VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the August 16, 2000 Meeting

Present: Chervenie, Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, Gaboury, Gaunt, Getaz, Rigby, Sweeney, Tumulty

Guests: Dave Hoover, An Liu, Kathy Malanga, Ann Montanaro

1. Gaunt opened the meeting by introducing Hoover, Liu and Montanaro who provided an online demonstration of the new version of the SiteSearch software. They showed how the software can be used for cross-database searching and discussed its potential for creating and updating online databases developed from several different input formats.

2. Hoover and Ciliberti reported on progress of setting up the FY01 database trials. Although a few problems need to be resolved, all of the trials should be available on the test server within the next few days.

3. Ciliberti, Gaunt and Gaboury presented a draft FY01 budget with proposed allocations for publicity, training and travel, software and hardware maintenance, technical and administrative support and databases. After discussion, the proposal was approved with recommendations for presenting it to the Council at their September 15 meeting.

4. Following an online demonstration of the Academic Universe version of Lexis-Nexis presented by Kathy Malanga of William Paterson University, the group agreed to recommend to the Council using the new grant dollars to acquire a pro-rated subscription for all VALE participants.

5. The group discussed at length various strategies for lobbying the legislature and Governor for increased funding in FY02. John Cohn agreed to chair a sub-committee of Ciliberti, Judy Cohn, Gaboury, Gaunt, Sweeney and Tumulty to prepare a draft budget for FY02. Their proposal will be presented and discussed at the Council of NJ College and University Library Directors at its meeting on September 15.

6. Several advocacy strategies were discussed including a review of a proposed "electronic bookbag" logo, conducting a survey of digital projects in NJ to which links could be added to the VALE page and the gathering of success stories. Gaunt will discuss of these items with the Interface Committee and Ciliberti will talk with the new administrative assistant about gathering success stories. A feedback button on the VALE homepage could be added to invite self-reported successes.

7. The group reviewed the committee structure and committee charges as initially developed. After discussion, it was agreed that the Technical Support Sub-Committee was no longer necessary but that all other committees were still relevant and should continue their work with existing charges. Judy Cohn will chair the Electronic Resources Sub-Committee and begin work

developing strategies for selecting new databases and an assessment of the best general database to acquire next year.

8. Gaunt reported that the ILL/Resource Sharing group will be meeting soon but that the Local Database Development Committee needs a new chair. She will work on identifying an appropriate person for this role.

9. Chervenie and Rigby expressed some concern that their plans for an end-user survey might be technically more difficult as we move to nearly all remote databases. They expressed the need for more technical support and Gaunt assured them that the support would be available from the VALE technical staff. Ciliberti noted that a colleague is very interested in conducting a formal evaluation of VALE and she will set up a meeting to discuss the possibility in September.

10. The group discussed various publicity/public relations activities and debated whether a separate advocacy sub-group should be formed. The consensus was to wait on forming another committee at this time. Getaz reported on various PR efforts surrounding the announcement of the VALE partnership with Elsevier Science.

11. The next meeting will be on September 6 at 1 pm.

Minutes prepared by Ciliberti