VALE Joint Committee Chair - Executive Committee Meeting
March 6, 2012

Middlesex County College

FINAL

Present: J. Avrin, L. Charles, A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, P. Dawson, C. Daze, M. Gaunt, R. Kearney, E. Leonard, M. Loesch, J. Matthew, K. McGivern, D. O'Shea, T. Pavlovsky (Chair), B. Richards, L. Rodriguez, L. Siecke, R. Sweeney, P. Theus, J. Toth, A. Unver

1. Taras Pavlovsky welcomed the group to the joint meeting of Committee Chairs and the Executive Committee. He reminded everyone that the purpose of the annual meeting is to share information about committee activities, promote collaboration among committees and provide an opportunity for Executive Committee members to be engaged with committee leaders.

Introductions including institution and committee representation were made:

Assessment Chair - Elizabeth Leonard, Berkeley College
Assessment Liaison - Liz Siecke, Ramapo College
Bibliographic Control & Metadata Co-chair - Martha Loesch, Seton Hall University
Bibliographic Control & Metadata Liaison -   Anne Ciliberti, William Paterson University
Cooperative Collection Chair: Pam Theus, William Paterson University
Cooperative Collection Liaison - Joe Toth, Ocean County College
Digital Media Committee Member - Brian Richards, Middlesex County College
Electronic Resources Chair - Richard Kearney, William Paterson University
Electronic Resources Liaison - Judy Cohn, UMDNJ
Reference Services Co-chairs - Pat Dawson, Rider University; Kate McGivern, Bergen Community College
Reference Services Liaison – Jane Crocker, Gloucester County College
Resource Sharing Chair – Judy Matthew, William Paterson University
Shared Information Literacy Chair – Leslin Charles, Berkeley College
Shared Information Literacy Liaison – Amira Unver, College of Saint Elizabeth
Users' Conference Chair – Richard Kearney, William Paterson University
Users' Conference Liaison – Luis Rodriguez, Kean University
VALID Steering Committee Co-chairs: Anne Ciliberti; Marianne Gaunt, Rutgers University
Website Chair – Denise O'Shea, Montclair State University
Website Liaison – Richard Sweeney, NJIT

Assessment Committee – Elizabeth Leonard

- Committee met several times during the year.
- Conducted a successful workshop in July 2011, "Going Beyond Sessions and Searches".
- Submitted a program/funding request for an Institutional Repository Program to be co-sponsored with the Bibliographic Control & Metadata Committee in May. The Executive Committee will review the request at its afternoon Executive Committee meeting.

- Since the committee had been charged with reviewing survey requests from other committees, they developed a survey planning checklist to help guide committees as they work on survey development. It is awaiting Executive Committee approval.

Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee – Martha Loesch

- Committee received a charge from VOIT. Held two meetings with representatives from all the alpha implementers. Focused on three topics:
    1) Gathering permission from vendors to use records in a shared catalog.
    2) Identifying match points in records for initial migration into a shared database.
    3) Identifying criteria and quality hierarchies for merging records.

- Their Research subcommittee created a survey on cataloging assessment that was submitted via AUTOCAT (catalogers listserv) but the response rate was quite low. A few revisions were made to the introduction and it was reposted on February 28th to try to increase the number of responses. All library sectors are represented on the listserv. The subcommittee will review results and report to the Executive Committee.

- The Library of Congress announced the new RDA implementation date is March 31, 2013. BCMC is considering offering RDA catalog training for VALE members.

Cooperative Collection Management – Pam Theus

- Last year the committee conducted a pilot project to examine the circulation of recently purchased materials.
- Sponsored a session on circulation statistics at the 2012 VALE Conference.
- Regarding VOIT charges:
    1) In last stages of developing a Profile to gather information regarding the various and diverse collections that VALE libraries will be moving to the new system.
    2) Anticipate responses from Alpha and Beta libraries
    3) Profile/survey to be submitted to VOIT.
- Next meeting topic: evaluating ebook use at various libraries.

    The question was raised whether Assessment Committee review is needed for surveys that committees are conducting in response to VOIT charges. The Executive Committee will discuss this issue at its afternoon meeting.

Electronic Resources Committee – Richard Kearney

- Committee functioning as two groups: electronic resources and e-books

- Held a two day E-book vendor demo program in January. 10 VALE libraries were represented. Vendors included Ebrary, YBP, Ebsco, EBL and Coutts.
    - Two potential tracks were discussed at the following meeting:
        1) consortial discounts;
        2) cooperative purchasing.

- In a straw poll the group supported consortial purchasing, probably going with a jobber.

