

Dedicated to Innovation & Collaboration

VALE
new jersey



Virtual Academic Library Environment

VALE Report Fiscal Years 2006-2008



Introduction

As it celebrates its tenth anniversary, VALE's service to New Jersey's academic institutions has been highly successful and continues to evolve. The organization has grown larger with new members, become more sophisticated with improved fiscal and operational policies and procedures, increased its database offerings significantly, and expanded into new areas such as video streaming, digital repositories, and open source software. For the past three years, technological enhancements, information resource expansion, reorganization, planning and assessment activities have been the focus of VALE's activities.

It is the volunteer effort of the many VALE librarians who serve on committees and perform the work of this organization that allows VALE to flourish. While the organization strives to coordinate and facilitate these activities, the cumulative contributions of these individuals enables VALE to take New Jersey academic libraries beyond what can be accomplished by any individual member library. These wonderful professionals deserve, and have, our deep gratitude for their efforts and many achievements.

Included here are some recent examples of VALE's accomplishments. Other projects and achievements are mentioned throughout this Report.

- A successful planning retreat to chart VALE's future was held in June 2006. An exciting aspect of the day included the presentation of position papers from VALE members identifying future projects to be adopted by the consortium. These culminated into a list of strategic priorities voted on by all participants. These priorities have guided a good deal of VALE's efforts, and many of the goals and objectives have been achieved.
- With assistance from PALINET Consulting Services, a comprehensive assessment of the consortium's program and services was conducted. Described later in this Report, survey results were extremely rewarding and have been used to guide future development.
- Support, in the form of formal partnerships, was extended to two VALE institutions that were successfully awarded Institute of Museum and Library Services grants: New Jersey Digital Video Project (\$971,512) and Open Source Integrated Library System Planning (\$24,417).
- Consortial licensing opportunities were expanded to include streaming video from the Films Media Group, thus promoting access to collections beyond bibliographic and text resources.
- Collaborations continued with the New Jersey State Library to carry out the mission of the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative in support of New Jersey's high-tech small businesses and incubators, and academic institutions. The initiative has provided access to science, technology and business full-text resources. VALE's participation includes extensive outreach and advocacy activities.
- Simplified and secure access to databases from off-campus sites was encouraged and supported through technical assistance to several member libraries.
- Membership on the VALE Executive Committee was expanded to include representation from New Jersey's Regional Library Cooperatives.
- A successful merger with the separate, but affiliated organization, the Council of New Jersey College and University Library Deans, University Librarians and Directors, was completed. The newly redefined council has become the VALE Members' Council.

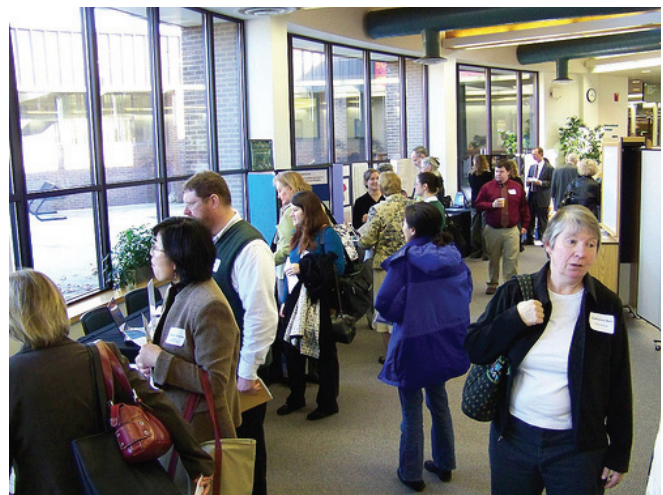
- A successful audit of all of VALE's internal operations was completed and several suggestions resulting from that review were implemented.

Special recognition is due to several members for their ongoing contributions to the organization: Anne Ciliberti, Library Director, Judy Avrin, VALE Coordinator, and the administration of William Paterson University of New Jersey for consistently serving as the backbone and infrastructure for all VALE activities; Marianne Gaunt, Vice President for Information Services & University Librarian, Janie Fultz, Senior Executive Assistant, and Dave Hoover, Systems Administrator of Rutgers University for their ongoing support of VALE; and to all of VALE's committee chairs and members for their commitment to making shared services work.

