

Dedicated to Innovation & Collaboration

VALE
new jersey

Virtual Academic Library Environment



Triennial Report

2009-2011

Mission Statement

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.

Executive Committee Members

David Pinto The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Chair, July 2007-June 2011
Taras Pavlovsky The College of New Jersey, July 2008-June 2011, July 2011-June 2013, Chair
Judy Avrin VALE New Jersey, Ex Officio
Norma Blake New Jersey State Library, Ex Officio
F. William Chickering Rider University, July 2008-June 2010
Anne Ciliberti William Paterson University, Ex Officio
John Cohn County College of Morris, July 2008-June 2010
Judy Cohn University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Ex Officio
Jane Crocker Gloucester County College, July 2010-June 2012
Colleen Daze New Jersey State Library, Ex Officio
Marianne Gaunt Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Ex Officio
Andrea MacRitchie Union County College, July 2008-June 2010, January 2011-June 2012
Nancy Madacsi Centenary College, July 2010-December 2011
David Murray Brookdale Community College, July 2010-June 2012
Birthe Nebeker Raritan Valley Community College, July 2009-December 2010 (retired)
Cheryl O'Connor LibraryLinkNJ, Ex Officio
Luis Rodriguez Kean University, July 2010-June 2012
Andrew Scrimgeour Drew University, July 2008-June 2013
Elizabeth Siecke Ramapo College, Ex Officio, VALE Members Council, July 2011-June 2012
Richard Sweeney New Jersey Institute of Technology, Ex Officio
Joe Toth Ocean County College, July 2011- June 2013
Pat Tumulty New Jersey Library Association, Ex Officio
Bruce Whitham Rowan University, July 2008-June 2010
Amira Ünver College of Saint Elizabeth, Ex officio, VALE Members Council, July 2010-June 2011

Editorial Board

Fitzgerald Georges Bergen Community College **Paul Glassman** Felician College, Chair
Forrest Link The College of New Jersey **David Lechner** Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Jianrong Wang Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

VALE New Jersey Triennial Report 2009-2011

© 2012

VALE New Jersey

All Rights Reserved

Cover design: Kevin Cornelio, New Jersey Institute of Technology student

Introduction

Now in its 13th year, the Virtual Academic Library Environment of New Jersey (VALE) has expanded its information resources and developed its services to support the academic missions of all institutions of higher education in the state. Although details of many VALE projects, activities, and successes during fiscal years 2009-2011 may be found in the body of this report, here are a few of the highlights.

Projects VALE has begun, advanced and contributed to a range of projects for its membership and New Jersey including NJVid, New Jersey Digital Highway, VALID open-source library system, Information Literacy Progression Standards, LibQUAL+[®] survey, and a comparison of general periodical databases.

Programming Professional development is an important aspect of VALE's mission. We sponsored an annual conference (fully enrolled every year), a workshop on scholarly communication, an assessment fair, vendor showcases, authority-control training, and webinars.

Progress We moved the organization forward by installing the Drupal content management system on the VALE Web site, developed *Guidelines for Committee Chairs and Liaisons*, conducted an assessment survey and used the findings to update a strategic plan, negotiated deals with almost two dozen video publishers and vendors, kept operating costs low, and maintained a very low 3.9% service fee.

As an almost entirely volunteer organization, VALE members take great pride in our many accomplishments. It is the effort and vision of VALE's many library professionals that make this organization work so well—and it is to those many professionals that we owe our gratitude.

Because of its many accomplishments, VALE is considering changing its organizational status. This evolutionary development will provide the structure for a significant expansion in the number and type of services and resources provided to our membership. It is an exciting time for the organization and its members.

David Pinto

Executive Committee Chair, 2007-2011

Major Initiatives & Accomplishments

VALE is defined by its collaborative and cooperative ventures. Cited in the 2010 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, chaired by former Governor Thomas H. Kean, as one of two successful models of cooperation among New Jersey institutions of higher education, VALE exemplifies increased efficiency and productivity through its cooperative purchasing program, which not only negotiates deep discounts, but also consolidates electronic resource licenses for fifty-two institutions of higher education into one.

