
VALE Assessment Committee Annual Report, 2008

Part 1: Roster of Members

Jeanne Boyle (Chair), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Anne Ciliberti (Executive Committee Liaison), William Paterson University
Benjamin F. Fisher, Rowan University
Marianne Gaunt (Executive Committee Liaison), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Judy Jeng, New Jersey City University
Jia Mi, The College of New Jersey
Richard E. Stern, Seton Hall University

Part 2: Summary of achievements during the past year

The Assessment Committee was reconstituted with Jeanne Boyle as Chair and with nearly all new members. Anne Ciliberti was the sole continuing member. New members volunteered after Jeanne sent an invitation to VALE-L.

Assessment Committee members met face-to-face in July and September 2007 and conducted other business through a SAKAI site hosted at Rutgers and occasion telephone calls.

The committee drafted a new and ambitious charge that reflected the enthusiasm of the new members. The text of the charge is available in the Committee's July minutes, available at: http://www.valenj.org/newvale/about/committee/assessment/minutes/VALE_Assessment_Committee_Minutes07022007.pdf.

As incoming chair, Jeanne participated with Anne and other members of the Executive Council in developing the VALE Assessment Survey conducted by PALINET Consulting Services during spring 2007. The Assessment Committee was subsequently charged by the Executive Committee to review the findings, in consultation with other VALE committees, and prepare a report recommending how the Executive Committee should proceed to address the survey results. The Assessment Committee report is available at: <http://www.valenj.org/newvale/about/committee/assessment/>. Primary outcomes are that the Executive Council: 1) met with all committee chairs in March 2008, an event that will now happen regularly, and 2) issued Committee Guidelines. The Assessment Committee sponsored a breakout session at the January 2008 VALE Users' / NJ ACRL/NJLA CUS Conference titled VALE Assessment Survey & Report: What's Next? Jeanne moderated and Tom Claerson and Chris Martire, PALINET Consulting Services, presented.

The Assessment Committee organized a fall 2007 meeting of representatives from VALE libraries interested in participating in LibQUAL during the spring 2008. Presentations were given by Mark Thompson, Bergen Community College; Eleonora Dubicki, Monmouth University; and Jeanne Boyle. Those assembled developed the five additional survey questions that group participation permits and discussed ways of boosting participation. During the sign up period, Jeanne fielded questions from VALE libraries, consulting with ARL as necessary.

Part 3: Issues to be considered further

The revised charge has not yet been presented to the Executive Council, and committee members need to reconsider the new charge before establishing goals for the coming year. Serving the Executive Committee with association level assessments as well as developing a program that helps VALE libraries expand their assessment work may be too ambitious for busy committee members.

The Committee needs to consider if there should be ongoing follow-up to the 2007 Assessment Survey and if LibQUAL coordination should occur each year.

Part 4: Recommended objective for the next fiscal year

It would be useful to committee members as well as the rest of the organization if we spent some time this next year investigating other survey instruments, in addition to LibQUAL+®, that are available as turnkey solutions. These would include LibSat and LibPAS from Counting Opinions and MINES for Libraries from ARL.

Part 5: Statement of resources desired/needed

If the Committee develops a forum about assessment instruments, travel, honoraria, and refreshments might be needed. Otherwise, no particular resources are needed unless the Executive Council charges the Assessment Committee with a particular task that requires travel, honoraria, etc.