

VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 24, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attending: Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Ralph Bingham (LLNJ), Ed Chapel (Edge), Judy Cohn (Rutgers), Stephanie Cooper (Sussex), Heather Craven (CCM), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Megan Dempsey (RVCC) Sebastian Derry (SHU), Jeff Donnelly (Georgian Court), Evenlyn Frangakis (PTS), Isabel Gray (Camden), Muhammad Hassan (Kean), Janet Hauge (ACCC), Sisalee Hecht (Eastwick), Rob Hilliker (Rowan), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Matthew LaBrake (Berkeley), Melissa Lena (VALE), David Marks (Bergen), Danianne Mizzy (MSU), Margaret Nizolek (NJSL), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPU), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Dave Peterson (RCBC), Jennie Pu (Hudson), Pamela Price (Mercer), Joe Rearden (Edge), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (Ocean), Jodi Shelly (Felician), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth), Hilary Westgate (Ramapo)

Coffee and conversation: 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

- 1) **Business meeting - Introduction** (Edward Owusu-Ansah)
 - Edward Owusu-Ansah opened the Business Meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Updates & Reports:

- 2) **OER Report** (Rob Hilliker, Megan Dempsey)
 - A meeting of the OER ambassadors was held recently.
 - A training, similar to a boot camp, is being developed to enable people to proactively engage in developing an OER project on their campus. The training is designed to be used by people with different levels of experience with OER.

VALE Report (Kurt Wagner)

- Kurt Wagner discussed recent activities of the VALE Executive Committee Purchasing and Licensing Committee (P&L), and he provided facts and figures related to P&L.
- The committee membership includes Judy Cohn, Ann Hoang, Richard Kearney, and Melissa Lena.
- In FY2021, VALE sold 671 subscriptions, valued at just over \$4 million. In FY22, VALE has sold 692 subscriptions, valued at over \$4.2 million; this constitutes an increase of 5.3%.
- The P&L committee is hoping to increase the content that member institutions are making available to their respective populations.
- Melissa Lena plays a pivotal role in helping identify and acquire new resources. Through Lena's efforts, VALE has added 43 products to its catalog since Lena began working with VALE. The new products include journals, periodicals, ebooks, streaming media, Springshare, and Stackmaps, which represent tools and other content beyond databases.

- Wagner encourages the VALE Members Council to check out the catalog of offerings and to please reach out to Lena to discuss group savings opportunities through VALE.
- Wagner provided examples of how VALE benefits colleges and universities beyond cost savings.
 - The P&L Committee oversees license review with legal counsel to find the best terms and conditions and ADA section 508 accessibility compliance.
 - The VALE member fee is lowered when more members purchase subscriptions, which represents the core reason for VALE's creation.
 - VALE began using Consortia Manager about 5 years ago; this enterprise application allows users to see price trends, track information about licenses, compute FTE cost figures, save terms, view contact details, and view IP address ranges. Consortia Manager also provides information about usage data and title lists which represent Electronic Resource Management (ERM) that we can use as a consortia. Wagner encourages Members to speak with our e-resources colleagues to explore Consortia Manager.
 - Wagner mentioned that through VALE's relationship with Edge, Members benefit from a streamlined procurement process and invoicing.
 - VALE membership fees fund our annual conference, which represents the largest gathering of academic librarians in New Jersey.
 - VALE members can subscribe to e-resources mid-year. While subscriptions are kept on a similar renewal cycle, arrangements can be made with vendors to possibly prorate the invoice.
 - Wagner thanked the P&L Committee for their efforts.

VALE Budget Report (Taras Pavlovsky)

- Taras Pavlovsky discussed changes to the budget and explained that VALE is making a strategic investment in keeping Members' costs down.
- Pavlovsky explained that VALE has collected approximately 32% of e-resources bills thus far (\$4,213,000).
- On the payable side, VALE has been invoiced to-date for about \$2.6 million, which comprises about 7% of vendors' bills received; it is hoped that the process will speed up on Edge's part.