Judith S. Cohn, Chair FY 2006/2007
David Pinto, Chair FY 2008
VALE Executive Committee

Expanding Access to Scholarly Resources in NJ

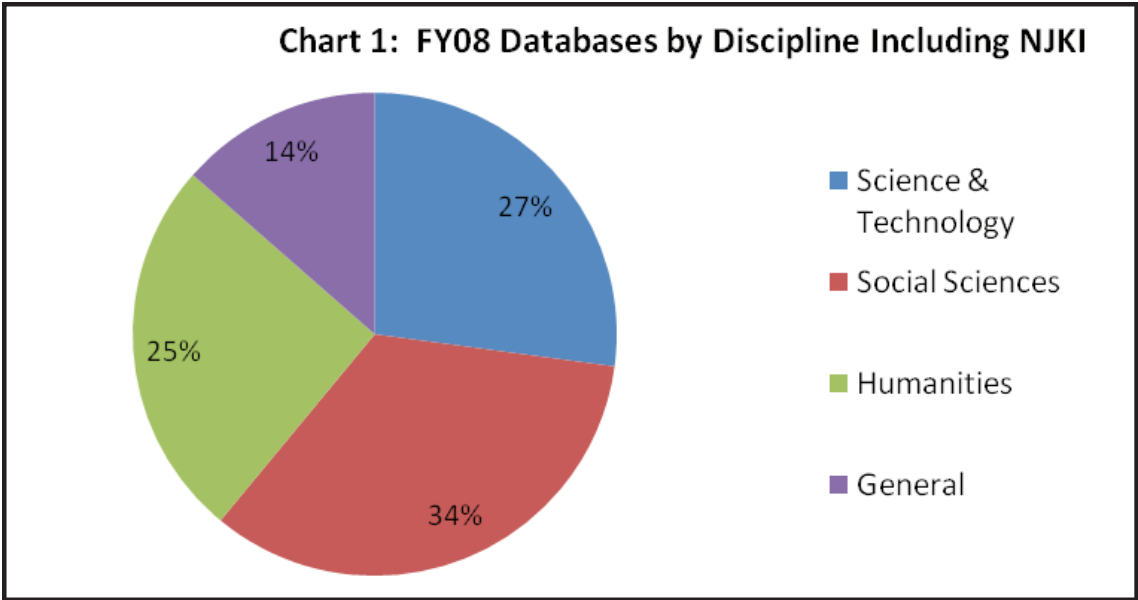
As the tenth anniversary serving the New Jersey higher education community approaches, VALE's commitment to expanding the availability of scholarly resources to the faculty and students of its member institutions continues undiminished. The consortium's success in this regard is reflected in the results of the 2007 VALE Assessment Survey in which respondents ranked the database program as its most valuable service. This finding, coupled with the fact that the consortium's leveraged purchasing yielded an average savings to its members of 46% over list prices in 2007, underscores the importance of VALE's database program to its members.



