

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the March 20, 2000 Meeting

Present: Chervenie, Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, Gaboury, Gaunt, Long, Martin, Simpson, Sweeney

1. Gaunt opened the meeting by asking Ciliberti and Gaboury to report on the status of vendor negotiations for FY01 databases. A spreadsheet was distributed which provided price quotations for renewal databases and for 8 to 10 additional products which scored favorably on the user survey. Lengthy discussion ensued about the costs, the membership's desire to move to vendor-based web systems and the lack of a subsidy to help underwrite the costs. It was agreed that quotations should be obtained from another vendor and that a "straw poll" packet should be sent to members as soon as possible. The packet would provide tentative pricing on the databases selected as "core" databases as well as "optional" products. Members will be asked to indicate their selections and their willingness/ability to meet the higher prices of some products.

2. Ciliberti distributed a spreadsheet detailing the FTE counts of all VALE members reflecting the Commission's fall, 1999 enrollment data posted on its website. The group agreed that the revised FTEs should be used for FY01 cost distributions.

3. Gaunt distributed an annual report outline and requested that each Steering Committee subcommittee develop a 1 to 2 page summary of its activities as noted in the outline. These reports should be sent to Marianne by April 20 in electronic form.

4. Gaunt distributed draft charges for the creation of two working groups. One group will be charged with soliciting ideas and proposals for creating databases of local, scholarly interest using the SiteSearch software. The draft charge will be distributed on the Council listserv and, if there are no objections, it will then be posted on the corrado listserv with a call for volunteers.

The second draft, to create a working group to explore how resource sharing can be enhanced, was discussed. It was agreed that the recommendation for creating such a group should be referred to the Council as a more appropriate body for furthering this concept.

5. Chervenie distributed a draft user survey which he and Paul Rigby developed. After consideration, the draft and recommended revisions were given to Phil Long for development on a test web site. If possible, the survey will pop up as users access the VALE databases for a week or two in April.

6. Gaunt and Gaboury reported on the status of efforts to secure additional funding. A bill has been introduced which would provide funds for one year and meetings have been held with several important legislators to enlist their support. The general impression is that the NJ Virtual Library concept is being received favorably thus far.

The issue of how to obtain endorsement or support from the Presidents' Council was discussed and it was agreed that a resolution requesting their endorsement should be drafted and posted to

the Council's listserv. When approved, the resolution should be formally sent to the Presidents' Council.

7. Gaunt will send around tentative dates for the next meeting on the listserv.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#)