Edge report (Ed Chapel)

- Ed Chapel reported that Edge ended the year with a balanced budget, expanded the market place, and expanded affiliation agreements, for example, with NJ Transfer, IEEE Data Port digital repository service, and omnibus technology SHI vendor.
- Chapel shared that Edge is taking a break from its conference, and, like others in the industry, is offering virtual, targeted learning and training experiences to address matters of explicit concern and need as the organization conducts a reimagining of events, for example a hybridized simulcast of events.
- Chapel discussed Edge Connect NJ, which is designed to make sure every county has an anchor institution to serve as a hub to address the digital divide.

Conference (Hilary Westgate)

- The VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS conference has been renamed the New Jersey Academic Libraries Conference.
- There are over 20 members serving on the planning committee.
- The conference will take place on Friday, January 7, 2022 virtually via Zoom.
- The conference will feature pre-conference sessions in which moderators will provide training for participants.
- The committee organized a webinar last week; the webinar discussed proposals, contained tips for presentations, etc. Webinar attendees were supportive of making the conference virtual and more accessible.
- The committee issued a call for proposals for breakout sessions, lightning rounds, and poster sessions.
- The conference keynote speaker will be Trevor Dawes, Vice Provost for Libraries and Museums and May Morris University Librarian at the University of Delaware.
- There is discussion regarding opening up attendance to attendees from other states, and whether to assess an attendance fee to out-of-state attendees.
- There will be a double-blind review of proposals for the third year.
- There is an ongoing discussion about recording conference sessions.
- The keynote will be recorded.

LibraryLinkNJ (Ralph Bingham)

- The T-Force delivery vendor contract is in place through next year. LLNJ plans to draft a new Request for Proposals (RFP) by early 2022.
- There are plans to relaunch the discount purchasing program for school and public libraries.
- There are plans to relaunch the TOPCATS group.
- LLNJ is updating best practices and reaching out to see what New Jersey libraries are doing related to the pandemic in terms of recovery and resiliency.
- Bingham shared information about the upcoming Information Equity Conference.
- On-demand staff development subsidies are available for on-site and virtual programming; up to \$500 subsidy.

ACRL-NJ / NJLA-CUS (Hilary Westgate)

- The open membership meeting was well-attended.
- The Executive Board meeting will take place today, with monthly meetings on a Friday.
- Hilary Westgate shared information about increasing partnerships with NJLA and LLNJ, including the upcoming Information Equity Conference.
- Westgate encouraged libraries to submit information to be included in the fall newsletter.

New Jersey State Library (Margaret Nizolek)

- Margaret Nizolek shared highlights from her previously shared report and began with the news that patrons can use the State Library onsite now. The number of simultaneous visitors is limited due to ongoing health and safety considerations.
- Following Governor Murphy's guidelines for state employees, the staff is planning for a full return as of October 18.
- Significant progress has been made throughout the past 18 months with the digitization of superseded New Jersey state regulations which are heavily used by attorneys and are now available through the repository.
- The State Library is starting the process to issue a new RFP for a statewide database contract to start July 1, 2022; more information is forthcoming.

OER Report, continued (Marilyn Ochoa)

- Marilyn Ochoa shared information about the OER listserv, and included the link for signing up: <https://vale.njedge.net/oer-listserv-signup/>
- The link for the VALE OER page is <https://vale.njedge.net/initiatives-services/oer-open-educational-resources/>

New business

- Dianne Mizzy shared information about the September 2021 report on Consortial Controlled Digital Lending by the Boston Library Consortium Controlled Digital Lending Working Group.
- The link to the report, *Implementing Controlled Digital Lending as a Mechanism for Interlibrary Loan*, is: https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1bGExG_msf8PRx0L3o-zoyF8vwOiXd5XV

Minutes prepared by L. Beninghove