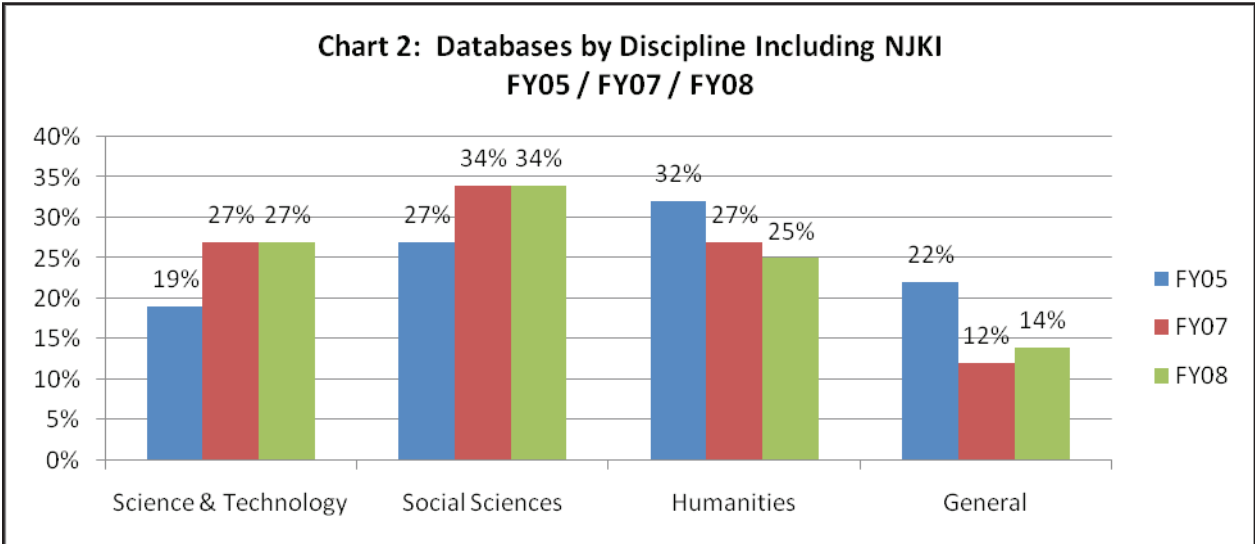
The number of databases managed by VALE increased by 43% over the three year span of this report. This growth was consistent, with 6 databases added in both FY06 and FY07, bringing the total to 47. In FY08, this growth slowed, adding just three new products. However, when funding for the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative ended in March, 2008, VALE assumed management of nine more databases. By the end of FY08, the VALE suite of databases had grown to 59, an increase of 24 (69%) over the number offered in FY05.

In FY08, VALE member libraries paid \$2,496,000 for the initial 48 databases and another \$485,500 for the four-month period from March through June when the NJKI databases were added. The total database cost for FY08 was \$2.98 million, a 67% increase over the total FY05 cost of \$1.78 million. During this time, the number of fulltime equivalent students served by the members increased by 6%, from 261,000 in FY05 to 277,000 in FY08.

The number of full-text resources provided in FY08 (including the NJKI titles) increased to 42 or 84% of all VALE databases, a 48% increase over FY05. Chart 1 below provides a breakdown by discipline of the FY08 database portfolio, including the resources formerly provided by NJKI. Of the 59 databases offered, the greatest number, 20 (34%), are social science resources. Also provided are 16 science and technology products (27%) and 15 humanities resources (25%). There are only eight general databases, constituting 14% of the group.



As Chart 2 below indicates, the VALE database portfolio has changed significantly since FY05, due in large measure to the resources provided by NJKI, which focused on science and technology. In FY05, the largest number of resources was in the field of humanities. Beginning in FY07, social science and science and technology products became more numerous. The proportion of humanities and general databases has declined since FY05.



The importance of VALE’s 59 databases to the research and study of the faculty and students of the subscribing institutions continues to grow. Table 1 provides FY05 (the year prior to this report) and FY08 summary data about the 12 most heavily used databases, number of searches conducted, number of subscribing libraries and the relative cost per search of each product. It is important to note that the data in Table 1 is provided only to document overall trends in usage and cost since the standardization of database usage across vendors continues to be a challenge. Moreover, the products listed in Table 1 include those that provide citations as well as those that provide full-text content, further complicating comparison efforts. Table 1 attempts to minimize this difference by presenting the *number of searches* conducted in contrast to the *number of full-text downloads*. An additional complication is that some vendors are unable to capture complete data about searches

initiated through the use of link resolvers or from alternate search portals. Thus, their reported usage is likely to under-represent the true number of searches conducted. Given these caveats, the data in Table 1 indicate that between FY05 and FY08:

- The number of searches conducted in just these 12 databases increased by 24% over the three year span, from 10,862,104 to 13,474,626.
- Discounting the titles provided to all VALE members by NJKI and the NJ State Library, the most heavily subscribed database is consistently Lexis-Nexis Academic.
- Two databases, ABI Inform and Academic Search Premier hold first and second places, respectively, for the greatest number of searches. Lexis-Nexis Academic ranked third in FY05, but was superseded in FY08 by ProQuest Journal Bundle.
- With one exception, the 12 most heavily searched databases remain the same over the period covered. The exception is that ScienceDirect ranked 10th in FY05 and was replaced in FY07 by ProQuest Journal Bundle, ranking third in FY08.
- Of these 12 heavily-used databases, only one, ScienceDirect, yielded a per search cost greater than \$1.00. In contrast, the cost per search for several titles was only a few cents. Overall, for this subset, the median per search cost was \$.25.