- A VALE ERC discussion group was created to provide a closed forum for topics not appropriate for VALE-L.   Each school should be represented and Judy Cohn will send a message to the directors list to make sure each library has someone on the list.

- The Executive Committee approved a flexible negotiating group in the fall to allow discussion of offers not in sync with the regular VALE renewal cycle. It includes the chair of the Electronic Resources Committee, the Executive Committee liaison, and two other members of the ER Committee; they have had some preliminary discussions with vendors.

- In the question period, Sweeney asked for more details about how cooperative purchasing might work. Kearney indicated that cooperative purchasing for e-books would likely involve an arrangement whereby consortia members would purchase some number of copies of a given title (based on a "multiplier" formula or some similar framework aligned with the ordinary curricular needs of member institutions) and make access to the title available to other members available through a functional equivalent of inter-library loan. Kearney explained that most e-book publishers are having difficulty accepting inter-library loan as it has long been practiced with physical medium materials, and instead there some other concepts being discussed. Some of these involve fees (e.g., "short-term lease") where the fee is roughly equivalent to the processing costs of handling inter-library loan transactions for physical medium materials, and some involve access rationing (e.g., making a title unavailable to one institution while it is being used by another). There is a great deal that has to be worked out in connection with this question, but the fundamental principles of resource sharing long practiced by libraries will be kept front and center in all discussions.

- Sweeney also inquired about whether the ERC is planning on initiating discussions with Elsevier in the near future regarding the ScienceDirect consortial license renewal. Kearney acknowledged that Elsevier is under more pressure at this time than may have been the case during the last renewal, and he also pointed to evidence from the recent round of contract extensions that Elsevier will be more agreeable to improving terms and the cost control objectives of consortial members in the next renewal. Cohn suggested there may not be any particular advantage in initiating discussions at this time, though the ERC will discuss the pros and cons at its next meeting.

Digital Media Committee -   Brian Richards

- Brian reported on behalf of committee chair Jane Hutchison that institutions already participating in last year's VALE digital video offers are continuing to add content. NJVid is continuing to ingest content.

- Jane will be stepping down as committee chair next year and a replacement needs to be identified.

In response to questions regarding the relationship between NJVid and VALE, the Executive Committee developed a Memorandum of Understanding that the two groups are still reviewing. It establishes terms of service, rights, and turnaround time for ingesting content. It includes wording that VALE must be involved in cost model discussions.

Reference Services – Pat Dawson

- Three new members joined the committee this year.
- They had a poster session at the Users' Conference to advertise the committee
- Conducted a breakout session at the conference on reference transaction survey and methods used in other VALE libraries. Feedback was positive and the Assessment Committee was thanked for their help on the survey. A draft report of survey results will be posted on the committee webpage.
- They are considering a workshop on reference data collection based on responses to the VALE presentation.
- Committee members are compiling an interface "wish list" for the VOIT project.

Resource Sharing Committee – Judy Matthew

- There are 10 current members, including two new members. Want to have full sector representation and are actively recruiting members from two year schools.
- Updated the Reciprocal Borrowing pages, brochure and contact lists. Goal is to have only 2 or 3 individuals listed as contacts for each institution, with the primary contact listed first. This will aid in distribution for the annual survey with the hopes that the primary contact will receive the initial email about the survey.
- Group interested in forming a RapidILL pod and asked how to proceed. Pavlovsky noted that the committee will need to submit a proposal to the Executive Committee outlining the value of a VALE pod, costs, discounts or rationale for the service.
- Initial work on the VALID charge went well but development of the later phase of the questionnaire has been more difficult. The current committee charge requires that the survey and feedback be completed by April 2012 but this deadline may not be feasible since the instrument is still in development.

Shared Information Literacy – Leslin Charles

- Amira Unver is the new Executive Committee Liaison.
- The committee has 15 active members.
- Assessment - Review the range of information literacy assessment tools and methods being used both within and outside New Jersey with a view to sharing good practices among VALE institutions. Possible option would be to sponsor a program or a VALE Users' Conference breakout session on this topic.

- SIL committee members have noted that instruction librarians are having difficulty matching appropriate assessment strategies to learning outcomes and they would like to work with the Assessment Committee in an Assessment Fair.

- Lynee Richel, Morris County Community College and Heather Dalal, NJIT are hosting an assessment workshop in Newark at the end of May.

- Information Literacy Progression Standards – goal is to continue to contribute to the development of the Standards as they are extended to cover upper level and graduate skills. The committee lost a key member, Jacqui DaCosta, who returned to the UK. Group will reconvene in the near future and committee members should expect communication from Nancy Weiner and Eleanora Dubicki.