170 academic librarians serve on VALE's **twelve committees**. Examples of collaborative efforts initiated by committees:

- The **Resource Sharing** Committee's reciprocal borrowing program coordinates book loans to faculty and students of participating institutions.
- Negotiations by the **Digital Media** Committee with digital media distributors provided VALE member libraries with consortial discounts for media materials. The committee also worked with NJEDge to create NJVid, a statewide streaming video portal and central storage repository.
- The **Assessment** Committee coordinated LibQUAL+®, an online survey measuring patron satisfaction, and it provided a forum for support and dialogue among participating libraries.
- The Last Copy program, managed by the **Cooperative Collection Development** Committee, ensures the retention of at least one print copy of books published before 1900.



VALE Committee service has led to presentations and papers delivered at regional, national, and international conferences, such as the Librarians' Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) in Limerick, Ireland; the American Library Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C.; and the National Media Market Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Other committee highlights:

- **Bibliographic Control and Metadata** Standardization of New Jersey individual and corporate names resulted in easier electronic retrieval.
- **Electronic Resources** The subscription package with the publisher Elsevier was analyzed and revised, resulting in 75 new titles for participating institutions.
- **Reference Services** A 2009 survey on reference services in New Jersey academic libraries launched several conference sessions, and its focus on traditional and non-traditional reference transactions continues to sustain discussion on data-driven decision making.
- **Shared Information Literacy** Active participation in Information Literacy Progression Standards, an outline for a sequence of information competencies, resulted in adoption of the standards by several New Jersey colleges and universities. In addition, the committee maintains a Wiki for the exchange of instructional material, and lesson plans.
- **Users' Conference** Each year between 250 and 300 member library personnel attend a day-long symposium on current issues, best practices, problem-solving, and innovation. With expenses heavily underwritten by vendors and suppliers, the conference is free of charge to all registrants.
- **Web Site** Launched in 2009, a wholly redesigned and Drupal-powered web site resulted in more effective interlibrary communication and more efficient updating.

VALE Committees

Assessment

Bibliographic Control and Metadata

Cooperative Collection Development

Digital Media

Electronic Resources

Open Library System Project Implementation Taskforce

Open Library System Project Steering

Reference Services

Resource Sharing

Shared Information Literacy

Users' Conference

Web Site

Major Themes

Information Literacy

Cultivating lifelong learners is fundamental to the mission of higher education, and information literacy competencies project learning beyond classroom walls by enabling self-directed exploration as students assume internships, enter the workplace, and take on responsibilities in all dimensions of life. "Because information literacy augments students' competency with evaluating, managing, and using information, it is now considered by several regional and discipline-based accreditation associations as a key outcome for college students" (Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, Association of Research and College Libraries).

The importance of information literacy skills was captured in a survey of employers sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The employers saw the need for recent graduates to improve their research abilities so as to develop evidence-based analysis. The survey also found that 68% of employers think that postsecondary institutions should place more emphasis on the "ability to locate, organize, and evaluate information from multiple sources." We agree with President Obama's proclamation in October 2009 of National Information Literacy Month, in which he highlighted the "need for all Americans to be adept in the skills necessary to successfully navigate the Information Age."

To support this objective, the VALE Shared Information Literacy Committee produced information literacy standards for two-year community colleges to use in measuring student competencies in information literacy and to meet the legal requirement of a seamless transfer of students. Professional associations, including the New Jersey Library Association, the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, and administrative bodies such as the New Jersey State College Council of Academic Vice Presidents, endorsed the standards. VALE also worked with the Academic Officers Association to review the place of information literacy as a goal distinct from basic technological competencies within a general education curriculum. It is now working on developing information literacy standards for four-year institutions.

Access to Scholarly Resources

Central to VALE's value to its member institutions is its collective set of subscriptions to electronic resources for students and faculty: periodical indexes, many with full text; aggregated databases with full text; and digitized archives, such as The New York Times Historical Archive. Beyond the financial benefit of VALE's collective purchasing power for its member institutions, centralized subscription management saves each institution hundreds of hours of personnel time.





