

Facilitator questions for VALE Future directions

Mission

The Virtual Academic Library Environment (VALE), a consortium of New Jersey college and university libraries and the New Jersey State Library, is dedicated to furthering excellence in learning and research through innovative and collaborative approaches to information resources and services.

Motion approved at 12/11/14 VALE Executive Committee meeting:

That VALE refocus its activities to support its mission of collaboration among member libraries.

ONE:

It was observed in the EC's planning session with a consultant that VALE by definition is an organization that serves academic libraries, not academic librarians, primarily through developing ways for libraries to collaborate on services and issues related to information resources. It was noted further that other organizations exist to further librarian professional development and/or information literacy matters, such as NJLA, LLNJ, ALA, ACRL, and NJLA-CUS/ACRL-NJ. For the sake of discussion, please accept the distinction between serving libraries and serving librarians. *Are all VALE committees oriented to address topics that concern "information resources and services"? If not, which ones aren't and how do they fit into VALE? Might they affiliate with other organizations?*

*NOTE: Committee charges are described on a handout

VALE Archives and Special Collections (new)

VALE Assessment, Evaluation and Statistics

VALE Bibliographic Control and Metadata

VALE Cooperative Collection Management

VALE Digital Media

VALE Electronic Resources

VALE Reference Services

VALE Resource Sharing

VALE Shared Information Literacy

VALE Users' Conference

VALE Website

TWO:

Setting VALID aside, what services should VALE develop to offer to member libraries?

Examples: collaborative tech services; group support of common software packages; hosting services; shared repository; shared digital archives (different from repository); patron-driven e-book collection; shared approval plan; etc.

THREE:

Setting VALID aside , on what issues or projects in the field might VALE members collaborate as a group?

Examples: Open Educational Resources and textbooks costs; shared Essential Learning Outcomes; faculty awareness of predatory publishing; statewide assessment; etc.

FOUR:

How might VALE communicate more effectively with its members? With all of its constituents?

FIVE:

In all of this talk about strategic planning and reorganization, what are you not hearing? What topics or issues have not been addressed?

SIX:

What priorities should VALE establish for the near future?

SEVEN:

VALE and NJEdge.Net have entered into a partnership for the provision of business services, but that partnership also opens the door for other types of collaboration. Given your knowledge of NJEdge.Net, how might VALE and NJEdge collaborate? How might Edge help VALE, and how might VALE help Edge?

VALE Committee Charges

VALE Archives and Special Collections (new)

1. To provide a forum for members to share information and explore common issues faced by archives and special collections in academic libraries
2. To explore effective methodology to demonstrate and teach about the use of archival and special collections
3. To conduct activities to increase visibility and demonstrate the value of archives and special collections across New Jersey's academic institutions
4. To foster cooperative efforts in sharing information about and access to archives and special collections among VALE member libraries
5. To offer opportunities for archivist and special collections librarians in continuing education, scholarship and professional development
6. To gather and make available the names of archives and special collections consultants and experts in New Jersey

VALE Assessment, Evaluation and Statistics

The VALE Assessment Committee will collect and review statistics and other data to be used by the VALE Executive Committee for formal assessments of VALE activities and resources and will serve as a clearinghouse for pertinent assessment, evaluation, and statistical information and resources for the VALE membership, including activities of other consortia. The Committee will seek to recommend assessment methodologies for evaluating organizational goals and outcomes that will measure and express the value of VALE to the membership as well as to outside bodies. Assessment methodologies may include the use of focus group interviews conducted by member libraries with their campus constituencies, statistical reports, or other qualitative and quantitative methods for collecting the desired data. The Committee will work closely with other VALE committees to determine needed information and the best methods for collecting the desired data.

