

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the February 19, 2001 Meeting

Present: A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, M. Martin, P. Rigby, A. Scrimgeour, B. Simpson, R. Sweeney, P. Tumulty
Guest: Dr. Marie Radford, Pratt Library School

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting by thanking the group for the flowers delivered to her following the January meeting of the Council of NJ College and University Library Deans and Directors which she was unable to attend due to illness. John Cohn, as chair of the Council, then presented Marianne with a plaque recognizing the positive impact her leadership has had on VALE and library service in New Jersey.

2. Paul Rigby, Co-Chair of the Assessment Committee, introduced Dr. Marie Radford, the consultant who will be assisting in the development and analysis of the VALE user survey. Dr. Radford reviewed the survey methodology that she and the Committee were recommending. It would include four focus groups conducted at two libraries to assist in the development and wording of survey questions designed to elicit information about user satisfaction with the VALE databases. Following a pretest of the survey instrument, all 49 libraries will be asked to have 30 surveys completed by users conducting searches on VALE databases.

The group discussed various aspects of the proposal including questions about the sampling method, whether branch libraries should be included and the fact that remote users would not be surveyed. Following discussion, the group agreed to move forward with the survey development. Dr. Radford will distribute the final survey questions to the Executive Committee members for their approval prior to the actual data collection.

3. Anne Ciliberti reviewed the February financial report, noting that nearly all funds had been received from the member libraries and that all vendor invoices have been received. She also distributed a preliminary estimate of the FY02 major expenses and estimated revenues. Rich Sweeney recommended that the budget plans for next year include a sum for contingency expenses and Anne suggested the need for hiring professional accounting assistance. The group also discussed various ways in which expenses might be reduced and the possible need to charge back administrative/overhead costs to the members. Marianne will work with John Gaboury and Anne to develop some possible charge-back scenarios for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Pat Tumulty reported that lobbying efforts to increase funding for the NJ Virtual Library will continue despite an entire new staff in the Governor's office. She will keep the group informed as strategies are developed and the priorities of the new State Librarian become known.

5. Anne Ciliberti reported that she and Judy Avrin are working with the vendors to obtain new and renewal price quotes by March 1. She noted that it is unlikely that there is enough interest from VALE members to participate in the Palinet offer for discounted access to a collection of electronic books.

6. Judy Cohn, Chair of the Electronic Resources Committee, brought the group up to date with the Committee's activities. She reported that her group will meet with vendors of the four major general full-text products over two days to review the databases. Members of the Executive Committee are invited to join the Committee. The group hopes to present its analysis of the products to the Executive Committee in March after which they will work on refining the list of all database subscriptions held by member libraries. The Executive Committee approved the expense of providing lunch for the ER group on both vendor days.

7. Marianne Gaunt presented recommendations of the VALE ILL/Resource Sharing Committee chaired by Mary Mallery. Having reviewed the various resource sharing agreements in place around the state, the Committee recommended the adoption of a VALE-wide reciprocal borrowing agreement for faculty. The Executive Committee discussed the proposal and the possible complications that might arise since VALE consists of both public and private institutions. The group agreed to recommend the issue for inclusion on the agenda of the next Council meeting with the recommendation that participation be mandatory for all VALE public institutions and that private institutions be encouraged to participate.

8. John Cohn presented draft guidelines for determining membership in VALE. The draft proposed that all institutions of higher education recognized by the NJ Commission on Higher Education be eligible for participation in VALE as well as the NJ State Library which plays a unique role in providing library service in the State. The proposal also recognized that notwithstanding this broad definition of membership or participation, access to VALE products and services by specific libraries or particular end-users may be dependent upon other considerations such as funding restrictions, copyright compliance and vendor licensing agreements. After discussion, the group moved to accept the guidelines, renamed as Guidelines for Participation, pending approval by the Council at its next meeting.

9. Joan Getaz, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, reported briefly on feedback regarding the VALE users' conference. While generally positive, a suggestion was made to find a larger facility so that attendance need not be limited. Marianne will explore other facilities at Rutgers and Joan will contact Middlesex Community College about its facilities. The group expressed its appreciation to Joan for all her hard work on the conference and on collating the feedback responses.

10. Rich Sweeney inquired if VALE would be interested in working on the development of a grant proposal for the creation of an information competency website. Rich explained that he envisioned building a national coalition of interested groups for the development of an information competency resource which could be used by librarians, faculty and students at individual institutions seeking information, resources and examples of exercises and curricula created to teach information competency concepts. The group responded enthusiastically to the concept and Rich suggested that he work with a small group of librarians on a concept brief. Interested librarians should contact Rich.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#)