

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the July 17, 2000 Meeting

Present: Chervenie, Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, Gaboury, Gaunt, Getaz, Martin, Sweeney
Guests: Ann Montanaro, Lonnie Johnson

1. Gaunt opened the meeting with the good news that the \$1 million approved in funding for the NJ Virtual Library will be recurring and that VALE's portion will be \$250,000. She thanked Jack Livingstone, Pat Tumulty and all the many others who worked so hard to have the project included in the NJ State Budget. Marianne agreed to send "official" letters of thanks from the Steering Committee and encouraged others to send their own personal letters as well.
2. Ciliberti reported on progress in acquiring the FY01 databases. It appears as if all potential offerings will go, with one possible exception. With all but one database now being remote, the group discussed how VALE should provide access and it was agreed that, if possible, the SiteSearch grid would continue to be used. Libraries will also be given the option of linking directly to the vendor as long as the "VALE" icon or badge is displayed on their homepages. The target date for having the trial access for all new databases in place is the first week in August.
3. Sweeney announced that about 14 libraries will be partnering in an agreement with a large scientific journal publisher. A meeting was held at ALA and all participants seem comfortable with the terms of the contract. Final agreements will be forthcoming in the next two weeks.
4. Gaunt opened a discussion about whether the second VALE server was necessary. The technical staff have been busy conducting and maintaining the tapes on the Rutgers server, so the second machine had not been moved to Seton Hall. Since most of the databases will now be remote, the Rutgers technical staff advise that the second server will not be needed. There is plenty of disk space on the current server for current and for all future likely applications. After considerable discussion, the group agreed that the second server is not necessary and that options for selling it should be explored.
5. Gaunt will inquire about the progress of the Digital Projects Committee and report back to the group at the next meeting.
6. Ciliberti and Gaboury reported that they anticipate about \$31,000 in carry forward funds from the money managed at William Paterson and Gaunt indicated that about \$50,000 will be available from the funds managed by Rutgers. A lengthy discussion followed about how the carry forward funds should be spent as well as plans for the additional \$250,000.

Ciliberti and Gaboury proposed that a portion of the funds be used to hire a half-time administrative assistant and presented a draft job description for the position. They stated that William Paterson University would provide office space and computer support for the position. The proposal was unanimously approved.

The group also discussed how much technical support would be necessary in the coming year since most of the databases will be provided remotely. Gaunt will consult with the Rutgers technical staff and develop a proposal for staffing for discussion at the August meeting.

More generally, the group agreed that while necessary, administrative costs must be kept to a minimum and that the NJ Virtual Library funds should primarily be used for high-profile, significant products or services. Tumulty emphasized how important it will be to point to the benefit provided by these funds during the coming year's efforts to obtain increased funding.

A draft budget will be prepared outlining both operational expenses (administrative and technical support, publicity, server and software maintenance, etc) and programmatic expenses. Steering committee members should continue to suggest various programmatic options and send them along to Gaunt.

7. Gaunt clarified the membership on the FY01 Steering Committee and stated that the executive group will appoint a community college representative as a one-year replacement for John Cohn who will serve as the new Council Chairperson. Arthur Hafner, an independent college/university representative, will be invited to stand for re-election along with any other nominations.

8. Gaunt announced that a new chairperson was needed for the Electronic Resources Committee since Judith Hunt's term had ended. Judy Cohn will consider the post, pending a review of the Committee's charges. It was generally agreed that the charges of all committees should be reviewed and possibly updated and that this will be an agenda item for the August meeting.

9. Getaz inquired if plans should be made to re-schedule the VALE Service Recognition Dinner in the fall and if so, should others, such as legislators, be included? After discussion, it was agreed that the recognition of service from the VALE community would best be done at a reception following a January Users' Group Meeting. Joan and her group will begin planning the Users' Group meeting, with an open call to VALE members for program presentations.

10. Chervenie reported that plans for conducting an end-user satisfaction survey via a pop-up questionnaire would probably need to be revised since nearly all access will be via the vendors' servers. He and Rigby will consult Phil Long on this issue.

11. Martin reported that a vendor had approached her about a possible contract with VALE and had offered all VALE libraries a free trial. The group agreed that new database possibilities would need to fall into the annual winter/spring cycle but that notice of the trial could be posted to the corrado listserv.

12. John Cohn suggested several ideas for VALE digitization projects, including projects already being planned or implemented at various VALE institutions. He also suggested a theme of inclusion or diversity as a way of focusing the digitization efforts. There was general agreement that such a theme might be attractive politically across the state.

13. Ciliberti reported on a meeting she attended with Robert White and representatives from Ex Libris. White is interested in collaborating with VALE on the development of a non-roman language database in an opac capable of being searched and displaying non-roman languages. She indicated that White will be developing a written proposal for VALE to consider.

14. Ciliberti raised the issue of when the VALE passwords should be revised and it was agreed that new passwords should be distributed in mid-August with a planned cut-over of September 15.

Minutes prepared by [Ciliberti](#)