VALE Members Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023 | 9am - 12pm | Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Ali Cole (VALE), Isabel Gray (Camden), Marilyn Ochoa (Middlesex), Ann Hoang (NJIT), Ruth Ware (Essex), Donna Rosinski-Kauz (OCC), Gus Stamatopoulos (Stockton), Susan Van Alstyne (Centenary), Taras Pavlovsky (TCNJ), Janet Hauge (ACCC), Ralph Bingham (LLNJ), Edward Owusu-Ansah (WPUNJ), Kurt Wagner (Monmouth), David Marks (Bergen), Jane Jiang (Union), Pamela Price (Mercer), Robert Hilliker (Rowan), Sabrina Johnson-Taylor (PCCC), Bill McNelis (Brookdale), John Foglia (Brookdale), Muhammad Hassan (Kean), John Hernandez (HCCC), Heather Craven (CCM), Jane Crocker (RCSJ), Linda Beninghove (Stevens), Rosa Canales (Pillar), Consuella Askew (Rutgers), Evelyn Frangakis (Princeton Theological), Ana Fontoura (FDU), Alyssa Valenti (RVCC), Gary Marks (ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS), Daisy DeCoster (Saint Peter's)

Guests: Doug Gaudieri & Theresa Herbst (ProQuest/Clarivate)

Welcome & Business Meeting. (Ochoa)

- Member Introductions
- Guest speaker introductions

Presentation. (Clarivate)

- Data-driven collection & acquisition strategies for VALE
  - Doug Gaudieri & Theresa Herbst of Clarivate
- Clarivate presentation materials can be found in the meeting folder.
  - [Slides](#); [Relevancy ranking data](#); [Speaker bios](#)
- Gaudieri introduced the study that began with Joe Toth
- Herbst described the focus for today's presentation: a shared mission & vision: innovation & collaboration. Customization is the sweet spot where Clarivate can benefit VALE.
  - Publisher aggregation & collaboration; streamlined content & collection curation; model diversification & acquisition innovation.
- 17 institutions were used for the deep dive curriculum analyses: TCNJ, NJIT, WPUNJ, Seton Hall, Bergen Community College, Drew University, Monmouth University, Rowan University, Kean, Stevens, Ramapo, Montclair State, County College of Morris, Raritan Valley, Caldwell, Princeton, and Rutgers.
- VALE relevancy ranking was created – a ranked view of the most common subject-level, curriculum-tied needs across a diverse range of the most representative vale institutions (see relevancy ranking data). The looked at collective needs by subject area, course, department, and level.
- Least collective VALE needs define the individual library members' most important gaps

- The ability to custom curate eBook collections tied to data driven insight via ProQuest analysis – consortia level examples were shown of the price differences and savings. Proquest negotiated with publishers for lowest available pricing and highest access for all patrons.
- Slide 24 shows an example consortium – ProQuest curated a custom collection of DEI-focused materials.
- Askew added that Theresa Herbst came to Rutgers and noted that it was great to see this scaled up, how we can leverage the collective power?
- Herbst pointed to the usefulness of turn away data - what publishers? What types of content? What things are being removed from your collections?
- Pavlovsky asked for the methodology for the dive – was this done by course title? By departments? Herbst shared that it started with a full data scrape of any publicly available course catalogs – which was then broken down for trends. Starting with schools, then departments, then course/faculty, as well as looking at what subject areas faculty are researching in.
- Gaudieri added that this is not something they are charging for – this is something they are doing as a partner – to assist in making the best choices with acquisitions budget. They are available to assist with analysis of the data. Herbst added that they want to arm us with the tools to start the conversation.
- Guest speakers thanked VALE for time and left at 10:11 am.

Updates & Reports. (Ochoa)

- VALE, Ann Hoang, Chair
  a. Hoang thanked the MC on behalf of the EC, Ochoa for moderating, Doug & Theresa for their presentation, VALE PM, VALE Officers for their guidance, MC for moving VALE forward, and EDGE for their support as our fiduciary agent.
  b. Highlights since our last meeting:
     i. Revised committee charges with new parameters, two new task forces, OER is now a SIG – this is all updated on the website.
     ii. We have completed the WALDO-Lyrasis transition. All renewals and invoicing are done.
     iii. Ali is available for in person visits to your institution.
     iv. Our conference keynote – Emily Drabinksi is confirmed. Rebecca Reynolds has been confirmed as the emergency speaker. If not needed to cover the keynote, Reynolds will present at the March MC meeting.
     v. VALE published a statement against Censorship and in support of NJ School Librarians. This is available for continued endorsement on the VALE website. Cole posted a link to statement in the chat.
     vi. The Strategic Planning Task Force search for a consultant for summer 2024 is underway - keep an eye out for more information.
     vii. We are approaching 5 million dollars of passthrough e-resources, we are close to 11% increase from 2022. Share your announcements and updates with VALE in the listserv and on social media. Please attend the upcoming January conference.
- Budget Report, Taras Pavlovsky, Treasurer
  a. On the operations side – made a correction on the employee fringe. We have not spent anything on conference planning or OER. There is more happening on database side, we are just shy of 5 million dollars in database licensing – all members have been billed, about 78% has been paid, 33 out of 52 members have paid. The

budget is looking good.
   b. We have only paid about 30% of our total billed to us so far, we have 16 current vendors, 12 are completed, outstanding bills (EDGE is Net 45).
   c. On the reserves side – we finished last year in the black (though this should be zero).
   d. Hauge asked about needing more money set aside to fund PM travel if Ali is to visit the member schools. Cole added that travel distance under 72 miles round trip is not reimbursed by EDGE. Thirty-six miles one way is the company commute average used.
- VALE Business Update, Ali Cole, Program Manager
   a. See [report](#) in the meeting folder.
- Purchasing & Licensing, Rob Hilliker and Leigh Keller, Co-Chairs
   a. Hilliker noted that Springer Nature AI Clause has been added to license agreements:
      i. "Customer, Licensee, and its Authorized Users may not use the Content (or any part thereof) in connection with generative artificial intelligence systems, including, without limitation, to develop, train, program, improve, and/or enrich any such system, or permit any third party to do any of the foregoing."

