

Value of Academic Libraries Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

ALA 2015 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Value of Academic Libraries Committee

Association of College and Research Libraries

Saturday, January 31, 8:30-11:30 am

Chicago, IL, Sheraton Chicago - Parlor A

Dr. Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Chair

Recording: Linda Kopecky and Marie Radford

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
Current members attending:

Lynn Silipigni Connaway (Chair, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015)
Melissa Bowles-Terry (Vice-Chair, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015)
Theresa S. Byrd (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Alan Carbery (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Janet S. Fore (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Linda A. Kopecky (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Debbie L. Malone (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Peter McDonald (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Marie L. Radford (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Lorelei Tanji (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Terry Sklair Taylor (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Susan Barnes Whyte (Board Liaison, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015)
Kara Malenfant (Staff Liaison, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015)
Shawn P. Calhoun (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)

Observers:

Michael Whitchurch, Brigham Young University; michael_whitchurch@byu.edu
Ted Chodock (joined 9:50AM), College of Southern Nevada; ted.chodock@csn.edu

Remote participation options were not available for this meeting. Members unable to attend:

*Jaime Corris Hammond (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Douglas F. Hasty (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)
Stephanie Mikitish (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Adam Lee Murray (Member, July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2016)
Megan Jane Oakleaf (Member, July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2015)*

- 2) Agenda Review – Action 5 was moved down in the agenda.
- 3) VALC Annual Work Plan (2014-2015) Review and Update Progress
Note: Discussion went line by line through Annual Work Plan.

ACTION 1 – Blog (Melissa Bowles-Terry)

Thanks to Deb Malone for several posts from the ACRL Liaisons on the value of academic libraries; Kara solicited entries from Assessment in Action first-year participants (4 responses so far); the AiA Year One report just came out. Additional ideas being worked on: Student Retention Discussion Group: Framework for Information Literacy Group.

Discussion on Metrics for the blog - there is WordPress data but it isn't tracking individual documents and there is no report at this time. The links could be changed to be unique, to then capture more focused document usage. We should be able to get a sense by ALA AC.

Melissa will follow-up with Megan Oakleaf who is looking into another outlet for this kind of news; a *C&RL News* column has been previously discussed, and *ACRL Insider* might also be an outlet.

Next Steps: Kara to send a second solicitation request to AiA participants; Melissa and Megan to continue to follow-up on leads; Melissa to communicate with Megan on additional outlets.

ACTION 2 – Valueography (*Stephanie Mikitish, unable to attend*)

Lynn communicated with Steph but current status unclear. Items can be re-posted/promoted on the Blog as there are always new users in the audience.

Next Steps: Marie to follow-up on the number of entries added by Steph. Marie encouraged everyone to send items to her, Lynn, or Steph for posting.

ACTION 3 – Value of Academic Library Statement (*Adam Murray, unable to attend*)

Lynn reviewed the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) statement that outlines 16 reasons to value academic libraries. <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/page/the-value-of-academic-libraries>.

Discussion: Agreement that the expanded statement is good but an Executive Summary concise version for quick take-aways could be better shared with accrediting associations, provosts, development staff, donors, and other non-librarians. Idea to make it more pithy with perhaps 10 bullet points, and then link out to a fuller Statement and also out to the full Valueography as the citable sources. This could drive traffic to the Valueography.

Questions: 1) What was the charge? Model on SCONAL document to help librarians. Everything done by this committee is to help librarians. 2) Is this intended to be a tool, or is it an official statement (that could/should go through the Board)? TBD.

Next steps: Susan and Kara to explore the appropriate process on the Board question and how to get the statement out to members to vet content; Lorelei to work with Adam to create a summary version.

ACTION 4 – Poster Publicity (Linda Kopecky; Janet Fore)

Two blog posts have been made linking to the templates. A few libraries have asked for more details and confirmation about how to use the posters, customizing requirements, etc; they have been encouraged to let us know when their projects are complete. Blog posts or *ACRL Insider* could be used to additionally capture stories of how the posters have been used. Committee discussion in the fall concerned the desire to have more diversity in the posters. If this does not occur naturally through open access adaptations of the posters ACRL resources can be utilized to create additional images. DePaul is drafting posters with their local photos and the DeSales' posters are planned to include older adult students to reflect users on her campus.

Next steps: The Sunday Value Update to include a shout-out asking if and how the posters are being used by those in the audience. Janet and Melissa to request data on the number of template downloads. Janet and Linda to identify additional material for blog posts.

ACTION 5 – Gap Analysis of 2010 Value Report and 2012 Summit White Paper (Debbie Malone; Alan Carbery)

<moved down in the agenda>

ACTION 6 – ACRL 2015 Proposals (*Megan Oakleaf, unable to attend*)

One workshop is being presented and Megan has additional presentations at the ACRL 2015 conference. There will also be a Value-themed session at ALA AC in San Francisco.

ACTION 7 – Assessment Task Force (Terry Taylor)

The Assessment Task Force is on track to complete their work by ALA AC. Sub teams are working on focused areas such as best practices, required proficiencies, literature review, and assessment in existing professional standards.

