

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the January 25, 2002 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, Bro. P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, M. Gaunt, J. Lin Hunt, M. Martin, A. Scrimgeour, E. Smith, R. Sweeney, P. Tumulty
Guest: R. Colucci

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting with the introduction of Rich Colucci of the Library Development Bureau at the State Library.

A final discussion of the Users' Conference confirmed the overall success of the day. The final registration was 160 and the Busch Campus Center was an excellent facility for the conference. Judy Avrin reported that evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. They have been forwarded to Joan Getaz. Judy presented the conference budget. The cost of the conference was completely underwritten by vendor donations.

There was a discussion of methods for increasing communication of VALE issues. Suggestions included:

- o Newsletter - either print or electronic
- o Use the VALE web site to centralize VALE information
- o Make the web site more germane
- o Post Executive Committee minutes to Corrado
- o Post meeting dates on the web site
- o Notices should be posted to Corrado when an item requiring input from library staff is sent to directors for action

It was noted that it would be helpful to know the level of registration on Corrado. Elizabeth Smith will ask Ed Corrado to generate a list. There were several suggestions for the best methods of improving registration to the listserv. Marianne Gaunt will send a reminder to the director's listserv to send to their staffs.

2. Marianne Gaunt submitted the Reference Services Subcommittee report for Jane Crocker. The results of the question on the Planning Survey regarding the establishment of a consortium-wide online reference service, were lower than anticipated. At the Users' Conference, however, interest was quite high. This will be the topic at the next Council meeting in order to discuss various options and approaches to an online service. A representative of Q and A NJ could be invited to the meeting as it might make sense to piggy back on to what the state is already doing. The Q and A icon could be loaded on to the Vale web page. Commercial options such as LSSI were also mentioned.
3. Marianne Gaunt reported on the Bibliographic Control Subcommittee. The chair is Jianrong Wang of Richard Stockton State College and it was proposed that the name be changed to the VALE Bibliographic and Metadata Control Subcommittee. A list of members will be requested.

4. Marianne Gaunt discussed progress on planning for the VALE Long Range Planning retreat scheduled for March 15th. Facilitators will be Marie Radford and Jennifer Lehr. Their honorarium includes a written report. The goal is a three to five year organizational model for the future of VALE. A mission statement and goals should be drafted as well as a vision statement with a possible three year projection of activities and priorities.

The need to expand the environmental scan was discussed and several Committee members volunteered to contact various vendors and representatives from other consortia in order to discuss future prospects for costs of services and products. These assignments were as follows: John Cohn to investigate Lexis-Nexis; Judith Hunt to explore EBSCO, Palinet and VIVA; Rich Sweeney to talk with ProQuest and Elsevier; Marianne Gaunt to contact OhioLink; Anne Ciliberti to explore Alabama state network; Marilyn Martin to investigate the TCLC; and Pat Tumulty to summarize NJLA plans. Since the retreat is scheduled for March 15th, the February 18th Executive Committee meeting will be the target date for obtaining information on these items. The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for March 14th will be cancelled.

It was reported that Elsevier has purchased Academic Press's Ideal titles. The Academic Ideal journals will be offered through the Elsevier search engine but it is not clear how the pricing will work out. Theresa Danks of Elsevier is preparing a survey to be sent to VALE libraries to provide information on their holdings of ideal titles.

5. Anne Ciliberti presented a budget update. With the exception of several small invoices for recent add-ons, all vendor invoices have been paid. Printing costs of the annual report will come out of the Public Relations budget. The fee for the planning retreat facilitators will come from contingency funds.

Anne Ciliberti reported that John Gaboury spoke with Brian Goldsmith concerning the NJ State Library grant and while this year's funds are continuing, there is concern regarding the availability of funds for next year. Rich Sweeney suggested sending a report to legislators showing usage data from Academic Search Premier and ABI Inform, the two databases subsidized by the state grant.

Given the uncertainty of funding at the local level and from the State Library, Anne Ciliberti recommended a moratorium on addition of new databases in the coming year. A notice should be sent to the Council and Corrado listservs to advise that VALE will not be negotiating for new databases for the next fiscal year.

6. Marianne Gaunt emphasized the importance of advocacy of VALE, even at the institutional level. A list of legislators and corresponding VALE library directors was distributed. Pat Tumulty will advise on the best way to proceed.
7. The group discussed the possible need for other subcommittees. Marianne Gaunt will contact Barbara Simpson about expanding the training committee's charge to include other educational topics; Anne Ciliberti and Rich Sweeney agreed to organize a group to consider the development of a collaborative information literacy website; and interest in copyright needs to be explored with other organizations such as NJEdge and NJLA.

8. The next meeting of the VALE Executive Committee will be on Friday, February 22, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by [Judy Avrin](#).