Purchasing and Licensing E-Resources: A More Robust Role for VALE through Member Engagement

VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS Users’ Conference
January 4, 2019
# Purchasing & Licensing Committee

## Core Members

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<tr>
<th>Judy Cohn</th>
<th>Ann Hoang</th>
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<td>Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences</td>
<td>NJIT</td>
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<th>Richard Kearney</th>
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<td>VALE Program Manager</td>
<td>William Paterson University</td>
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Charge

➢ Oversees and assesses group purchasing activities:
  ○ Identifies, evaluates and recommends acquiring databases, digital media, and productivity software;
  ○ Negotiates deals with vendors and reviews licenses.
Founded 1998
Offered 4 Databases
2018 Offers


735 Subscriptions

73 E-resource Offerings
VALE’s “middle” position as consortial agent

- Usually ask how much interest there is in a product, likely level of participation, to inform discounting.
- Usually ask for terms and pricing prior to indicating their level of interest.
Current Practices

➢ Mostly renewals
➢ Sparse communication between VALE and member institutions = lack of input
➢ Largely driven by interaction with vendors
Challenges

Stagnant budgets - state spending on public higher education has decreased since the Great Recession.*

Increasing database subscriptions costs - costs go up about 5% every year, well above the rate of inflation in the general economy.

Challenges

➢ Maintaining collaborative spirit - make database offerings more attractive/competitive
Opportunities

➢ **Improving communication** with members to better serve member needs and improve the quality of offers
Opportunities

Increase utilization of ConsortiaManager:

➢ as a contact tool for VALE Program Manager
➢ as a database of key member institution contacts
➢ for rapid-response polls and surveys
➢ for collecting comprehensive usage data
Opportunities

➢ OER (Open Educational Resources) - freely accessible, openly licensed text, media, and other digital digital assets. OER initiative may become a core service of VALE.

➢ Moving beyond consortial database licensing, VALE may explore possibility of providing academic software-as-service, such as the Springshare set of library applications (chat, scheduling, reserves, analytics, etc).

➢ Small group of VALE libraries purchase of ExLibris Alma system may be a model for a consortial shared library service platform offering.
Questions

- Would your library respond to polls and surveys from VALE – despite increased message volume – if this could result in better and more relevant offers?

- What features would you want ConsortiaManager to have?

- What type of communication would you like to see from VALE regarding e-resource products and offers?

- Other questions .......?
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:judith.s.cohn@rutgers.edu">judith.s.cohn@rutgers.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ahoang@njit.edu">ahoang@njit.edu</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kearneyr@wpunj.edu">kearneyr@wpunj.edu</a></td>
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