

NJLA/CUS
User Education Committee
Annual Report 2011-2012

The User Education Committee met six times during the 2011-2012 academic year. Five of the meetings were joint meetings with members of the VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee. The idea of having joint meetings was initiated by members who serve on both committees and also because of the common interests shared by the committee members. The meetings are not to everyone's liking since they are held via videoconference and are hosted by either Rutgers (offering three locations) or UMDNJ (offering two locations). While the joint meetings and videoconferencing allow for greater attendance, the meeting scheduled for November (User Education) was canceled due to lack of attendance as was the April joint meeting for the same reason.

Committee Members presented a number of programs, as well as a few posters, at the VALE Users' Conference. The User Education Committee also co-sponsored three programs at the NJLA Conference and Committee Members were actively involved with each program. In addition, a few committee members continued their work on the Information Literacy Progression Standards task force with members of the VALE SIL Committee although there was little to no progress made by the committee. Although not an "official" sponsor, the User Education Committee fully endorsed a recent workshop provided by VALE SIL Committee members and actively promoted and participated in this professional development opportunity that was held in May.

While there is interest in remaining involved with the User Education Committee by current members, many listed on the current committee roster have not attended a meeting in quite some time. This issue was discussed at NJLA/CUS Executive Board sessions and for the upcoming year, committee members will be required to attend at least one meeting during the year. The transition to the CUS Drupal site is another reason we need to have a current committee roster for communication purposes. With monthly meetings not being viable for many members, a brief survey was sent out to current members to determine how often and on what day of the week meetings should be scheduled for the coming year. So far, 9 people have responded to the survey and the majority (56%) selected four times a year as the number of times the committee should meet. Nearly half of the respondents (44%) indicated they would prefer meeting mostly in person and the same number of respondents preferred some in person and some online. Morning meetings were favored by the majority, 67%, although there was no consensus on what day of the week would be best. Respondents were also asked for suggestions on what topics to focus on during the upcoming year. One last call for survey participants will be sent to help establish a calendar of meetings. It should also be noted that the current chair has not yet found a successor but will offer to co-chair the committee during the upcoming year to ease the transition.

Respectfully submitted by,

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