

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the April 18, 2000 Meeting

Present: Marianne Gaunt, Anne Ciliberti, Judith Cohn, Richard Sweeney, John Cohn, Joan Getaz, Gregory Potter (for Marilyn Martin), Paul Rigby

1. The primary agenda item was a discussion of the database straw vote results and potential contracts for services in FY01. The group reviewed vendor quotes and member responses to database and format preferences. Among the tentative conclusions reached were:

- The desire to extend the web-based versions of databases to as many members as possible and several creative strategies for funding this conversion from tape to web were discussed.
- The straw vote data was inconclusive in some regards and the 10 non-reporting libraries would be contacted by members of the group for their responses.
- Overall interest in subscribing to the original, core products and other options was recognized as high.
- Discussions with a vendor of online scientific journals are continuing.

2. It was publicly noted that Anne Ciliberti has worked assiduously to develop consensus among VALE participants and to negotiate with a wide variety of vendors on our behalf. The scope of the work she does for VALE only becomes evident as we analyze the data and vendor contacts. The membership was unanimous in their appreciation for Anne's continued support of VALE.

3. Marianne Gaunt reported that the CINAHL interface needed to be changed because CINAHL itself had changed its format and no longer conformed to VALE's SiteSearch configuration. This occurred with no warning from CINAHL. Dave Hoover successfully developed a work-around so that the SiteSearch program can accommodate the new tape loads. Marianne also complimented the Interface group on the new format of the VALE homepage.

4. Paul Rigby submitted text for the assessment section of the VALE annual report. Other committees will soon complete their sections. Paul also stated Phil Long of Seton Hall is scripting the user survey.

5. Marianne Gaunt reported the endorsement of the President's Council is being sought for support of the Virtual Library initiative of the New Jersey State Library. VALE support will be part of that package.

6. Joan Getaz made special note of the work by Keith Allen and Laura Kreis of OCLC which underwrote the production of our new VALE leaflet. Marianne Gaunt asked VALE members to email them with our thanks.

Next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for May 15, 2:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned; minutes prepared by Paul Rigby