

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the January 22, 2008 Meeting

Present: J. Avrin, A. Ciliberti, J. Cohn, C. Daze, P. Denholm, M. Gaunt, J. Getaz, J. Marcum, H. McGinn, B. Nebeker, C. O'Connor, T. Pavlovsky, D. Pinto, A. Scrimgeour, R. Sweeney

1. David Pinto convened the meeting and the minutes from the November 26, 2007 meeting were approved. He stated that minutes from subsequent meetings will be posted to the VALE wiki for review in addition to email distribution. He logged onto the VALE wiki to review recent postings and locate access points to VALE subpages. A link to VALE Planning is needed on the wiki's front page.
2. Ciliberti presented the November and December budget reports. As of January 4, 2008, total revenue includes all member library payments as well as several vendor contributions for Users' Conference program ads. The last open vendor invoice and the final Palinet consultancy fee were processed for payment in January. The budget reports were approved.
3. In a NJ Knowledge Initiative update Ciliberti reported that preliminary vendor pricing from Ebsco, ReferenceUSA, Nature and Ovid was received on January 17th from Kathi Peiffer. Determining a price for Wiley is more difficult since it is predicated on the cost of subscriptions held by the participants. This pricing will be sent to the VALE members in the form of a non-binding survey to determine which, if any, of the NJKI resources libraries wish to pick up on their own in the event that NJKI funding is not restored for the last third of FY08. After a lengthy review of the survey draft, the committee felt additional information was needed prior to distribution of the survey. Cohn and Ciliberti will obtain clarification. The NJ State Library and all NJKI constituents continue to advocate on behalf of NJKI refunding.

4. Committee Reports:

Assessment Committee – Marianne Gaunt reported the committee has submitted its follow up report to the Assessment Survey and is working to create a VALE Group that will administer the LibQual survey this spring. Pinto commended the committee's work on the Assessment Survey Review and advised that the report is on the wiki. The committee has requested the Executive Committee's response to their request for a revised charge. Ciliberti distributed a brief report entitled "VALE's Assessment Project: What Have We Learned?" she drafted in an effort to put the entire project in context and identify larger themes. It will be posted to the wiki as well as to the VALE blog.

Bibliographic Control and Metadata – Pinto reported that NACO project training was held in November to address corporate names in the name authority database. TCNJ has recently acquired independent status as a NACO contributor. The BCMC research subcommittee will be chaired by Kathy Hughes. Other members will be added to the

subcommittee on an ad hoc basis. BCMC Website updates and revisions have been made and a BCMC Wiki has been established to share information and policies on cataloging.

Cooperative Collection Management – Colleen Daze provided an update from Mary Mallery. They sponsored a well-attended lunch table discussion on the VALE Last Copy Pilot Project (VLCC) at the Users' Conference. Project participants told the group they felt the project was ready to be opened up to other VALE libraries and three libraries expressed their interest. Mallery will post a summary on the blog. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 5th and the committee will prepare an invitation to the VALE membership as well as set up training to help libraries identify items for last copy designation.

Digital Media – Jim Marcum met with the committee chair at the Users' Conference to identify himself as the new Executive Committee liaison.

Electronic Resources – Cohn reported on recommendations from the committee's white paper on Vendor Relations. In addition to the annual fall survey conducted to invite database recommendations, the report proposed issuing a spring survey to obtain feedback on current VALE subscriptions. Databases should be evaluated to determine whether they still meet member needs and if subscriptions should continue or be replaced by other products. Vendors could be invited to meet with subscribers and receive member feedback on current subscriptions. Other consortia should be monitored to see what databases they are subscribing to, what their preferred licensing terms and how they address critical issues. Pinto recommended having the Finance Committee review the recommendations. In light of current financial circumstances the Electronic Resources Committee is not recommending any new databases for FY09. Pinto reported that he wrote to Richard Kearney to express the Executive Committee's appreciation for its work.

OLS Taskforce – Taras Pavlovsky reported a high level of participation at their Users' Conference breakout session. Plans are in place for the Next Generation Academic Library System Symposium scheduled for March 12th at The College of New Jersey. Kurt Wagner prepared the online registration form which is scheduled to go live on January 23rd and an announcement to the VALE listserv will be posted when it goes up. Three of the six scheduled speakers will discuss open-source integrated library systems while the other three focus on administrative and organizational challenges. Registration will be open and free for all VALE members and there will be an acknowledgement on the website that funding for the symposium was provided by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services with additional support from The College of New Jersey and VALE.

Publicity – Joan Getaz commented on issues raised in the Assessment Survey regarding the need for better communication. A call last year for increased participation yielded no responses but she is optimistic that the VALE blog may provide a more effective method of reaching new members. In a Users' Conference wrap-up, Getaz noted there were several positive postings to the blog but she had not yet been able to access the online

evaluations. Pinto suggested that she post a summary to the blog after she reviews the evaluations. Dates for the 2009 conference were discussed and Marianne Gaunt will check Busch Campus availability for January 8th or 9th next year. Ciliberti noted it will be VALE's 10th anniversary. Judy Avrin reported a record attendance of 257. In a conference budget update she noted that vendor support had also risen.

Reference Services – Pavlovsky reported the committee held an online meeting in December to begin discussing and identifying new projects and directions after focusing primarily on QandANJ the last few years.

Resource Sharing – Andrew Scrimgeour noted that the committee, chaired by Julie Maginn, had a conference trifecta with both poster and breakout sessions as well as a lunch table discussion. Their plans include piloting a universal borrowing and an unmediated interlibrary loan projects next summer and fall, respectively. Two more institutions are participating in the current reciprocal borrowing program. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 15th.

Shared Information Literacy – Ciliberti reported the committee has an active, solid core of 16 or 17 people and has met twice this year. Their primary focus has been to finally establish the Database of Shared Information Literacy Materials as an effective, valued resource. In an image makeover, they renamed it to VOILA, the VALE Online Information Literacy Archive. The committee's poster at the Users' Conference was very well received, generating a lot of interest. Each member of the committee has been asked to submit two items to VOILA before the March meeting.

5. In a discussion of ways to improve communication within the Executive Committee, Pinto urged the committee to use the wiki and figure out the best ways maximize its value. Communication issues with the member libraries were also discussed, including how to overcome geographic and travel barriers preventing attendance at face to face meetings. It was agreed that plans for a joint meeting of the Executive Committee with the committee chairs will be planned for March 25 at a site, possibly Rutgers, where good video conferencing facilities exist to minimize participants' travel requirements. Getaz will survey the member libraries to determine their video conferencing facilities. Pinto will contact committee chairs to advise them of the meeting.

6. Pinto addressed the issue of proposed changes to licensure rules for librarians that were raised at the last meeting. The committee discussed possible responses. Pinto will speak with Carol Roehrenbeck and respond to the committee via the wiki.

7. Pinto reported he is working with Ciliberti and Cohn on the VALE 2006 -2007 biennial report.

8. After discussion, the group affirmed its online vote to provide financial support for the Library Journal advertisement honoring Norma Blake's Librarian of the Year award.

9. Pinto noted that new license negotiations with Elsevier need to start soon and a variety of possible pricing models were discussed. Sweeney reported he met with Elsevier representatives at ALA Mid Winter and advised them a different model will be needed in order to maintain significant numbers of subscribers. He suggested forming a group consisting of the Finance Committee and others to begin negotiations. Pinto will reach out to all current ScienceDirect subscribers for volunteers to participate in the negotiations.

Minutes prepared by: J. Avrin