Effectiveness through Collaboration

VALE's success derives from the collaborative and cooperative activities of the information professionals of its member libraries. As noted earlier, the most visible of VALE's cooperative activities—its provision of a purchasing consortium for New Jersey academic libraries—was cited by the 2010 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education as an example of the kind of cooperation that has led to increased efficiency and productivity. In serving as a purchasing consortium, VALE provides New Jersey faculty and students with critical electronic information resources. VALE's negotiation of reduced subscription prices for its member libraries results in very low costs per search for these intensively used electronic resources.

Most heavily used databases

Fiscal Year 2011		# Searches	# Libraries	Cost/Search
1	Academic Search Premier	3,383,785	50	*
2	ABI Inform Global	2,019,781	17	\$ 0.05
3	Business Source Premier	1,283,664	50	*
4	PsycINFO	1,124,897	23	\$ 0.14
5	PsycArticles	1,022,899	32	\$ 0.21
6	ERIC	994,803	50	**
7	CINAHL Full Text add-on	920,803	31	\$ 0.07
8	ProQuest Central^	700,000	16	\$ 0.49
9	Communications & Mass Media Complete	474,580	23	\$ 0.13
10	CINAHL (Basic)	410,300	39	\$ 0.15
11	Ethnic Newswatch	400,252	14	\$ 0.12
12	MLA International Bibliography	385,607	20	\$ 0.25
TOTAL SEARCHES		13,121,371		

* Academic Search Premier and Business Source Premier are supported by the New Jersey State Library at no cost to VALE libraries.

** Access to ERIC (an online digital library of education research and information sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education) is provided at no cost by the vendor.

^ Estimated

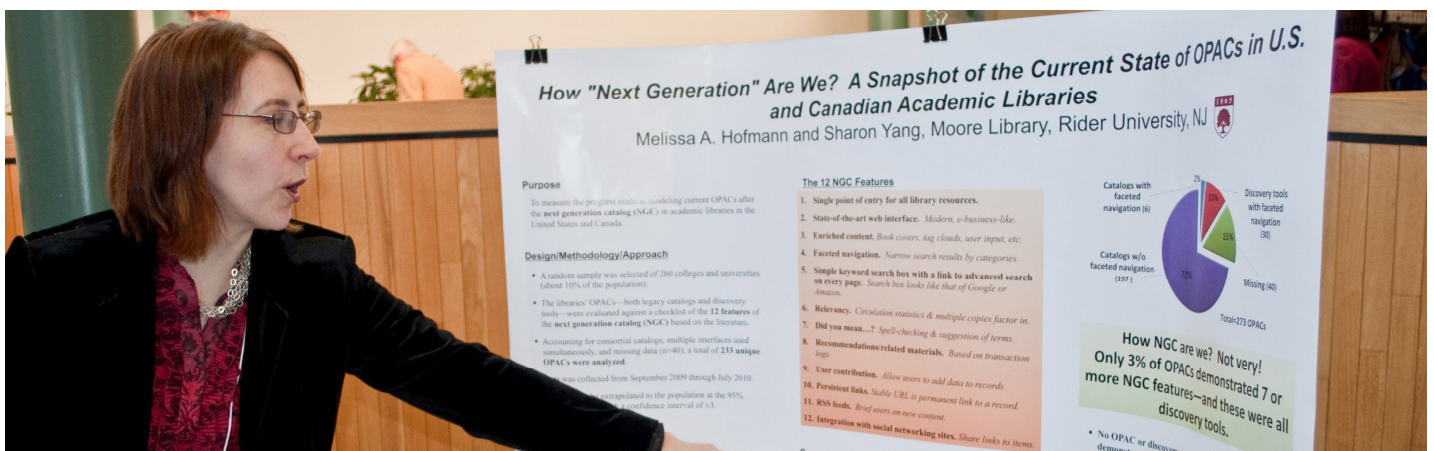
Promoting Professional Development

VALE committee members volunteered their time to create workshops for professionals from the academic library community in the tri-state area. Programs included *Going beyond Sessions and Searches* (data-driven decision making with usage statistics), an *Assessment Fair* (methods for evaluation of outcomes), webinars on RapidILL and the OCLC Knowledgebase, *Scholarly Communication 101: Starting with the Basics*, and *Everything You Wanted to Know about Teaching Information Literacy but Were Too Afraid to Ask*.