- Committee decided that committee web page should serve primarily as communication tool: to post activities of the members, presentations, publications, workshops, etc. Would also like to provide links to various useful sites such as ACRL Standards for Information Literacy, Middle States of Higher Education, President Obama's proclamation of October being Information Literacy Awareness Month, etc. Worked with Denise O'Shea to clean up page. VOILA and all mention of it was removed. Committee felt it was duplication of other well established resources and few people were using it.

- Several members presented at the VALE conference and will be presenting at NJLA

Users' Conference – Richard Kearney

- At capacity with record attendance of 296.
- Commended Busch Campus Center tech support staff.
- Summary of evaluation feedback was distributed. Overwhelmingly positive but as in past years, differing opinions on the keynote speaker. Some frustration expressed about not being able to attend more sessions. Several years ago experimented with recording sessions, with limited success. Lot of issues to resolve but remains a possibility.
- Individual breakout feedback was sent to session leaders. Avrin will be sending poster feedback shortly.
- Holding committee meetings at lunchtime was discussed. For some it is the only time entire committee can meet. Will leave it up to individual committee, but need to inquire whether food is allowed in other rooms.

VALID – Marianne Gaunt

Since July 2012, Anne Ciliberti and Marianne Gaunt have become co-chairs of VOSC to replace Taras Pavlovsky who is now the Chair of the VALE Executive Committee.

VOSC has chosen (with VALE Exec. Committee approval) a new name for the initiative, VALID, the VALE Academic Libraries Information Discovery. A new logo has also been developed and it will appear shortly on a separate webpage.

The committee has overseen the work of VOIT, VALID's implementation committee. Charges have been given to several VALE committees that involve background work in anticipation of our implementation. Some of these charges are directed at policies (cataloging and circulation),

others are related to data cleanup (recon, missing books, etc.) and web presentation (searching and record views).

VOIT has completed the merging of 10,000 records from each alpha implementer to create a 50,000 record database that can be used to test a user interface for potential implementation. The final choice will be made on the best applicability for consortial implementation, which may eliminate some software. VuFind and eXtensible Catalog (XC) are currently being tested. A final recommendation from VOIT is expected soon.

VOIT has requested a new server, and VOSC has asked for server requirements, including comparisons between cloud services and a physical server, as well as costs. A recommendation is expected in later March.

To raise awareness of our work on VALID, VOSC held several breakout sessions at the VALE Users conference in January, where 2 principals of KUALI OLE demonstrated the current software. Other breakout sessions discussed work that is being done on the initiative within VALE. Responses to these sessions were very favorable.

VOSC has focused much attention on developing a businessplan for VALID in collaboration with the Executive Committee that is working on moving forward the 501C3 non-profit incorporation. The business plan is proving to be a challenge. Determining real costs, an organizational structure, and a fee structure for VALID is difficult when the software is not yet developed and we have no experience with the new features that will be included. We understand that the KUALI OLE partners may be going back to a foundation for additional support. They have asked VALE if there were impediments to our joining as a consortium that could be included in the grant, and therefore influence positively our participation. The issues we raised--a business and structure plan, in particular-- could not be included in their grant. They did suggest we seek other like-minded KULAI OLE partners to seek grant support in collaboration. We are now pursuing this option with two OLE partner institutions. An additional meeting of VOSC and VOIT with KUALI OLE partners will be taking place at Rutgers in March to discuss further VALE participation, including costs and staffing impact.

Resources Desired/Needed:
A recommendation will be forthcoming for a new server. If it is a cloud services recommendation, it will include ongoing costs.

Website Committee - Denise O'Shea
Progress

- Four new members joined in past year, another coming on next week.
- Offered VALE Drupal website training for Committee Chairs and new Website Committee members, along with a revised training manual.
- Managed site and registration for 2012 annual conference.

Priorities

- Upload presentations from 2012 annual conference.
- Continue to train new members and support other committees in maintaining the site.
- Measure and address server performance issues; setup a test site.
- Identify new leadership.
- Assist VALID project with building a better Web presence

Strategies

- Investigate options for Drupal support; request money from Executive Committee
    - Consult re: site performance and site anomalies; possibly setup a test site in "the cloud"
- Continue to explore different tools for online meetings in order to save time and cut travel costs for members.
- Last year the committee recommended that VALE hire a PR person or creates a PR committee. Ciliberti noted it has been an ongoing issue and still needs to be resolved.

Several issues that were raised:

- In response to procedural questions regarding managing inactive members, Pavlovsky noted that the Committee Chair and Liaison Guidelines leave management to the chairs, stating: "manage membership as needed".
- Several committees requested that VALE license software for virtual meetings.