Next steps: Review for categorizing and sorting; report at ALA AC 2015.

ACTION 8 – VAL Scholarship Committee Fundraising Report (Peter MacDonald; Theresa Byrd)

Peter thanked everyone who had contributed in the name of our committee to ACRL's Fundraising initiative. On last report we were \$40 short of having a named Scholarship.

Next Steps: Peter will encourage those who agreed to contribute to get their donations in. Several volunteered to donate an additional amount to reach the target.

ACTION 9 – Plan for Proposing Sessions at Annual Conferences for Regional Accreditation Groups (Peter MacDonald; Theresa Byrd)

Ongoing, they are reaching out to the six regional accrediting agencies in the country. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has 5 core competencies including one on information literacy (also critical thinking); WASC has included librarians in the new rubric planning, and has their own conference, so libraries are represented but not the Value Committee ourselves. Peter has talked with Jennifer Fabbri (San Marcos) who is running several of the programs and may be willing to share a brief presentation on it as part of a larger session.

Discussion: Known status of competencies and librarian involvement within other accrediting bodies; how to expand it to other regions using WASC as a model. Does ALA have a liaison to the accrediting bodies, perhaps through the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA)? Suggestion to utilize a Sunday Value Update session, to make explicit connections for the audience with examples from models such as WASC and perhaps tied to the draft Statement. Idea to have one librarian and one accrediting agency representative present, framed for how to best partner and collaborate to advocate for information literacy to be included in accreditation standards.

Next Steps: Peter to continue to discuss with Jennifer Fabbri; Lynn and Melissa to additionally research and report back.

ACTION 10 – Ideas for incorporating Standards for Libraries in Higher Education in VAL Committee Work (Melissa Bowles-Terry)

Melissa has talked with Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe and Deb Gilcrist who had created the curriculum, to see if that content could be made accessible.

Discussion: A workbook format has been proposed but it hasn't come together (Kathryn Deiss has solicited authors, none confirmed). Idea: perhaps handouts and content from the workshops could be curated on a website and not in a fully formal workbook format. Noted: Megan Oakleaf has self-published an assessment workbook that touches on some of this; her *Academic Library Value: The Impact Starter Kit* (<http://meganoakleaf.info/workbook.html>) provides a series of activities. CSU has a shared LibGuide (the "COLD Toolkit") on assessment with information items for California. It was suggested that we might explore hiring a research assistant to create a workbook with a minimal investment/stipend.

Next Steps: Melissa to talk again with Lisa and Deb to see if the workbook is something they might be interested in pursuing or if we could facilitate identifying somebody to partner with them on it; Lynn and Melissa to talk to Kathryn on current feasibility.

ACTION 11 – AiA Prepare Call and Application Review (Melissa Bowles-Terry)

2014 applications to be due March 4; reviewers to use a rubric through an online system. Notifications ~5 weeks following application deadline. Four additional reviewers were requested, including two as back-up reviewers.

2014 Committee member reviewers continuing: Linda Kopecky; Jaime Hammond; Peter MacDonald; Theresa Byrd; Douglas Hasty.

New volunteers: Alan Carbery, Shawn Calhoun, Terry Taylor (back-up), and Debbie Malone (back-up).

ACTION 12 – Review team for AiA facilitator (Marie Radford, Kara Malenfant)

The 3-person review team has scheduled interviews with four very strong candidates. There may be flexibility to bring in two new facilitators, and may include outside expertise in instructional design.

ACTION 13 - Update on Value of Academic Libraries Initiative (Kara Malenfant, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Melissa Bowles-Terry)

The Update is scheduled for Sunday (February 1), 1:00-2:30 PM in McCormick Place (W183a) with speakers Karen Brown, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, and Melissa Bowles-Terry. The new first year summary report, *Academic Library Contributions to Student Success: Documented Practices from the Field*, prepared by Karen with contributions by Kara, is now published and freely available (<http://tinyurl.com/AiAYearOne>). Discussion: As of Tuesday, the first-year AiA projects are also online with the final posters, project descriptions and a search feature. Consistent themes in the “challenges” section were noted and suggested as things the Value committee might work on. As the posters are freely available for view anyone could now review for themes and the committee could re-address this idea. The project analysis did a synthesis report with findings, future directions, *etc.* and this will inform the research agenda.

ACTION 5 <deferred from above> – Gap Analysis of 2010 Value Report and 2012 Summit White Paper (Debbie Malone; Alan Carbery)

Review and discussion of *A Report to ACRL VAL Committee from the Gap Analysis Subcommittee*.

The subcommittee thanked Kara, Megan and Lynn, who have provided helpful input for this project. The main report will anchor on approximately 10 priorities (committee subjective look). The Gap analysis identified many items.

