

Vale Reference Committee

October 12, 2007

Rutgers University, Alexander Library

In Attendance:

Laura Kortz, (New Jersey City University); Cynthia Mullins (Rowan University); Jane Kearns (Caldwell College); Jane Crocker (Gloucester County College); Pat Dawson (Rider University); Natalie Borisovets (Rutgers University); Tony Joachim (William Paterson University); Peggy Dreker (UMDNJ- Smith Library).

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Review of minutes from last meeting
3. Committee Web site
4. Future meetings; frequency and location (F2F and online, via chat or listserv)
5. Committee role and purposes & review of charge
6. VALE Assessment Report
7. Membership – new and old members
8. Other Business

1. Introductions

Individual introductions made

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 31, 2007 were approved with some minor modifications.

3. Committee Webpage

Tony Joachim has developed a Reference Committee webpage on the Vale website. He will try to post minutes from past meetings if available. Jane Crocker was asked to write a brief history of the committee for the web site. Tony has also developed a Listserv for the Group and will give us details soon.

4. Future Meetings

A discussion was held on the frequency of the Reference Committee meetings and the method of these meetings. It was agreed that the Committee will try to meet 5 to 6 times annually. Hopefully at least three of those meeting can be done online depending on the type of work that needs to be done.

Tony Joachim agreed to look at some online meeting services that are free. The use of chat services and IM such as Yahoo, MSN or AOL was explored. Pat Dawson suggested the use of Google Docs so

simultaneous user scan work on one document at the same time. Nancy Borisovets will also look into the use of the Sakai through Rutgers. This is an open source class management program.

5. Role and goals of the Reference Committee

Discussion on the mission and goals of the Reference Committee was held.

It was agreed to change the Reference Committee Mission to:

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To achieve this mission the Reference Committee has the following goals:

1. The Reference Service Committee will review, evaluate and promote innovate ideas and effective measures in the field of reference services;
2. The Reference Service Committee will evaluate the role of traditional reference services and the use of technology at the point of service; either in person to users, on-line to users or through other modes of providing Reference Services.
3. The Reference Service Committee will provide members with opportunities for continuing education and professional development.
4. The Reference Service Committee will work with other Vale Committees when necessary.

Pat Dawson referenced the following article in the discussion:

Gerlich, Bella Karr and Berard, G. Lynn, "Introducing the READ Scale: Qualitative Statistics for Academic Reference Services" Georgia Library Quarterly v. 43, no4 (March 2007), p.7-14.

6. Vale Assessment Report

The committee discussed the VALE Assessment Report, developing a list of questions and comments:

- Concerns were raised about how representative the results of the survey were. According to the report, only a small number of respondents were surveyed, most of which held top level administrative positions at their libraries.
- Will VALE be addressing issues raised concerning the Listserv (ease of use, etc.)?
- How will VALE be able to implement the recommended changes without state funding?

- How was the 'future initiatives list' generated? Was it developed through the survey, or is it based on some other document? It seems as if there were very few initiatives that would be directly relevant to the Reference Services Committee.
- In response to the telephone survey's issue regarding travel, the Reference Services Committee is exploring options for conducting meetings electronically.

7. Membership – New and Old members

Laura has been unable to contact two new members of the Reference Services Committee, and requested assistance from the committee. Tony, Laura and Peggy will attempt to contact these two individuals in order to determine whether they are still interested in serving. In addition, Laura requested that current members recommend any additional librarians to nominate to the committee.

8. Other Business

Future meeting date: December 13, 2007, location TBA (Rutgers-Newark or online)