Moving Towards Radical Collaboration: A New Resource Sharing Vision for VALE

In 2006 VALE embraced a new vision of collaboration and resource sharing for the advancement of teaching, learning and research in higher education in New Jersey. By developing and implementing a single-instance, open-source library management system, VALE is committed to providing its users with a transformative experience in discovering and using scholarly resources. The new system, presently under development by the Kuali Foundation and partially funded by the Mellon Foundation, will enable participating VALE libraries to leave behind their individual, proprietary integrated library systems and collaborate on the development of one statewide, open-source, enterprise-level suite of library applications designed to promote resource sharing among member institutions. This initiative will put VALE libraries one step closer to realizing the countless benefits associated with harnessing new technologies that meet the scholarly resource needs of our faculty and students and which are flexible, cost-effective and sustainable over time.

After extensive research and evaluation of other library open-source products, such as Evergreen and Koha, VALE determined that the Kuali Open Library Environment (OLE) project most closely aligns with its vision for the future and planning for adoption of the OLE software began in earnest. VALE's Executive Committee discussed developing and implementing a new governance structure to oversee the planning efforts and initiated procedures for becoming an incorporated, non-profit organization capable of supporting the financial and legal responsibilities associated with the adoption of a new statewide system.

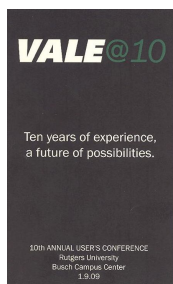


Other planning efforts already underway involve four VALE standing committees charged with numerous tasks, including the selection of an online catalog search interface and the development of policies to govern cataloging and resource sharing protocols. Seventeen VALE libraries have indicated their interest in being among the early adopters of the new system, recently named VALID, VALE's Academic Library Information Discovery system. Promotional efforts and communication plans are also in process.

The timeline for an initial rollout of VALID is likely to be sometime in late 2013, as the OLE product will not be released before December 2012. In the intervening months, dozens of VALE librarians will be preparing for a successful and exciting migration to the new open-source system designed to provide a 21st-century library system based upon a collaborative and sustainable business model.

Annual Users' Conference

Held each January at the Busch Campus Center of Rutgers University, the annual Users' Conference is VALE's primary professional development activity. Drawing almost 300 academic librarians from all areas of the state, the conference provides opportunities to hear nationally recognized library leaders, offer presentations on current issues and best practices, and network with colleagues. During the last two years, those attending were able to comment via a blog and Twitter to the benefit of those unable to attend.



2009 Ten Years of Experience: A Future of Possibilities

Keynote speaker: Marianne Gaunt, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

VALE: A Ten-Year Start into the Future

Number in attendance: 242

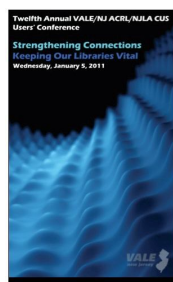


2010 The Future is Now: Meeting the Needs of Our Users

Keynote speaker: Alex Wright, Director of User Experience and Product Research, The New York Times

The Web that Wasn't

Number in attendance: 283



2011 Strengthening Connections: Keeping Our Libraries Vital

Keynote Speaker: James G. Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University

The Imperfect Storm: The Prospects for Systemic Change across Academic Libraries

Number in attendance: 272

Effective Use of Resources

William Paterson University continues to serve as the fiscal agent for VALE. As a service to the consortium, the University accepts funds from member libraries and issues payments to the consortium's vendors. Each year, VALE member libraries select from among the database portfolio those products to which they wish to subscribe. When database pricing includes FTEs as a factor, the FTE enrollment data used for each institution is taken from the most recent enrollment statistics maintained by the Commission on Higher Education. In addition, members pay a service fee to offset expenses, such as salaries and benefits, public relations and the annual conference. Calculated as a percentage of each library's previous year's database expenditure, the service fee remained at 3.9% for all three years. The service fee was increased only once—in fiscal year 2005, from 2.6% to 3.9%.