VALE Bibliographic Control and Metadata

The VALE Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee will share and explore common issues faced by the technical services librarians in New Jersey State. To achieve this mission, the Committee has the following goals:

- To share information and explore common issues in cataloging, processing, staff training, quality control, database management and departmental administration
- To provide technical and moral support to members within its ability in the field of cataloging
- To provide members with opportunities in continuing education and professional development
- To promote innovative ideas and effective measures in the field of cataloging
- To foster cooperative effort in resource-sharing among member libraries

VALE Cooperative Collection Management

Reporting to the VALE Executive Board, the VALE Cooperative Collection Management Committee will develop resources for cooperative collection management among VALE libraries and raise awareness of last copy, repository and other collection management issues. Specifically, the Committee will;

- Recruit and train libraries for participation in the VALE Last Copy Preservation Program;
- Examine options for implementing collection assessment tools, such as the WorldCat Collection Analysis Tool, with a group of academic libraries in New Jersey; and
- Conduct workshops to raise awareness about standards to address preservation issues as well as retention issues of print resources.

VALE Digital Media

The VALE Digital Media Committee will provide a vehicle for VALE member institutions to obtain streaming rights for digital media by:

- Brokering with Media Distributors for the VALE member institutions for digital rights to stream media.
- Developing a licensing model that can be used for negotiations with distributors
- Implementing a calendar for reviewing new contracts and committing to the established price.
- Collaborating with NJVID and NJEDge.net to deliver content for VALE member institutions.

VALE Electronic Resources

The VALE Electronic Resources Committee will recommend specific electronic resources for purchase under the auspices of VALE. They may also recommend the development of local databases and the linking of other databases/ resources free databases on the VALE homepage. They are also charged with reviewing the current complement of databases to ensure the quality is maintained.

E-Books Working Group

In the fall of 2010, the VALE Executive Committee approved the creation of an [E-Books Working Group](#) with representatives from the Electronic Resources Committee and the Cooperative Collection Management Committee, along with other librarians, to carry out research and make recommendations to the consortium with regard to e-book products. The [E-Books Working Group](#) operates as a subcommittee of the Electronic Resources Committee.

VALE Reference Services

The VALE Reference Services Committee explores and recommends programs and services to the VALE Executive committee, which will enhance Reference Services to the New Jersey State Academic Libraries and our user communities.

To achieve this mission the Reference Committee has the following goals:

- The Reference Services Committee will review, evaluate and promote innovative ideas and effective measures in the field of reference services.
- The Reference Services Committee will evaluate the role of traditional reference services and the use of technology at the point of service; either in person to users, on-line to users or through other modes of providing Reference Services.
- The Reference Services Committee will collaborate with other VALE Committees to provide members with opportunities for continuing education and professional development.

VALE Resource Sharing

Reporting to the VALE Executive Board, the VALE Resource Sharing Committee will support VALE's mission and goals by helping to identify policies and practices that will enhance resource sharing among academic libraries in New Jersey using VALE and NJ state-wide technical infrastructures.

Specifically, the Committee will:

- maintain and assess the VALE Faculty Reciprocal Borrowing Program and maintain a Web page of information and contacts on the VALE Website
- provide a forum for the knowledge of and use of the NAILLD principles in support of consortium-wide practices that enhance resource sharing and ILL operations
- investigate methods to interface JerseyCat, New Jersey's state-wide interlibrary loan service with VALE library catalogs
- investigate, evaluate and recommend, as appropriate, commercial document supplier(s) contract(s) for the consortium that may be more effective than traditional ILL for some or all types of materials
- investigate the feasibility of a virtual library catalog to enhance resource sharing among VALE libraries

VALE Shared Information Literacy

The VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee is responsible for sharing ideas, information and materials related to information literacy among VALE member libraries for the purpose of minimizing the duplication of efforts and advancing the local information literacy goals of participating libraries.

VALE Users' Conference

The VALE Users' Conference Committee, along with ACRL NJ and NJLA CUS, is responsible for planning, coordinating, overseeing and evaluating the annual Users' Conference. The Committee co-chairs will keep the VALE Executive Committee informed of progress on planning and get approval for expenditures.

VALE Website

The VALE Website Committee is responsible for reviewing the interface design of the VALE homepage, and VALE's Virtual Union catalog to ensure that the presentation of VALE resources is clear and user friendly. The committee provides advice to VALE's technical support staff in the implementation of the Sitesearch software to enhance access to VALE databases, member library holdings, and other resources as appropriate.