

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the May 14, 2001 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, Bro. Paul Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, Judy Cohn, J. Crocker, C. Daze, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, M. Martin, P. Rigby, B. Simpson, R. Sweeney

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting with the presentation of a plaque to Paul Rigby, upon his retirement as Library Director of Atlantic Cape Community College, in honor of his many contributions to VALE.
2. Judy Avrin provided an update on the first round of database selections. All institutions have submitted their choices with a very positive response to new database offerings. This was due in large part to the work done by Judy Cohn and the Electronic Resource Committee. The new databases offered were those that ranked high on the committee's survey.
3. Judy Cohn reported that database vendors have been contacting her regarding providing trials of new products to the VALE membership. After a lengthy discussion the decision was made to offer trials on an ad hoc basis throughout the year. Anyone willing to champion a database is encouraged to do so.
4. Paul Rigby reported on the progress of the VALE User Survey. Thirty seven institutions have returned their surveys and Judy Avrin has sent emails to the non-respondents. Marie Radford has begun to compile the data.
5. Marianne Gaunt discussed advocacy efforts that are under way. As the State budget will be finalized in June, lobbying efforts during the month of May are quite important. The NJLA homepage provides a link to "Legislative Priorities" which details the importance of VALE and the Virtual Library Initiative. Joan Getaz provided a sample letter, highlighting the benefits and savings of VALE, to be sent to legislators on the Budget Appropriations Committees.
6. Jane Crocker has agreed to head the new Virtual Reference Services Committee. A charge has been drafted and will be distributed to the VALE Corrado listserv with a request for volunteers.
7. Anne Ciliberti reported on a proposed long range planning process. After discussion, the group agreed that during the fall term, a survey designed to elicit opinions, priorities and future directions for VALE will be widely distributed on the Corrado and Council listservs. A few focus groups will also be held during the VALE Users' Conference in January to complement and expand the findings of the surveys. In February/March, a day-long retreat will be held for Council members to develop a planning document. The group hopes to be able to hire a consultant to facilitate the retreat and draft the plan. The final report would be targeted for spring, 2002.
8. Barbara Simpson discussed new strategies for database training and suggested that more reliance be placed upon vendor documentation. After considerable discussion, the group agreed that it is easier for a more centralized office (VALE Coordinator at William Paterson) to set up

and coordinate vendor training for new databases. It was agreed that Ebsco will be consulted about the possibility of conducting three sessions in various parts of New Jersey, perhaps with subject specialties in the afternoon.

9. Joan Getaz provided an update on the possible location of the VALE Users' Conference. Last year's conference attendance had to be limited as a result of space restrictions at Alexander Library. Other venue possibilities are being examined in an effort to avoid limiting registration. Middlesex County College is a possibility, however, the benefit of train access to New Brunswick may encourage remaining at Rutgers. Marianne will look into other options on College Avenue. A summer confirmation of venue is planned. A tentative date for the conference is January 4, 2002.

10. Anne Ciliberti presented the May Financial Report. All invoices have been paid and all funds have been collected. Several SiteSearch bills remain.

11. The next Executive Committee meeting has been changed to Wednesday, June 13th at 2:00.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#)