The table below provides a snapshot overview of VALE's finances over the three-year period. Database expenditures continue to dominate the spreadsheet, accounting for more than 97% of the total dollars spent. VALE salaries and benefits, accounting for between 1.6% and 2% of total expenses, support one three-fifths-time coordinator and six hours a week of technical support from a part-time employee.

Fiscal Years 2009-2011

Expense	FY2009	% of total	FY2010	% of total	FY2011	% of total
Databases	\$3,659,384	97.94%	\$3,058,285	97.80%	\$3,112,237	97.73%
Salaries and Benefits	\$61,036	1.63%	\$59,177	1.89%	\$63,982	2.01%
Operations	\$16,061	0.43%	\$9,734	0.31%	\$8,309	0.26%
Total	\$3,736,481		\$3,127,196		\$3,184,528	

Planning and the Future

The financial situation facing higher education and the state of New Jersey has not stopped VALE from planning to negotiate additional consortial offers for the benefit of its members libraries. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Electronic Resources Committee (ERC) created a new E-Books Working Group in Fall 2010 consisting of representatives from the ERC, the VALE Cooperative Collection Management Committee, and other VALE member libraries to carry out the recommendations of VALE's ad-hoc Task Force on E-Books. The group, which functions as a subcommittee of the Electronic Resources Committee, is currently investigating a variety of e-book products for comparative evaluation and possible development for consortial offerings.



Testimonials

"Nursing faculty place the highest value on access to CINAHL and related databases. Continual access to and exceptional support from library liaisons play an integral role in teaching excellence."

Nadine Aktan, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, William Paterson University

"Resources provided through VALE are an essential component of the two online graduate courses in our Master of Arts in Religious Education program. Since students are located in every part of the country, as well on other continents, they frequently do not have access to university libraries locally, and the contemporary scholarly literature provided by VALE is critical."

Donald P. Casey, STL, PhD, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Felician College

"The resources provided through VALE are essential in supporting teaching, learning, and research at Kean. As a faculty member of the School of Psychology and as Director of Women's Studies, I am concerned that student learning would suffer without access to PsycInfo and GenderWatch."

Emily K. Filardo, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Psychology, Kean University

"I'm constantly in search of articles, and the interlibrary loan system has been instrumental, in all my years here, in locating them for me. This year alone, I acquired roughly thirty articles."

Alexandra Tereshonkova, undergraduate student in the School of Arts & Sciences, Rutgers University

Member Libraries

Assumption College for Sisters Atlantic Cape Community College

Bergen Community College Berkeley College Bloomfield College

Brookdale Community College Burlington County College Caldwell College

Camden County College Centenary College College of Saint Elizabeth

County College of Morris Cumberland County College DeVry University

Drew University Eastwick College Essex County College

Fairleigh Dickinson University Felician College Georgian Court University

Gloucester County College Hudson Community College Kean University

Mercer County Community College Middlesex County College

Monmouth University Montclair State University

New Brunswick Theological Seminary New Jersey City University

New Jersey Institute of Technology Ocean County College

Passaic County College Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton University

Ramapo College of New Jersey Raritan Valley Community College

Richard Stockton College Rider University Rowan University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Saint Peter's College

Salem Community College Seton Hall University Somerset Christian College

Stevens Institute of Technology Sussex County Community College

The College of New Jersey Thomas Edison State College

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Union County College

Warren County Community College William Paterson University

300 Pompton Road
Wayne, NJ 07470
Contact: Judy Avrin
avrinj@wpunj.edu
973.720.3188
www.valenj.org