5-minute Break (10:44 am – 10:49 am)

- ACRL-NJ / NJLA-CUS, Gary Marks, President
   a. Current member survey in process.
   b. New positions on Executive board, nonvoting appointed roles, next meeting is in Nov, positions should be filled then:
      i. NJASL liaison
      ii. Academic Representative for Rapid Response Task Force – force is responsible for responding to book challenges – this rep will bring information to the academic community to see how we can support/respond.
      iii. New position for LLNJ mentor task force to represent academic librarians.
      iv. Task force for NJ literacy progression standards, working on reviewing prior standards, gathering information and data to lay out the next steps.
   c. Conference updates
      i. Schedule is 99% finalized, and the planning committee is currently reviewing. The registration form is being prepared alongside the schedule. There are currently 16 poster sessions, 17 breakout sessions, 8 roundtables, and 10 lightning talks planned.
      ii. There will be a half hour vale 25th anniversary celebration.
      iii. Two-tiered registration
         1. Last conference was opened up to non-VALE members, we are hoping to do that this year as well – they will pay for lunch cost only – separate registration.
- LibraryLinkNJ, Ralph Bingham, Executive Director
   a. Happy to sponsor and participate in NJAL conference.
   b. Written report is in the folder.
   c. LLNJ Academic Libraries Pathfinder
      i. Compiled by LibraryLinkNJ, this page is designed to guide our academic library members in navigating and finding the most relevant information and best programs we offer for their library and staff. https://librarylinknj.org/members/academic-library
   d. New Delivery Services Manager position
   e. Save the date for the winter meeting on Dec 13th – presenter will speak about AI in a

general and aspirational way.
  f. Sign up for the newsletter and reach out to Ralph w/ any questions.
  g. Hilliker thanked Bingham for the report, and asked about delivery and offsite storage:
      i. Does LLNJ work with offsite storage locations? We are looking at vendors for offsite storage during renovation and probably also after (less shelf space) – what level of support/coordination is there for integrating ILL with offsite storage?
      ii. Bingham shared that there are not currently any stops at offsite storage locations – but there are libraries with multiple branches, where they add additional stops for a fee – there are options, lets discuss while we move forward with the new planning. If you are thinking about this – we need to consider this with our plans.
- New Jersey State Library, Maria Baratta, Associate Director
  a. Report in Folder
- NJLA, Brett Bonfield, Executive Director
  a. Not in attendance.

New Business.

- Committee Charge and Task Force Updates (Ochoa)
  a. Overviewed website
  b. Consuella – PD task force, lack of deep leadership – as senior leaders move up, we are losing middle managers – there has been agreement that this middle management training is needed. How do we deepen the bench? How do we build a program that will enable us to train our own? For less expense than an intensive leadership program
      i. There aren't a lot of middle management leadership programs anymore – ACRL used to have them, etc.
      ii. How can we partner with other orgs like LLNJ or other local orgs? To w to collaborate or piggy back
      iii. KURT - Sienna College training program – do they still offer this? It was very valuable and a good model. ANN – I checked last year, it wasn't running. Haven't checked this year if its back.
  c. MNO – strat planning TF – decided to search for a consultant – will plan retreat for summer – more details to come.
  d. OER TF moved to Task Force.
- Small Liberal Arts Colleges SIG (Susan Van Alstyne)
  a. Proposal for VALE Special Interest Group for SLACs
      i. Academic libraries provide different services depending on the institution. Private institutions with decreasing enrollments are struggling financially. The future of SLACs, and the academic library within these institutions is a recurrent topic with an uncertain outlook about the future. Smaller institutions have budgetary limitations—stagnant salaries and flat budgets. The goal of this SIG is to learn from each other on how to best advocate for the library and librarians. Working on use case studies and sharing evidence-based practices is relevant to academic librarians in similar situations who would benefit from learning how we are facing the challenges. The purpose of this SIG is to discuss our constraints in addition to sharing our wins: grants, proposals to administration, new services, and overall best practices.
  b. DeCoster (Saint Peter's) expressed interest in joining in the chat. Rosinski-Kauz (OCC)

expressed interest in re-convening the Community College group.

    c. EC will vote to approve the SIG this afternoon. If approved, Cole will create listserv and share with the VALE community.

Old Business | Ochoa, Moderator

- IRB Approved Study from William Paterson University (Cole)
    a. Cole promoted WPUNJ librarian study and posted information in the chat for those who have not yet participated:
        i. Survey link - https://wpunj.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eLfZUKJNviZl9Jk
        ii. Interview link - https://wpunj.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3kPPcA8WW36FLKK
        iii. Contact Neil Grimes, grimesn@wpunj.edu, with any questions.

Conclusion & Adjournment | Ochoa, Moderator

- Adjournment
    a. Ochoa adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am.

Minutes prepared by Ali Cole, VALE Program Manager.