

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the January 19, 2001 Meeting

Present: A. Ciliberti, P. Chervenie, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, C. Daze (for L Kay), J. Getaz, M. Martin, P. Rigby, A. Scrimgeour, B. Simpson, R. Sweeney

1. In Marianne Gaunt's absence due to illness, Anne Ciliberti convened the meeting at Rider University following the meeting of the Council of NJ College and University Library Deans, University Librarians and Directors. She reported that with Marianne Gaunt and John Gaboury she had met with several vendors at ALA to begin obtaining price quotes for new databases. The vendors selected were those offering the top 5 to 8 databases recommended by members for group licensing, as reported in the Electronic Resources Committee's survey results. Andrew Scrimgeour suggested offering trial access to the databases at an appropriate time would be valuable and the group agreed.

2. Judy Cohn reported on next projects of the Electronic Resources Committee, commenting that they would proceed with the evaluation of four general interest, fulltext databases and refine the master list of database subscriptions across the state. She explained that two prominent business databases would also be evaluated and that two business specialists would be joining the committee for this purpose.

3. The value of sponsoring a vendor day in March was discussed and several suggestions were made. One idea was to meld it into the NJLA conference and another suggestion was to schedule it earlier in the year perhaps in conjunction with the Users' Conference. Judy Cohn pointed out that individual sessions for the E.R. Committee with each vendor would be valuable. The group agreed that efforts should be made to set up such a schedule for the E.R. Committee and that this year the vendor day should remain in March.

4. Anne Ciliberti presented the January budget report and noted that there are still a few outstanding vendor invoices. Nearly all of the member library payments have been received.

5. The issue of VALE acting as the fiduciary agent for the Council was discussed. It was suggested that a surcharge for the Council be included in libraries' VALE invoices. The group agreed to await a formal recommendation from the Council regarding whether and how much of a surcharge should be added.

6. Rich Sweeney stated that it may be necessary to also levy a VALE surcharge to take care of administrative costs, especially if state funding is not sufficient.

7. The issue of how to include the NJ State Library as a member of VALE was discussed. Since it is the library of Thomas Edison State College, the State Library users have on-site access to the Thomas Edison VALE databases. Access is not presently provided for other State Library users not affiliated with the College. Anne pointed out that extending such access will require agreement by the vendors. It was generally agreed that the next round of negotiations with vendors should include licensing for all clientele of the NJ State Library.

8. The full definition of VALE "membership" was discussed in light of the NJ State Library consideration. John Cohn and Anne Ciliberti agreed to review the group's earlier accepted definition and recommend changes if necessary.

9. Paul Rigby presented a recommendation to conduct an assessment of the VALE databases. A proposal by consultant Dr. Marie Radford to conduct such an assessment using focus group interviews to determine wording for an end-user survey was reviewed and discussed. Several questions were raised about how to select libraries where the focus groups would be held and how the end-users would be selected. The importance of obtaining data useful for outcomes assessment purposes was emphasized by several members. The group agreed that the Assessment Committee should move forward with the general plan and approved spending \$2500 for the consultant. Dr. Radford will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss details of the project.

10. Rich Sweeney made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to purchase a plaque and flowers for recognition of the contributions made by Marianne Gaunt, chairperson of the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Rich Sweeney reported on his participation in a conference on electronic database usage statistics and asked for permission to share anonymous VALE data to the work of a group which seeks to make national recommendations on database use measures. The group approved this request.

12. Anne Ciliberti asked the group if VALE members should be queried about participation in a Palinet offer of electronic books. It was agreed that the opportunity should be posted on the listserv with a deadline of the end of next week. Anne will inquire if the costs can be charged to individual libraries' Palinet accounts rather than through direct invoicing.

13. Anne Ciliberti inquired if there was interest in responding to the STINSO weeding proposal and it was generally agreed that there was not sufficient interest at this time for a full consortium response.

14. Rich Sweeney reported that he will organize a Users' group meeting for VALE participants in the Elsevier project.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#)