**Table 1: Summary Data for Most Heavily Used Databases
Fiscal Years 2005 and 2008**

FY '05					FY '08			
	Database	Searches	Libraries	Cost / Search	Database	Searches	Libraries	Cost / Search
1	ABI Inform	3,654,875	39	\$0.06	ABI Inform	4,689,989	34	\$0.04
2	Academic Search Premier	3,338,348	52	*	Academic Search Premier	3,376,357	53	*
3	LexisNexis Academic	962,068	41	\$0.32	PQ Journal Bundle **	1,091,547	10	\$0.11
4	Literature Resource Center	412,305	32	\$0.26	LexisNexis Academic	692,160	42	\$0.53
5	ERIC	395,974	31	N/A	PsycInfo	585,443	25	\$0.25
6	PsycInfo	391,509	25	\$0.32	Literature Resource Center	535,162	37	\$0.27
7	PsycArticles	359,874	24	\$0.32	ERIC*	505,790	50	NJKI
8	Gender Watch	331,461	18	\$0.05	PsycArticles	503,816	31	\$0.36
9	Ethnic NewsWatch	328,813	17	\$0.17	Gender Watch	454,174	17	\$0.04
10	Science Direct	322,053	27	\$1.01	Ethnic NewsWatch	425,401	18	\$0.14
11	Criminal Justice Per. Index	201,000	20	\$0.13	Criminal Justice Per. Index	366,829	21	\$0.09
12	Cinahl (Basic)	163,824	37	\$0.28	Cinahl (Basic) ***	247,958	NJKI	NJKI
	TOTAL SEARCHES	10,862,104			TOTAL SEARCHES	13,474,626		

* Funded by NJ State Library
 ** New in FY07
 *** NJKI funding ended 2/29/08

New Jersey Knowledge Initiative

Begun in the summer of 2005, the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI) is a state-funded program to provide businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, faculty members and students with access to a wealth of online scholarly resources. Designed to spur economic growth, it was conceived, and is administered, by the New Jersey State Library. VALE, an early partner with the State Library in advocating for the program, benefitted greatly from the initiative which funded many science,

technology, medical and business databases for the VALE libraries. By any and all measures, the program has been a great success. It has won several awards for innovation and has been adapted and proposed by all of the surrounding states. New Jerseyans have used more than 8 million articles/records since the program began.

Despite a strong advocacy campaign, funding in the FY 08 state budget was reduced by 1/3, resulting in a loss of access to NJKI resources for the final 4 months of the fiscal year. This disruption created difficulties for public and academic libraries as well as businesses across the state. Renewed advocacy efforts, coordinated by the State Library, were rewarded when NJKI was once again included in the state's 2009 budget. With an increased emphasis on business information, VALE libraries continue to benefit from the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative's funding of relevant academic business resources.

Communicating with Membership

With members spread across the entire state, improving and enhancing communication has become a top priority. Although committee membership and participation has increased, it is clear that driving long distances to attend meetings is a disincentive to greater participation. Although used occasionally, Interactive Television (ITV) has not been successfully applied to committee work. The Executive Committee continues to explore alternative technologies to keep members connected and participating in VALE projects.

The Publicity and Communications Committee has evolved into the Conference Committee, with the primary responsibility of coordinating and overseeing VALE's Annual Users Conference shared with the New Jersey Library Association/College and University Section and the Association of College and Research Libraries/New Jersey chapter. In January 2006, the theme of the Annual Conference was "All Together Now: Taking the Lead in Collaboration and Innovation." In 2007, the theme was "Where is My Library? – the Library in the Life of Students." In 2008, the focus was on "Mission Possible: Partnering for Change." Attendance and participation has been at maximum capacity, around 275, for the Rutgers University Busch Campus Center. VALE takes great pride in the quality and content of these events.

Other communication-related tasks have been reassigned to appropriate committees. The Executive Committee established an orientation process for incoming library directors. The Web Committee rolled out a completely renovated VALE Website <http://www.valenj.org> in 2005 and has worked tirelessly to keep the site under development and the content fresh. This now includes a VALE blog: <http://valenews.wordpress.com>. Several Wikis have been implemented by committees to facilitate their communication and work. VALE listservs continue to play an important role in disseminating information by targeting specific groups within the organization.

