

VALE Steering Committee

Minutes of the October 11, 2000 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, Judy Cohn, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, L. Kay, M. Martin, P. Rigby, B. Simpson, R. Sweeney

1. Marianne Gaunt called the meeting to order and asked Anne Ciliberti to report on membership inquiries that have been received. There was discussion of the need to continue the work of an earlier committee that had been formed to discuss eligibility guidelines. Marianne will ask John Cohn to convene a meeting on this issue and Marilyn Martin and Brother Paul Chervenie volunteered to work on the project as well.

2. Anne Ciliberti presented a spreadsheet analysis of the number of searches conducted last year of the locally loaded databases: PsycInfo, ABI/Inform, Periodical Abstracts, and Cinahl. The group reviewed the data and observed that there were no consistent patterns between percentage of total use and percentage of total FTE enrollments.

3. Anne also distributed the results of the Wilson rebate project. She explained that a small pool of money in excess of the database cost had been collected last year and that it had been credited back to participants who had low use. The group agreed that the pilot seemed to work well and Rich Sweeney suggested that more use of this pricing model be made in the future. Anne also mentioned plans to investigate pricing models other than straight FTE distribution used by other consortia.

4. Barbara Simpson reported on the Bell & Howell training session that was conducted at Kean on October 6th. There were 33 attendees from 23 institutions present and the feedback was very positive. The Training Committee held a meeting following the training session and it was recommended that the name of the committee be changed from VALE Training/Help Desk Subcommittee to the VALE Training Committee. The group also asked the Steering Committee to accept a new charge for the committee, which deletes reference to a responsibility for Help Desk functions. The group approved the proposed revision.

5. It was also recommended that the VALE Steering Committee investigate accessing PsycInfo through a commercial vendor and Judy Cohn responded that the Electronic Resources Subcommittee would include a review of PsycInfo options in its work this fall.

6. Judy Avrin reported on her progress in setting up training sessions for the other commercial vendors. Information on the sessions will be disseminated by the end of the week. Judy Cohn emphasized that the vendor trainers should be prepared to conduct in-depth training workshops, not simply sales demonstrations.

7. Marianne reported that all the VALE IP addresses should be loaded by October 15th for trial access to Academic Universe and that it should be available for testing from 10/15 - 11/1. Remote access is not available at this time from Lexis-Nexis, other than if an institution uses a proxy server. Currently subscribing institutions will have their Palinet accounts credited based

upon the pro-rated subscription cost. A suggestion was made to consider creating a public relations opportunity to publicly thank key legislators who supported the funding of the NJ Virtual Library which is funding the service.

8. Anne distributed and reviewed the fund balances as of September 30. The group approved the new format and it was agreed that future reports be presented in this fashion.

9. Marianne reported that the second Sun server is not needed and the group agreed to post the sale of it on the Council listserv.

She also reported on plans for the Elsevier Press Conference, noting that this could be valuable for VALE. Elsevier has hired a firm in Trenton, which plans to invite the governor to attend. Possible dates are November 14, 15, or 16.

Marianne provided the group with feedback on the first meeting of the VALE Interlibrary Loan Committee, chaired by Mary Mallery. The committee discussed several aspects of resource sharing in New Jersey and focused on the State Library's RSS service. After discussion, the Steering Committee agreed to invite State Library staff working on the project to attend a future meeting to provide an update on the project.

10. Marianne distributed a prospectus from a company providing a collection weeding service which will offer discounts to group purchasers.

11. Judy Cohn reported on the Electronic Resources Group. There are 8 continuing members; 4 directors, 4 non-directors. There are two main tasks:

1. To develop a prioritized list of databases of interest to members by the end of the year. The committee will use the same survey form Judith Hunt used last year.

2. To conduct an assessment of general interest databases and recommend one for VALE licensing in FY02.

12. Rich Sweeney agreed to convene an Elsevier Users' Group to explore cooperative collection development and other issues.

13. Marianne reported on the ICOLC meeting that she and John Gaboury attended in September. With nearly 110 people attending from about 20 different consortia, it was a worthwhile conference. Among the topics discussed were the trend to exclusive licensing among aggregators, electronic products being marketed directly to students, the value of multi-consortial pricing, fundraising and the difficulties associated with it and the idea of asking vendors to assist in marketing efforts.

14. Judy Avrin distributed copies of websites pertaining to NJ developed by VALE libraries for inclusion on the VALE website. Marianne will contact the Interface Committee and ask them to include them.

15. Paul Rigby reported that the Assessment Committee has contacted a possible consultant to assist in the design and implementation of a VALE assessment project. Focus group surveys of students are being considered. A suggestion was made to review the end-user survey included on the Kentucky Virtual Library website.

16. Joan Getaz noted that the Public Relations Committee has been working on the program for the Users' Conference in January. They would like to include some training sessions as well as a speaker this time.

The next meeting will be on November 15 at 2 pm.

Minutes prepared by [Judy Avrin](#)