

VALE Executive Committee

Minutes of the July 22, 2008 Meeting

Present: Judy Avrin, F. William Chickering, Anne Ciliberti, Judy Cohn, John Cohn, Marianne Gaunt, Andrea MacRitchie, Birthe Nebeker, Taras Pavlovsky, David Pinto, Richard Sweeney, Bruce Whitham

1. David Pinto convened meeting and welcomed the new members: F. William (Chick) Chickering, John Cohn, Andrea MacRitchie and Bruce Whitham. He also acknowledged and thanked the outgoing members, Pat Denholm, Joan Getaz, James Marcum and Howard McGinn.
2. Pinto thanked the several members of the Committee who were able to attend the July 16 meeting with Norma Blake and Kathi Pfeiffer at the State Library. He acknowledged that it was an important meeting and clarified the future directions of the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative. Academic libraries will be supported by continuation of Academic Search Premier and by RefUSA via the JerseyClicks portal.
3. As the new NJKI program gets underway, academic libraries will be represented on the new NJKI Task Force by Diane Campbell of Rider University. Pinto expressed his appreciation that she had accepted Norma Blake's invitation to serve. He is confident that she will be an important contributor to the program and will keep the VALE libraries informed of the program's directions and needs.
4. The new NJKI program will still require that institutions agree to the terms of the original NJKI Memorandum of Agreement, so VALE members who have not signed it to date will be given another opportunity to participate.
5. The final date for renewing VALE databases will be extended to July 28 as we await final confirmation of the continuation of Academic Search Premier in the NJKI package.
6. Anne Ciliberti presented the budget reports for May and June, indicating that all vendors had been paid with the exception of one which still needed to submit the State-required paper work. Other payables spanning the fiscal year include reimbursement to The College of New Jersey for part of the cost of Open Library System Symposium and reimbursement to Rutgers for the new VALE server. The amount of carry forward into FY09 is estimated at about \$30,000. The group affirmed its confidence that the total VALE Reserve is within acceptable limits.
7. Pinto observed that email approvals for many business items have been difficult and suggested that the approval of meeting minutes revert to review at face-to-face meetings. After discussion in which it was agreed that the May minutes be amended to clarify that the decision to redirect the focus of the NJ Knowledge Initiative away from science and technology resources to those of interest to small business was made by the State Library

in response to the wishes of the program funders. With this amendment, the May minutes were approved.

8. Pinto also brought forward an issue raised by Marianne Gaunt regarding the structural awkwardness of electronic voting for members of the VALE Executive Committee and Members' Council conveners. Since a quorum was not present at the June Members' Council meeting, nominees handled the election ballots by email, resulting in a situation of potential conflict. After discussion, Gaunt volunteered to investigate other methods of electronic voting or services for such.

9. Pinto stated that there are several new Committee chairpersons and some new Executive Committee liaisons needs to be assigned. After discussion, it was agreed that:

- John Cohn will become the new liaison to the Digital Media Committee
- Bruce Whitham will become the liaison to the Web Committee
- Andrea MacRitchie will become the liaison to the Conference Committee, co-chaired by Richard Kearney and Jan Skica. Pinto and MacRitchie will draft a charge for the Conference Committee.
- Joan Getaz will continue to work on internal communications and the formal Publications Committee will be disbanded.
- Anthony Joachim and Pat Dawson were approved as the new co-chairs of the Reference Services Committee. Birthe Nebeker volunteered to be the new liaison.
- Christopher Lee was approved as the new chairperson of the Resource Sharing Committee and Andrew Scrimgeour will continue as the liaison.

10. Other Committee procedures agreed upon were that the committee chairs will be approved by the Executive Committee and the term of office will be one year (with multiple terms permissible). Committee membership will not need approval by the Executive Committee. These procedures will be added to the Committee Guidelines document.

11. In consultation with Gaunt, Ciliberti drafted new procedures for Committee chairs to follow in arranging committee meeting locations. Rutgers University will continue to be available as a site for all committees but for a specified number of times each year.

12. It was also agreed that financial support will be available for special needs of Committees, but not for food or refreshments at regular meetings. Refreshments may be provided for training sessions or special meetings and further guidelines will be developed to describe these situations.