VALE Assessment Initiative

In December 2006, the VALE Executive Committee contracted with PALINET Consulting Services to conduct the consortium's first major assessment survey. Members of the Executive Committee sought the services of an outside agency to conduct the research in order to ensure the highest methodological standards and objectivity. PALINET project coordinators, Thomas Claeson and Christine Martire, are to be commended for the superior quality of the research design, survey execution and concluding reports.

The major goals of the assessment project were to assess, document and report the economic value and benefits of VALE's services and programs to VALE member libraries, their constituents and the New Jersey academic community. Empirical data was obtained to document the following specific dimensions of the VALE consortium:

- Efficiencies gained from services related to consortial purchasing
- Impact of VALE committee accomplishments
- Value of networking, collaboration and programming opportunities
- Savings derived from leveraged purchasing of electronic databases.



A Web-based survey, sent to top VALE library administrators, received a response rate of 88%. Thus, providing a high level of confidence in the findings. Follow-up telephone interviews were conducted with 11 of these administrators. Additional research was conducted comparing the actual prices paid for each of VALE's 51 subscriptions to the published list price of each product.

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Major Findings: New Jersey Librarians Give VALE High Marks

Overall, 98% of the assessment survey respondents rated VALE's value to their institution as very high. Similarly, 94% of respondents rated their overall satisfaction with VALE as very high. Other survey findings included:

- High ratings for the value of all 13 VALE services
- Near unanimous agreement that without VALE, libraries would not be able to provide as many databases
- Near unanimous agreement that the scope of VALE database offerings is good or excellent
- Favorable ratings on the work of more than three quarters of the VALE committees; receipt of many important suggestions for improving the work of all committees
- A need for enhanced communication among VALE committees and between VALE leadership and committees.

The significant value of VALE to its member libraries was further emphasized by the findings of the cost savings analysis. Based upon FY 2007 pricing detail for 50 of the libraries, the consortium saved its members nearly \$3.5 million representing an overall savings of 46% over list price.

Acting on Research Findings

The VALE Executive Committee received and disseminated the consultant's report with the results of the assessment survey during the summer of 2007. (The reports are available at (<http://www.valenj.org>). An executive summary was sent to academic organizations and a press release was distributed to major newspapers throughout the state.

In order to pursue the recommendations and insights gained through the project, the Executive Committee charged the VALE Assessment Committee to consult with the other nine committees. All committees were asked to review the report and document their priorities and recommendations for addressing any issue of concern. The Assessment Committee compiled the responses.

These responses, considered with organizational priorities identified in a planning process in 2006, resulted in assignments to appropriate committees. During a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee and committee chairs, a list of next steps was refined, compiled and disseminated. Many of the goals and objectives resulting from these processes have been achieved, while others remain underway.

VALE & Council Merger

In 1968, what was to become the *Council of New Jersey College and University Library Deans, University Librarians and Directors* formally organized under a slightly different name “in recognition of the need for closer cooperation” among academic libraries of public institutions in the state. Over time, this organization grew to include almost all academic libraries in the state. When VALE was formed in 1998, the *Council* was written into VALE’s Bylaws to provide oversight including responsibility to approve budgets, coordinate elections and approve changes to the Bylaws.

These two separate but affiliated organizations worked together to build VALE and expand consortial efforts across the state. Virtually, all academic libraries in New Jersey participated in both groups. It became apparent that these two organizations were traveling on converging paths, so in May, 2006, the *Council* decided to examine the possibility of a merger with VALE. The following month, VALE identified a merger as a strategic goal during that group’s Strategic Planning Retreat.

After a good deal of research and consultation, it was recommended that the *Council* and VALE merge into a single consortium with a strong, clear voice, an active and committed membership, and a supportive and visionary leadership.

The *Council* Constitution and VALE Bylaws were amended, and the merger was approved by both groups to take effect in June, 2007. The former *Council* became the VALE Members’ Council carrying forward many of its same responsibilities. After 40 years and many incarnations, the Council continues to serve the New Jersey academic community extremely well.