- Research Agenda – Develop a research agenda that considers key questions raised at the Summit. Agree to keep this as a priority. The literature review overlaps with what Stephanie Mikitish is doing for this Committee and could be used to inform the gap analysis. Suggestion, as this is potentially a never-ending project, perhaps include a few Next Steps. Research on value and ROI is increasingly in the MLIS curriculum (not as targeted in PhD curriculum but also there) and especially at Rutgers where they are focusing on researchers (rather than on administration or librarians). Many are connecting a research agenda to assessment and progress is being made, since assessment (overall) is so hot in academe right now, so this work could inform the curriculum. The Research Agenda could be focused on identifying research projects that have demonstrated how academic libraries have had positive impact on student outcomes; determining a timeline and priorities.
- Identify common data sources on campus. Learning Analytics came up a lot in the Communicate/Collaborate document. Using data and learning analytics are hot topics. How do we collect richer data, learning retention, *etc.*? Agreed at minimum to track the literature on it, and perhaps encourage ACRL to create additional related e-learning products. Discussion of member experiences: DePaul is considering a swipe card at the reference desk, as students already swipe in for tutoring in the building where they include topics and other details as to what they will be tutored on, so the data could be connected. On the optional swipe data, some literature suggests if you ask them to swipe AFTER the transaction it does not act as a barrier to scare users away. Idea: Make sure the academic advisors and tutors have “seek assistance at library” as one of the possible recommendations. Note: Some of our campuses are using Skyfactor Mapworks (formerly MAP-Works); UW-Milwaukee has library-specific questions included.
- Professional Development – The Assessment in Action program is excellent but it is time to start strategizing how to support additional librarians, to get similar content out to those who can’t participate in the national program (unable to meet travel requirements, *etc.*) or make a long-term commitment. *What other ideas are there, to build new communities of practice?* Discussion: The new AiA Instructional Designer may be able to create some content in this area, perhaps as online resources. ACRL may apply (Monday, Feb 2 deadline) for a new IMLS Concept Paper (prior to a proposal) to obtain ongoing support. This project would examine a few large and frequent research questions that have been identified across campuses. If accepted it would move ahead as a scaled-up project. Noted: IMLS will only award two grants to ALA Divisions, so we are competing with other divisions.
- Review ACRL resources to identify complementary content about how the library contributes to institutional mission. This is tied into the Valueography and how it could be updated. Steph Mikitish’s work for this committee has some overlap but she hasn’t specifically been tasked with the more global look. Q: *Is this as big a priority as some of the others on the list?* TBD.
- Build on partnerships with established external higher education stakeholders.

Debbie will be discussing this with the ACRL Liaisons at this conference – other avenues to be strategized.

- Articulate strategies for librarians to initiate, partner in, and facilitate campus conversations about institutional assessment.
As this is a big AiA component, are there things to expand to others beyond AiA? E-learning? Blog posts?
- Expand and investigate multiple service units in library spaces.
A subcommittee member is extremely interested in doing more on the Libraries as Place / spaces issue (which came out of the Summit report). Some concern was expressed this might suggest handing over library space; discussion on rewording to emphasize *collaborating*. Additional suggestion to keep in as an example of what some schools are doing, not as a recommendation.

As this report has many overlapping areas and not all can be a priority, a decision was made to select 2-3 items to go forward based on top priorities and also viability. It was noted the subcommittee for this gap analysis has officially completed their task; they are asked to come up with a few top items and then a *new* committee (with potentially some overlap, if willing) could do a planning project for the recommended top items, to include timeline and resources needed.

AiA next steps – The IMLS Concept Paper, if successful, will leverage the work done by the first two cohorts. Reference the literature review to back it up – looking at approaches for documenting and demonstrating library impact on student success, and moving on with the grant proposal.

Idea: We could put out a short-term Research Agenda articulating and specifically tied to Library Value, with 4-5 items on it that would be of potential interest to doctoral students and other researchers.

Next Steps: Existing subcommittee to bullet-point the top areas based on today's feedback. The full committee will then review and form new group.

4) Report from Board Liaison (Susan Barnes Whyte)

Susan shared updates from the Friday (Jan 30th) Leadership meeting. Take-aways: it was useful to hear what other committees are doing; the more communication the better. Documents related to the recently launched ALA initiative, *Policy Revolution!* (see <http://www.ala.org/offices/PR-documents>) were shared with a call for feedback. There was an update and opportunity for table discussion on the *ACRL Statement on Academic Freedom* drafted by the ACRL Professional Values Committee, and updates on the ACRL 2015 Conference in Portland. A major Board topic this conference is the draft *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*.

5) ACRL Multi-Year Planning and Strategic Goal Area Committees

- a) ACRL Goal Area Committee Midwinter Report - submitted January 2015.

Lynn and Melissa to meet with the ACRL Board to review the report this afternoon.

- b) Review Multi-year Planning Grid

Covered by previous agenda items.

- c) Strategic Goal Area Committees Discussion with ACRL Board of Directors, Saturday, January 31, 2:50-3:00, Sheraton – Ontario Room

6) Questions/Discussion

- The ALA Annual timeslot for this committee is being moved to two new times (Sat., June 27, 10:30-11:30 PDT and Sat., June 27, 3-5:30 PDT) to allow for participation to support the AiA Poster Session. Committee members are asked to serve as greeters and support staff for that event.
- Lynn thanked the Committee, Susan and Kara for all their help. All thanked Lynn for her leadership.

Meeting adjourned 11:24am