

Visions for VALE 2006: Cooperative Collection Management Proposal

As I sit down to write this vision proposal for the VALE Cooperative Collection Management (CCM) Committee, I see that the cover story of *Library Journal* magazine for the May 1, 2006 issue is “Collaborative Collections: the united way” by Barbara Hoffert. She cites as models of cooperative collection management many of the academic library consortia that the VALE CCM Committee cited in its December, 2004 white paper on “Collections Under Stress: Developing a coordinated response to ensuring future access to print holdings in New Jersey.” The models are TCLC, CONSORT, and CARLI. In the article, Robert Kieft of Haverford College, one of the TCLC libraries, notes, “But with our capacity to share information about collections and to share the collections themselves, I think we will see a major shift in the way libraries collect, and that will be in the direction of cooperation” (39).

The VALE Cooperative Collection Management Committee proposes that VALE libraries start working on projects that are forward thinking in their view of New Jersey academic library collections and their value to the state including last copy and long-term accessibility. These projects will build on the substantial work of the VALE CCM Committee, including the results of the VALE survey in November, 2005, the PALINET demonstration and VALE Focus Group on the OCLC WorldCat Collection Analysis Tool, and extensive discussion on creating a model Last Copy Policy for New Jersey (see the VALE CCM Committee Website for details on these projects at:

http://blake.montclair.edu/%7Emallerym/Last_Copy.html).

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To this end, the CCM Committee proposes that VALE dedicate resources and personnel in the coming years to support work on the following cooperative collection management projects:

- * Propose a Model Last Copy Policy for VALE Libraries based on accepted best practices;

- * Examine Cooperative Collection assessment through a pilot project using the WorldCat Collection Analysis Tool with a group of academic libraries in New Jersey; and

- *Examine the potential for using the VALE Virtual Catalog as a cooperative collection management tool for New Jersey academic libraries.

As Hoffert notes in her article, “adopting the collaborative collection development model would require a new way of thinking” for many libraries (41). In these budget-crunched times, New Jersey academic libraries need to start thinking in new ways, and cooperative collection management projects will help us to assess our collections more accurately. Together we can create stronger, more cost-effective resources for all libraries.

References:

Hoffert, B. “Collaborative Collections: the united way.” *Library Journal*. May 1, 2006, pp. 38-41.

VALE Cooperative Collection Management Committee. White paper on “Collections under Stress: Developing a coordinated response to ensuring future access to print holdings in New Jersey.” December 6, 2004. Online at:
<http://www.valenj.org/conf2005/VALELastCopyDec04.pdf>

VALE CCM Committee Website at:

http://blake.montclair.edu/%7Emallerym/Last_Copy.html

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