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NELIG Meeting - January 25, 2002

New England Library Instruction Group

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NELIG Meeting
January 25, 2002
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Minutes

Welcome and introductions: Esme DeVault, chair
22 attendees

A panel presentation on institutional accreditation followed. Sharon Moore, from Quinebaug Valley Community College in Connecticut gave the first talk, discussing in detail the multi-year process of preparing self-study documents and then arranging for a positive experience for the visiting team. The cross disciplinary openness, creativity and humor of her college environment were highlighted as well as the extensive planning involved. Julie Whelan, from Massachusetts General Hospital (formerly at Mass. College of Pharmacy), used examples from her own career to explain how the accreditation process had fostered growth in the several libraries, provided leverage for implementing information literacy instruction and allowed greater opportunities for assessment. She stressed course and curricular mapping activities as particularly useful arenas for information literature advocacy.

Ruth Hooten, formerly of Bradford College, now at NELINET, has served on NEASC visiting teams. Ruth described the training and preparation team members undertake and then the often grueling agenda of the visit itself. Ruth emphasized that visitors look at the institution as a whole; they appreciate the preparation and honestly of the academic communities they visit; and that they make general but not quantitative recommendations. A lively question and answer session followed.

After a break, the group reassembled and began with reports from members who had attended other meetings and workshops. Anna Litten (Emerson), Esme DeVault (Wheelock) and Kendall Hobbs (Wesleyan) had all attended a Metro New York ACRL meeting in December on assessment. They found it a valuable day and mentioned a speaker from the Middle Atlantic States Association of Schools and Colleges who discussed their accreditation process which has strong information literacy standards. Another speaker enumerated concrete ways to improve an instruction program. If the information from the meeting is posted to the web, this group promised to send the URL to the NELIG listserv so others can view the presentations.

Kendall Hobbs, the NELIG webmaster, mentioned that the NELIG website contains links to presentations given at past meetings. He is soliciting member publications to be posted to the web site as he would like to establish a collection and currently only has contributions from one member. He also asked for links to instruction type materials. The NELIG listserv is an important means of communication and has low traffic. Listserv sign up is available through the NELIG website. (http://www.acrlnc.org/sigs/nelig/)

Mary MacDonald (URI) attended the ACRL Mid-Winter Meeting where she was chair of the Teaching Methods Committee. With handouts and a description, she directed members to the materials from the session, Learning with Laughter: Bringing Humor and Creativity into Your Teaching* available at http://www.lib.vt.edu/istm/. It was also mentioned that the ACRL
Continuing Education Committee is seeking suggestions for topics for future CE offerings.

Future events of interest are the LOCI SIG meeting Feb. 7 at Boston College. This group focuses on topics related to the use of instruction software such as WebCT and Blackboard. The Information Technology SIG, under the leadership of Nancy George also offers programs which are frequently of interest to NELIG members.

Kathy Labadorf (UConn) lead off the round table discussion by reporting on a debate as to whether the topics of plagiarism and web site evaluation should be in library orientation sessions. The group was unanimous in support of inclusion of these topics. Mention was made of software programs such as plagiarism.com and turn-it-in which are being used on several campuses to detect plagiarized material in student papers. Members suggested that librarians could:

- Create a faculty resource page on plagiarism
- Teach these topics as part of teaching how to decipher and create citations
- Put a positive spin on the topic and show students what to do rather than giving prohibitions
- Collaborate with faculty on creating standards

Following the general discussion, the Program Committee met to work on plans for the annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be on June 7 at Boston College and will focus on creativity in teaching.

The next meeting will on May 3 but the location has not been identified.

Submitted 1/28/02,
Julie Whelan, Secretary