



State of VALE NJ - January 2008

Annual Users' Conference highlights – *Mission Possible: Partnering for Change*

- Very special **thanks** to our Conference sponsors: [Bowker](#), [CQ Press](#), [EBSCO](#), [Elsevier](#), [Gale](#), [LexisNexis](#), [Proquest](#), [RefUSA](#), [Wiley](#), and [Wilson](#).
- Once again we experienced the maximum level of registrations – 268, representing 45 institutions (85% participation).
- Added third Breakout Session slot on the schedule.
- 13 Poster Sessions, 21 Breakout Sessions, 9 Discussion Tables.
- Thanks to the many wonderful people who worked to make the conference a success: Chris Mackie (keynote speaker), Joan Getaz and members of the conference planning team, Karen Topham and our ACRL/NJ and NJLA/CUS collaborators, RU-SCILS student volunteers, Poster and Breakout Session presenters, Discussion Table leaders, VALE's one and only Judy Avrin, and the ever-supportive Rutgers University Libraries.

VALE NJ Budget and Operations for Fiscal Year 2008

- Budget of \$2,596,691, including operations budget of \$89,834 (3.46% of total budget).
- Reserve account of \$82,555.
- Offer 47 databases through 12 vendors (not including NJKI)
- Coordinate 658 database subscriptions – up 13% (not including NJKI)

Council of NJ College and University Library Deans, University Librarians, and Directors

After years of excellent service to New Jersey's academic community, the Council was merged with VALE in June 2007. It now functions, in largely the same capacity, as the VALE Members' Council. This establishes a single, unified and enhanced academic library consortium in New Jersey.

Membership Grows

VALE's 53rd member joined in 2007 – welcome to the New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

New Jersey Knowledge Initiative

- NJKI was honored with an Innovation Award from the Council of State Governments.

- VALE members undertook a huge advocacy effort to extend funding for the program from March through June 2008.
- Began consulting with database vendors to determine what is possible if funding is not continued.

VALE Assessment Initiative

In December, 2006 the VALE Executive Committee contracted with PALINET Consulting Services to perform the consortium's first major assessment survey. During spring 2007, a web-based survey and series of telephone interviews were conducted to obtain input on VALE efficiencies, committee accomplishments, networking and collaboration value. A different methodology was used to study cost savings achieved through leveraged database purchasing.

Overall, 98% of the assessment survey respondents rated VALE's value to their institution as very high. Similarly, 94% of respondents rated their overall satisfaction with VALE as very high. Members save over 46% on their electronic database purchases annually.

The Executive Committee invited the VALE Assessment Committee to analyze and organize the Assessment Survey Report's recommendations relevant to each of the other VALE committees. Towards that end, the Assessment Committee asked the other nine committees to review the full Assessment Survey Report and develop recommendations. Based upon input from the individual committees, the Assessment Committee submitted its recommendations to the Executive Committee in December 2007.

Grant Participation

VALE members partnered in several successful IMLS grants: New Jersey Digital Video Project (\$971,512) and Open Source Integrated Library System Planning (\$24,417).

Leadership transition

New members of the Executive Committee: Pat Denholm (Bergen County College), Howard McGinn (Seton Hall University).

After four years of truly extraordinary service, Judy Cohn stepped down as Chair of VALE's Executive Committee. David Pinto is scurrying to fill the void.

Looking Ahead

- Continue advocacy for NJKI.
- Continue the discussion on, and implementation of, recommendations from Assessment Survey Report and VALE committees' review of that report.
- Improve communications throughout the organization.
- Review VALE's committee structure, charges and coordination.
- Sponsor Open Source ILS symposium in the spring.
- 2006-07 VALE Biennial Report coming soon to a newsstand near you.