

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the May 15, 2000 Meeting

Present: John Cohn, Judy Cohn, Chervenie, Ciliberti, Gaunt, Hafner, Martin, Rigby, Simpson, Sweeney

1. Ciliberti led a discussion on the status of vendor negotiations and an update on the members' straw vote responses. A lengthy discussion followed about database options and costs and the impact of regional library cooperative negotiations on VALE. The group developed a few strategies to guide further vendor negotiations. It was agreed that Anne will work in these directions and get a second round packet out to members as quickly as possible.
2. Rich Sweeney reported that he is optimistic that a potential contract with a vendor of online electronic science journals for VALE will be available shortly.
3. Marianne Gaunt suggested, and the group agreed, to solicit a task force to review competing general-interest full text databases in the coming year. The task force would be charged with conducting a review of the options, soliciting member preferences and making a recommendation to the Steering Committee prior to ALA Mid-Winter. Marianne will ask Judith Hunt, chair of the Electronic Resources Sub-Committee to put together this task force.
4. Ciliberti reported that several VALE members had inquired about the possibility of being invoiced now for database expenses to be incurred in the fall. The group agreed that this type of pre-invoicing should be offered. Ciliberti will follow through with the details.
5. Marianne Gaunt stated that Jack Livingstone continues to be optimistic about funding for the NJ Virtual Library program. She urged the committee and all VALE members to send letters of support and to encourage their presidents to do the same. An issue was raised about the need to develop a strategy for engaging the VALE membership in determining priorities for use of the additional dollars, if the funding is approved. Marianne will also discuss this with Judith Hunt.
6. Barbara Simpson reported that nominations are open for election of the following representations on the Steering Committee: independent colleges/universities, county colleges and state colleges/universities. VALE directors may self-nominate and successive terms are permitted.
7. Gaunt reported that the feedback on the new version of SiteSearch from staff who attended the recent Users' Group meeting was very positive and a demonstration will be arranged for the next Steering Committee meeting.
8. Gaunt urged all chairpersons to submit their brief annual reports to her as soon as possible.
9. Paul Rigby noted that a prototype of the web-based, end-user survey has been developed by Phil Long. It was agreed to discuss the prototype more fully at the June meeting as well as to determine how and when it should be administered.

10. Gaunt introduced the idea of having a VALE "appreciation" dinner this spring and inviting all people who had participated and contributed to the VALE project. Several ideas were suggested for a brief program and the group generally agreed it was a good idea. Marianne will explore the availability of the Rutgers Club for a dinner sometime in June.

11. It was suggested that the next meeting be held on the day of the dinner, which is a date to be determined.

Minutes prepared by [Ciliberti](#)