marshall, Heather Huey and Miriam Mlynarski all agreed to work with Richard on further development of this idea with the goal of bringing a recommendation to the group later in the summer.

Notes prepared by Ciliberti