Selected Achievements of VALE Committees

Guidelines were developed by the Executive Committee to provide a framework for the effective work of the various VALE committees. This document serves as a guide to assist in the coordination of VALE committee activities and to facilitate communication among the committees, including the VALE Executive Committee.

Assessment Committee

- The Assessment Committee played a central coordinating role in gathering feedback from all VALE committees in their review of the VALE Assessment Report.
- The Committee organized a fall 2007 meeting of representatives from VALE libraries interested in participating in LibQUAL during spring 2008. Those assembled developed five additional survey questions.

Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee

- In 2003 and 2006, the Committee studied technical services functions among the VALE libraries via surveys to assist library directors and technical services managers with strategic planning.

- In spring 2007, the BCMC spearheaded the creation of a statewide collaborative cataloging effort, officially called the New Jersey NACO (Name Authority Cooperative) Program, to improve access to resources related to New Jersey.

Cooperative Collection Management Committee

- The *VALE Last Copy Collection Pilot Project*, in which Rutgers University, Montclair State University and William Paterson University participated, was completed and the project was opened to VALE members. Three libraries immediately indicated an interest in participating.
- The Committee is continuing to host a *WorldCat Collection Analysis Tool Users Group*, meeting regularly to share information and developing a breakout session at the VALE Users' Conference.



Digital Media

- Purchasing agreements with commercial video publishers and distributors were developed and offered to VALE members.
- The Committee has been coordinating with the NJVid project to ensure that potential commercial video titles are identified and purchasing agreements are worked out with the consortium. NJVid is a 3-year federal grant that establishes a statewide network for the dissemination of commercial, locally produced, and lectures on demand videos.

Electronic Resources

- The committee is working to incorporate the substance of its recommendations on the VALE Assessment Report into a revision of the current *VALE Electronic Resource Licensing Agreements Preferred Terms* document.
- In 2007, the committee elected not to recommend any new resources for consideration as VALE offerings due to very tight budgets across the state and the changing status of the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative.

Reference Services Committee

- The committee launched a Webpage in September 2007, gathering together documents created previously.
- Development on gathering reference statistics is underway.

Resource Sharing Committee

- The committee expanded the *Reciprocal Borrowing Program* to include undergraduates and completed an annual survey charting the program's utilization.
- The committee sponsored several sessions at the 2008 annual VALE conference.

Shared Information Literacy Committee

- The Database of Shared Information Literacy Materials (DSILM) was renamed Voila, VALE’s Online Information Literacy Archive. Submission of materials to the database was encouraged.
- The committee Webpage was redesigned and updated.

Website Committee

- The committee worked to make the VALE Website more useful and its content more up-to-date and easier to maintain. This included the implementation of a WordPress blog, Google calendar to manage and update VALE calendar items, and a Flickr account and group for sharing photos.
- Explored the possibility of using Drupal content management system (CMS) to develop a new VALE Website.

VALE Finances

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 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 posted 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.

Table 2, below, provides an overview of VALE’s finances over the three-year span, FY2006 to FY2008. Database expenditures continue to dominate the spreadsheet, accounting for more than 97% of the total dollars spent. VALE salaries and benefits, accounting for 2% of the total expenses, support one half-time coordinator and six hours a week of technical support from a part-time employee.

Table 2: VALE Expenses FY2006-FY2008

Expense	FY2006	% of Total	FY2007	% of Total	FY2008	% of Total
Databases ¹	\$2,024,390	97.39%	\$2,309,040	97.01%	\$2,981,826	97.95%
Salaries and Benefits	\$45,460	2.19%	\$47,800	2.01%	\$49,100	1.61%
Operations	\$8,851	0.43%	\$23,296	0.98%	\$13,232	0.43%
Total	\$2,078,701		\$2,380,136		\$3,044,158	

¹ Expenditures do not include payments for ScienceDirect which, although negotiated by VALE, is licensed and paid by subscribing libraries.

