VALE 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.

VALE's objective is to help member institutions meet the demands of students and faculty for access to scholarly materials and information services. Through cooperation and leveraged purchasing, and through the use of collaboration and cutting-edge technology, VALE seeks to provide a seamless network of access to shared resources and services throughout the state of New Jersey. The New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey Library Association, and the Council of New Jersey College and University Library Deans, University Librarians and Directors offer enthusiastic and continuing support.

Funded by its over fifty institutional members, the VALE consortium provides access to an extraordinary level of information services and scholarly resources for its members.

Strategic Goals

1. Expand and sustain an effective funding stream through collaboration, advocacy and public relations efforts.
2. Shape a communications plan that will enhance the visibility of VALE to its constituencies, the state legislature, and the public.
3. Establish collaborative contracts and license agreements with publishers and database vendors that greatly expand access to content at a much lower unit cost than each university or college could negotiate on its own.
4. Develop and implement a remote reference service.
5. Develop and implement a shared information literacy website.
6. Secure funds to publish, on the web, appropriate and unique local databases.
7. Identify other potential areas for collaboration.
8. Conduct ongoing assessment to measure accomplishments.

Bridges To Global Learning

For more information visit www.valenj.org

Looking Back

- July 1998 – Consortium formed with New Jersey Higher Education Technology Infrastructure Bond funds, matching institutional dollars and a grant from the New Jersey State Library.
- September1998 – Subscriptions to four online full-text resources began.
- December 1998 – VALEnj.org website goes live; gala ribbon cutting held.
- March 1999 – Online full-text resources made available to authorized remote users.
- April 1999 – VALE Steering Committee received NJLA Library Champion Award.
- December 1998 - May 1999 - Institutions received funds for workstation purchase/ upgrade.
- 2002 – Reciprocal Borrowing for Faculty among VALE member institutions began.
- June 2003 – QandA NJ endorsed as Virtual Reference Service for VALE libraries.
- September 2003 – Twenty-nine subscriptions to online resources offered to members.
- January 2004 – Over 175 attended 5th Users' Conference, co-sponsored by NJLA-CUS / NJ ACRL.

Looking Ahead

- Continue to assist the State Library in implementing a newly funded, $6 million Knowledge Initiative, begun in July 2004, for the acquisition of scientific, technical, medical and business resources
- Create online access to local collections of statewide interest.
- Complete Shared Information Literacy Tutorial and Assessment project.

VALE Organization

The VALE Executive Committee, representing the various types and constituencies of its member libraries, functions as an oversight committee for the ongoing operation and growth of VALE. To this end, it coordinates planning and activities with the Council of New Jersey College and University Library Deans, University Librarians and Directors and reports to the New Jersey Council of Presidents.

The Executive Committee

Reviews and approves recommendations for online databases, other software, hardware and networking.

Seeks external funding for the continued growth of VALE and collaborative purchasing opportunities for member libraries.

Undertakes regular assessment to ensure that services and resources desired by VALE members are meeting their collective needs.

Continues planning and policy development in collaboration with participating libraries.

Various committees composed of librarians and staff from member libraries carry VALE's initiatives forward.

Participating 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
Essex County College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Felician College
Georgian Court University
Gibbs College - Montclair, NJ
Gloucester County College
Hudson Community College
Kean University
Mercer County Community College
Middlesex County College
Monmouth University
Montclair State University
New Jersey City University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New Jersey State Library
Ocean County College
Passaic County Community College
Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Raritan Valley Community College
Richard Stockton College of NJ
Rider University
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Salem Community College
Seton Hall University
Saint Peter's College
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

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to
Innovation & Collaboration

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