

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the August 13, 2001 Meeting

Present: Chervenie, Ciliberti, Crocker, Daze, Gaunt, Getaz, Scrimgeour, Smith, Sweeney

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting and asked Anne Ciliberti to provide a financial update. Ciliberti reported that all FY01 invoices have been paid, with possibly one SiteSearch maintenance bill yet to be received. The estimated carry forward appears to be on target, although the revenue from the planned server sale needs to be realized. Marianne reported that her Purchasing Department has nearly finalized the bidding details and that the bids should be announced shortly. Discussion followed about the level of a minimum bid, and Marianne volunteered to investigate the level with her technical staff.

Anne also reported that next year's financial reports will be set up to include separate reports for the grant and member accounts as well as a merged report with complete financial details.

2. Brother Paul Chervenie summarized the findings of the Users' Survey, noting strong overall satisfaction with the VALE databases. He indicated that the report contains substantial material that will be appropriate for publicity purposes and for future funding requests. Other comments about the findings included:

- There appears to be a correlation between user experience and instruction and level of satisfaction.
- Full text is the most valued feature of the databases.
- An overall profile of the respondent is female, day student, undergraduate.
- Most popular majors of respondents were business, psychology, computer science and education.
- Most heavily used databases were Periodical Abstracts, Lexis-Nexis, ABI and PsycINFO.

3. The group discussed these findings and complimented Dr. Marie Radford on her excellent guidance and survey report. Several avenues for publicizing the results were discussed and it was agreed that two summaries will be composed. Joan Getaz will develop one appropriate for the membership and for posting on the listservs and Anne Ciliberti will ask Judy Avrin to compose another as a press release. Ciliberti will have the full report posted on the website.

The recommendation to emphasize the value of Boolean searching was considered by the group and a suggestion was made to develop a template brochure with VALE examples that could be locally adopted.

The group authorized the remaining payment to Radford.

4. Marianne distributed a draft VALE Annual Report that she and Ciliberti had developed. The group liked the magazine-style format and graphs and several suggestions were made for

improving the text and display. The draft will be revised and sent to John Gaboury for presentation at a meeting of the Presidents' Council.

5. Marianne proposed several topics for consideration in the upcoming long range planning process. The group agreed that setting consortial priorities, articulating VALE's relationship to the Council and reviewing VALE's organizational structure were priorities to be addressed. Funding strategies and issues should follow based upon agreed upon priorities. Marianne and Anne will convene the Executive Committee sub-committee to develop the first-phase planning survey.

6. Anne reported that the migration to the Ebsco products is proceeding smoothly and that some additional documentation for maximizing full text and setting up remote authentication had been developed by a staff member at Wm. Paterson University. All new databases should be available on the VALE testserver in the next week.

7. Joan Getaz reported that the Rutgers' Busch Campus Center will be a fine location for the Users' Conference in January. Efforts will be made to provide transportation from the train station and the lunch will be provided at no charge to the participants. Joan will explore further options regarding the lunch. No snow date will be scheduled and an local outside speaker will be sought.

8. Jane Crocker noted that VALE's Virtual Reference Committee had a well-attended, initial meeting. They discussed various short-term goals, including exploration of the services provided by other academic consortia, links to searching tips and tutorials and the possibility of a survey to determine what VALE members are currently doing. A follow-up, brainstorming meeting will be held on September 8.

9. Marianne reported that the VALE Resource Sharing Committee has developed a website that includes loan policies for many of the VALE libraries.

10. Anne indicated that three new libraries had requested membership in VALE. After discussion and review of the VALE membership guidelines, the group agreed to extend membership to the Princeton Theological Seminary and to Somerset Christian College. The third request was tentatively denied, unless further exploration indicates that the membership guidelines are met.

11. The next meeting of the VALE Executive Committee will be Wednesday, September 12 at 2 pm.

Minutes prepared by [Anne Ciliberti](#).