

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the February 7, 2000 Meeting

Present: Ciliberti, Judy Cohn, Gaunt, Getaz, Hafner, Hunt, Long, Martin, Rigby, Simpson, Sweeney

1. Gaunt opened the meeting with a review of the Steering Committee members whose terms expire in June, 2000. She explained that the Council will need to conduct elections for their replacements by sector type, although current members are eligible for re-election. Members whose terms expire are:

Chervenie (Independents)

John Cohn (County colleges)

Getaz (County colleges)

Hunt (State colleges/universities)

Martin (State colleges/universities)

Simpson (Council chairperson)

2. Ciliberti presented the status of current deliberations with vendors for several new databases identified as being of high interest by the membership in the survey conducted by Hunt. The discussion which followed included several suggestions for assistance in evaluating databases to be forwarded to the Electronic Resources Committee and the need to form a work group of library directors to explore funding options for a full-text science journal collection.

Sweeney noted the importance of maintaining different database options at different cost levels so that the content can be affordable to as many as possible.

3. Ciliberti also reviewed the finances maintained at William Paterson University and noted that the estimates from October were holding. A modest, end-of-year balance is anticipated.

4. In miscellaneous remarks, Ciliberti reported that she had received inquiries about VALE availability from a NJ State employee and a corporate entity. Long, Gaboury, Martin and Sweeney will meet in the coming weeks to discuss opening VALE memberships to other agencies and/or non-New Jersey educational institutions.

Anne also visited staff at Drew University to explain the VALE project and received their commitment to join as soon as possible.

5. Gaunt provided an update on the finances of the VALE Users' Conference.

6. Getaz reported on the results of a survey evaluating the Conference which was, for the most part, very well received. She will share the specific comments and interests of widespread interest with the NJ/ACRL chapter.

7. Getaz distributed a revised draft of a new VALE brochure and several comments and suggestions ensued. She has been in touch with OCLC which will contribute the printing of the brochures.
8. Simpson gave an update on the Training Committee's recommendations for responding to various suggestions made at the VALE Users' Conference. The group discussed several issues and suggested various strategies for responding to the comments. Simpson asked that any further comments or suggestions on the topic be emailed to her directly.
9. Gaunt reported that the database documentation projects are nearly complete. ABI instructions are already posted on the website, with PsycInfo and Periodical Abstracts ready to be added. Only the CINAHL documentation needs to be finished.
10. Rigby noted that the end-user questionnaire just needs to be reviewed once more and then he will confer with technical staff at Seton Hall about how the survey can be displayed on the website. Ciliberti reported that a suggestion had been made that the group might want to confer with Dan O'Connor in the library school about survey design and assessment issues.
11. Sweeney observed that the most recent VALE usage data showed wide variations of use among the VALE members and that he hopes the data will be helpful in developing a use-based methodology for cost-sharing. He noted that low-use libraries may not be able to sustain their memberships.
12. Gaunt reported on the status of fund raising and advocacy efforts, noting that the NJ Virtual Library project had not been included in the Governor's proposed budget. Pat Tumulty advised that she is still optimistic that there is support from the legislature but that we need to have endorsement from the higher education community. The Presidents' Council will be considering a recommendation from its budget committee with respect to this endorsement in the coming weeks.
13. Long gave an update on the status of the proposed NJ State Higher Education Network which will also be funded by dollars from the Commission's bond money. It will be a private, high-speed network connecting NJ academic institutions and their partners in other sectors. Other features include strong video and data capacities, multiple points of presence for access to the Internet and the ability to meet various local options.
14. Gaunt distributed a draft "VALE Accomplishments" with the request that the group suggest revisions and additions. The final document will be included with a cover letter to college presidents and the Presidents' Council requesting their endorsement of the NJ Virtual Library effort. The draft will be posted on the listserv for easy access and revision.
15. Gaunt suggested, and the group concurred, with the formation of two additional work groups. One will be charged with exploring interlibrary loan and other resource sharing options within VALE and with the State Library's new system. The second group will be charged with identifying projects around the state which might benefit from use of SiteSearch's database

builder and imaging software. Several local collections were suggested as possibilities for digitization using the software.

16. Rigby announced that he has been asked to participate in the development of a FIPSE proposal to support resource sharing in the NJ Virtual Community College project. He requested, and received, the group's endorsement for proposing use of grant funds to underwrite VALE database costs for community colleges.

17. A tentative next meeting was set for March 6 at 2pm, pending business regarding database pricing and options information.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#)