In 2016 The Reference Services Committee, formerly a VALE NJ Committee, was reestablished under the auspices of NJLA-CUS/ACRL NJ.

Membership

Maria Deptula and Susan Bucks served as co-chairs for 2016-2017.

Katie Cohen and Dina Meky will serve as co-chairs for 2017-2018.

Current Members

Natalie Borisovets  Rutgers University
Susan Bucks  Monmouth University
Jody Caldwell  Drew University
Katie Cohen  Ramapo College
Cynthia Coulter  Hudson County Community College
Patricia Dawson  Rider University
Maria Deptula  Berkeley College
Jessica Hamilton  Rowan College
Jane Kingsland  County College Morris
Rhonda Marker  Rutgers University
Kate McGivern  Bergen Community College
Dina Meky  Berkeley College, Woodbridge, NJ
Elisabeth Oliu  Middlesex County College
Samantha Rice  Rutgers University
Bruce Slutsky  New Jersey Institute of Technology
Hilary Westgate  Ramapo College

Meetings

- October 5, 2016: Online Meeting
- November 18, 2016: Online Meeting
- February 3, 2017: Online Meeting
- March 20, 2017: Berkeley College, Woodbridge, NJ
- May 30, 2017: Online Meeting

Activities

- VALE Annual Users Conference, January 6, 2017, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

The Committee submitted a poster which was accepted. “Reference Committee: Up & Running” described the mission and goals of the committee, and provided a timeline of committee activities under VALE. Several committee members were on hand to talk to conference attendees, and a few new members joined as a result.
“New Reference Librarian Workshop,” April 6, 2017 at Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

“The New Reference Librarian Workshop,” which consisted of five Lightning Talks and six Round Table discussions, was enthusiastically attended by 35 academic librarians from around the state, as well as students and faculty from the Rutgers School of Communication and Information. The Lightning Talks were topical and pertinent, and the Round Table discussions were animated, indicating a genuine interest and concern about the challenges facing academic reference service. On the follow-up evaluations attendees indicated that the workshop was very helpful. Comments included the following: “This workshop provided an excellent forum for fruitful discussion of important topics;” “I learned new ways to consider the topic of virtual reference;” “Our library is not alone when it comes to reference issues and problems;” “I enjoyed the lightning talks—quick informative bits.” The comments also included ideas for future programs which the committee will consider in future years.

- **Lightning Round Topics**
  - “Post, Tweet, Like: Using Social Media as a Reference Resource,” Dina Meky of Berkeley College
  - “Business Reference for (Not Business) Librarians,” by Cara Berg of William Patterson University
  - “Virtual Reference via Adobe Connect,” by Michelle Ehrenpreis of Felician University
  - “Don’t Let Business Resources Baffle You Blue! Company Research for Anyone New!,” by Christy Goodnight of Stockton University
  - “Closer Encounters of the Skype Kind,” by Audrey B. Welber of Princeton University

- **Round Table Topics**
  - “Outreach in Academic Libraries,” by Zara T. Wilkinson Of Rutgers University-Camden
  - “Providing Service to Community Patrons,” by Carol Nurse of Montclair University
  - “Promoting Reference Services on Campus,” by Annie Chatterjee of Essex County College
  - “Exclusively Virtual Reference Services to a Hybrid Online: On-site Student Population,” by Joe Louderback of DeVry University
• “Graduate Reference Assistants at the Reference Desk,” by Susan Bucks on Monmouth University
• “Location, Location, Location!,” by Kate Cohen of Ramapo College

Proposed Objectives for 2017-2018

- Poster or presentation at VALE and/or NJLA
- Repeating the VALE Reference Services Survey
- Workshop or summit for Summer 2018 possibly with the User Education Committee

Members’ Accomplishments: (Presentations and Publications)

- Deptula, Maria.

- Cohen, Katie Maricic.

- Susan Bucks