Executive Committee Members FY06-FY08

Judy Avrin
William Paterson University
FY06-FY08

Norma Blake
New Jersey State Library
FY06-FY08

Anne Ciliberti
William Paterson University
FY06-FY08

Judith Cohn
UMDNJ
FY06-FY08

Colleen Daze
New Jersey State Library
FY06-FY08

Pat Denholm
Bergen Community College
FY08

Greg Fallon
Passaic County Community
College
FY06-FY07

Marianne Gaunt
Rutgers University
FY06-FY08

Joan Getaz
Camden County College
FY06-FY08

Judith Jeney
Ramapo College
FY06

Andrea MacRitchie
Union County College
FY07

James Marcum
Fairleigh Dickinson College
FY06-FY08

Howard McGinn
Seton Hall University
FY08

Birthe Nebeker
Raritan Valley Community College
FY07-FY08

Cheryl O'Connor
INFOLINK
FY08

Lewis Ostar
Middlesex County College
FY06

Taras Pavlovsky
The College of New Jersey
FY06-FY08

David Pinto
Richard Stockton College
FY06-FY08

Andrew Scrimgeour
Drew University
FY06-FY08

Richard Sweeney
NJIT
FY06-FY08

Pat Tumulty
New Jersey Library
Association
FY06-FY08



VALE Member Libraries

Assumption College for Sisters
<http://www.acscollegeforsisters.org/library.htm>

Atlantic Cape Community College
<http://www.atlantic.edu/library/index.htm>

Bergen Community College
<http://www.bergen.edu/library>

Berkeley College
<http://www.berkeleycollege.edu/library/index.htm>

Bloomfield College
<http://www.bloomfield.edu/library/>

Brookdale Community College
<http://www.brookdalecc.edu/library/>

Burlington County College
<http://staff.bcc.edu/library/>

Caldwell College
<http://www.caldwell.edu/library/>

Camden County College
<http://www.camdencc.edu/library/index.htm>

Centenary College
<http://faculty.centenarycollege.edu/library/>

College of St. Elizabeth
<http://www.cse.edu/library/>

County College of Morris
<http://www.ccm.edu/library/>

Cumberland County College
<http://www.cccnj.edu/library/index.cfm>

DeVry Institute
<http://www.nj.devry.edu/library/>

Drew University
<http://www.depts.drew.edu/lib/>

Eastwick College - Ramsey, NJ
<http://www.eastwickcolleges.com/>

Essex County College
<http://www.essex.edu/library>

Fairleigh Dickinson University
<http://library.fdu.edu/>

Felician College
<http://www.felician.edu/library>

Georgian Court College
<http://www.georgian.edu/library/index.html>

Gloucester County College
<http://www.gccnj.edu/library/>

Hudson Community College
<http://www.hccc.edu>

Kean University
<http://library.kean.edu>

Mercer County Community College
<http://www.mccc.edu/>

Middlesex County College
<http://www.middlesexcc.edu/library/>

Monmouth University
<http://library.monmouth.edu/>

Montclair State University
<http://library.montclair.edu/>

New Jersey City University
<http://www.njcu.edu/guarini/home.htm>

New Jersey Institute of Technology
<http://www.library.njit.edu>

New Jersey State Library
<http://www.njstatelib.org>

Ocean County College
<http://lib.ocean.edu/>

Passaic County College
<http://www.pccc.cc.nj.us/library/>

Princeton Theological Seminary
<http://www.ptsem.edu/library>

Princeton University
<http://princeton.edu/>

Ramapo College of New Jersey
<http://library.ramapo.edu>

Raritan Valley Community College
<http://library.raritanval.edu>

Richard Stockton College of NJ
<http://library.stockton.edu>

Rider University
<http://library.rider.edu>

Rowan University
<http://www.rowan.edu/library/>

Rutgers University
<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu>

Salem Community College
<http://www.salemcc.edu/lrc/>

Seton Hall University
<http://library.shu.edu>

St. Peter's College
<http://library.spc.edu/>

Somerset Christian College
<http://www.youseemore.com/somersetcc/about.asp>

Stevens Institute of Technology
<http://www.lib.stevens-tech.edu>

Sussex County Community College
<http://www.sussex.edu/library/index.html>

The College of New Jersey
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/index.php>

Thomas Edison State College
<http://www.tesc.edu/students/support/library.php>

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
<http://www.umdj.edu/librweb/>

Union County College
<http://www.ucc.edu/library/>

Warren County Community College
<http://www.warren.cc.nj.us/>

William Paterson University
<http://www.wpunj.edu/library>