13. In order to simplify the review of all VALE Committee annual reports, Pinto prepared and distributed a document summarizing the major points of each report. The group considered each report and the outcomes of the discussion were:

- Ciliberti reported that the Shared Information Committee will now be chaired by Jacqui Dacosta, as approved by previous email vote. The group approved the Committee's FY09 plans as outlined in its annual report. Ciliberti will continue as the liaison.

- Pinto described the work of the Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee. The group will continue to work on the NACO project and support the NJVid program and future needs of an open library system project. Their request for funds for a wiki costing up to \$120 was approved and Pinto will continue as their liaison.
- Colleen Daze summarized the plans of the Cooperative Collection Development Committee which include further work on the Last Copy project and cooperative efforts with other groups. Their plans were approved.
- Ciliberti reported on the work of the Digital Media Committee and its plans to bring forward several new streaming video packages for purchase by VALE members at reduced prices. Committee plans were approved.
- Judy Cohn summarized the work of the Electronic Resources Committee. Maureen Gorman has been approved as the new chairperson and the Committee may begin looking at licensing issues since funding for new resources in most libraries will be difficult in the coming year. Funds for refreshments for training sessions will be welcomed. She will continue as the liaison and the group's plans were approved.
- Taras Pavlovsky stated that the Reference Committee will be considering new opportunities beyond Q&A NJ and Richard Sweeney suggested the possibility of developing a consortium-wide knowledge base, such as is used at NJIT.
- Pinto reported on the impressive work of the Resource Sharing Committee and the group discussed ways in which greater administrative support could be provided for its reciprocal borrowing programs. Pinto will suggest to Scrimgeour, the liaison, that the reciprocal borrowing programs might be highlighted at a Members' Council meeting. The Committee's plans were approved.
- Pinto brought forward the Web Committee's proposal to develop Drupal-powered VALE web site. After discussion, the group agreed that Whitham should work with the group to develop a more formal proposal that discusses the potential value and cost, following consultation with Dave Hoover, VALE's technical resource.

14. Richard Sweeney provided an update on the Open Library System initiative. The group sponsored a meeting on June 3 at which Grace Agnew of Rutgers described the Duke/Mellon project which will develop preliminary specifications for an all-encompassing digital library system, more than just an integrated library system. The design/specification phase is expected to take one year, with another three to five years of development. Agnew invited VALE to participate on the project through Rutgers which has been accepted as one of the Advisory Partners. The OLS team attending the June 3 meeting voted in favor of recommending to the Executive Committee that VALE participate in this manner. Agnew indicated that VALE will need to provide 1 or 2 staffers for a few days over the several months to work on the specification details.

15. The Executive Committee agreed to accept this recommendation and Gaunt invited Sweeney and Pavlovsky to contact Agnew regarding the selection of VALE volunteers for work on the project.
16. The group also agreed on the likely need that VALE will need a stronger legal and financial infrastructure as the project develops and a new system becomes available. The OLS group on June 3 also voted to recommend that VALE begin exploring how a more mature infrastructure can be put into place. Chickering volunteered to do some preliminary investigation by discussing with his institution's attorney.
17. After discussion about future meeting dates and dates for the Members' Council meetings, the group agreed to meet on the same day as the Members' Council meetings in September, February and June. Pinto will send out a revised calendar and work with Whitham (Member Council convener) to find hosts for the meetings.
18. Pinto reported that Eastwick College has inquired about membership in VALE. In the discussion that followed, it became evident that the status of Eastwick was unclear so membership approval was delayed awaiting clarification from Pinto of its degree-granting status and recognition by the NJ Commission on Higher Education.
19. Judy Cohn summarized deliberations with Elsevier for a new ScienceDirect contract. Richard Kearney, Richard Sweeney, David Pinto and Howard McGinn, along with Cohn, have met several times with Elsevier representatives. Their negotiations have come to a conclusion and the negotiating team will work with Elsevier to bring all of the elements together for presentation to the VALE members by the end of the summer/early fall.
20. Pinto reported that based upon a recommendation from Dave Hoover, the practice of providing customized menus of each member's databases on the VALE web site will continue. It appears that discontinuing this practice will not lead to significant savings in time and effort, since the links need to be vetted by each member anyway before going live.
21. Pinto also noted that he and Ciliberti are working on a draft VALE triennial report which will cover the years 2006 through 2008. They hope to have the report published before the Users' Conference.

Notes prepared by Ciliberti