

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the February 22, 2002 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, Bro. P. Chervenie, A. Ciliberti, John Cohn, Judy Cohn, J. Crocker, C. Daze, M. Gaunt, J. Lin Hunt, E. Smith, R. Sweeney

1. Marianne Gaunt convened the meeting and asked Anne Ciliberti to present the financial report. All of the databases invoiced have been paid in full by the member libraries. Proceeds from the sale of the server to Rutgers should be received shortly. Several libraries with credits on their accounts will be contacted regarding refunding the balance or holding the credit until the next fiscal year.
2. Several committee members reported on contacts with vendors and representatives from other consortia in an effort to expand the environmental scan. Marianne Gaunt reported on Marilyn Martin's examination of TCLC. They have no plans to enter negotiations for databases on behalf of its libraries. Concentration of efforts is on resource sharing and educational programs.

Tom Sanville at OhioLINK responded to Marianne's inquiry that as a result of budget restrictions, negotiations with vendors have been severely impacted.

The Alabama Virtual Library, a multi-type library consortium, was created less than two years ago. The consortium, striving to provide: Excellence, Equity, and Economy, received \$3 million dollars in funding by the state legislature.

John Cohn met with Judy Matz of Lexis-Nexis. A 4% price increase will be likely for the next FY. Alternative pricing models and the suggestion that libraries evaluate their use data were discussed. L-N is planning on changes to its interface in order to make it more appealing to students.

Judith Lin Hunt reported on Palinet. Their strategic plan is available on their website. There are concerns regarding expansion and cash flow. They hope to streamline and avoid overlaps in training and want to examine the overlap of databases with other groups. She also reported on VIVA, which is supported to a great extent by the state budget. They are facing major budget cuts and will be looking at content over convenience. They plan to do RFPs for databases and will possibly concentrate on databases that show usage data easily which will aid in validating the acquisition.

3. Marianne discussed plans for the Strategic Planning Retreat on March 15th. A tentative schedule for the day will include a brief power point review during the introduction. Marie Radford is evaluating ways to structure the day. There will be a variety of activities aimed at addressing the goals of the session. Marie and Jennifer Lehr will produce a report which will include recommendations. They will develop a draft mission statement from information discussed during the day. A copy of the power point slides from the

VALE Users' Conference and a summary of the environmental scan information will be distributed prior to the retreat. A statement of the VALE project and other consortia mission statements will also be examined. It will be important for participants to read up on and consider options in advance.

Judy Cohn reported that the UMDNJ Scotch Plains facility will work well logistically. Coffee, lunch, and an afternoon break will be provided by VALE. Judy Avrin will post an email with direction and parking information.

4. Jane Crocker gave a Reference Subcommittee update. There seemed to be a lot of confusion after the Users' Conference regarding different virtual reference options. There was discussion of options. The committee met with Peter Bromberg of QandANJ on February 20th and that will be part of the program they present at Council in June.
5. Anne Ciliberti reported that the new Shared Information Literacy Subcommittee she and Richard Sweeney are co-chairing has received a great deal of interest. Thirty-two people have signed up and a meeting has been scheduled for March 11th at Alexander Library.
6. Marianne reported that Barbara Simpson Darden has been in contact with her regarding a clarification of the Executive Committee's understanding of the Training Subcommittee's charge. As the needs of the membership have evolved, the subcommittee will then be able to move forward under her leadership. There was a discussion of expanding the subcommittee's functions, but it was felt that database training is the ongoing need. The creation of standard database help sheets that could be shared among members was recommended.
7. The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for March 14th was cancelled. The committee will meet briefly at the Planning Retreat to discuss any pressing issues.

Prepared by J. Avrin