

Dedicated to Innovation & Collaboration

VALE
new jersey



Virtual Academic Library Environment

**BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FY2004/05**



Introduction

The Virtual Academic Library Environment of New Jersey (VALE) continues on its trajectory of growth and expansion by increasing access to electronic resources and engaging in collaborative projects. Founded in 1998 with the goal of creating a shared information environment to further the academic missions of all institutions of higher education in New Jersey, VALE has matured into a robust organization. Thanks go to the volunteer efforts of VALE members who serve on committees, deliver collaborative services, and harness their talents to consistently engage in projects which take our academic libraries beyond what can be accomplished by any individual library.

Vast new challenges and opportunities continue to face academic libraries as they operate in the hybrid environment of supporting both print and electronic formats, and serve faculties and students who have matured in an electronic world. Since the last report issued in late 2003, VALE has worked to accomplish its strategic priorities:

- A new and more formal collaboration was established with the New Jersey State Library culminating in a \$6 million allocation which recognizes the potential of academic libraries as partners in New Jersey's economic development. The New Jersey Knowledge Initiative has significantly enhanced the electronic resources of the state's academic libraries and

support of high-end science and technology small businesses which rely on these resources to obtain grant funding, engage in discovery, and bring new licenses and patents to the marketplace.

- New committees to address timely and challenging information management topics have been charged to study relevant issues and develop and implement action plans. Among these are the Digital Media Committee, the Cooperative Collection Management Committee and the Shared Information Literacy group.
- Round the clock, real-time online reference interactions are now commonplace, meeting the needs of today's students who demand services at 2:00 AM as well as 2:00 PM.

VALE's successes are achieved by a workforce of talented academic librarians from institutions throughout New Jersey who volunteer their time, effort and expertise to insure deadlines are met, programs are produced, databases and other full-text is delivered, and informative Web sites are created and maintained. I commend all of VALE's 13 committee chairs and over 150 committee members from VALE member libraries for their tremendous contributions. In addition, many valued partners insure the vitality of VALE and deserve our recognition: the New Jersey State Library directed by Norma Blake; Library Director Anne Ciliberti and VALE Coordinator Judy Avrin of William Paterson University; technical support from Dave Hoover of Rutgers University; and the administration of William Paterson University, VALE's fiduciary agent. Thanks to all of them!

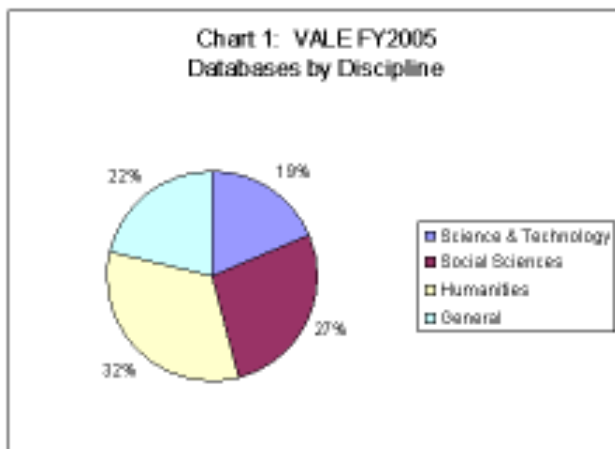
~**Judith S. Cohn, Chair**
VALE Executive Committee, FY 04-05

Expanding Access to Scholarly Resources in NJ

In FY2005, VALE celebrated its seventh year of service to its higher education members across the state. Its commitment to extending access to scholarly resources to all New Jersey students and faculty remains strong and steadfast. By leveraging the strength of its membership's buying power and assertive negotiations with vendors, VALE has more than quadrupled the number of databases (from 9 to 37) it makes available to its members in the short span of six years. Each member library has benefited from VALE's success in expanding access to scholarly resources by having a suite of electronic resources from which to choose at costs lower than it could have achieved on its own.

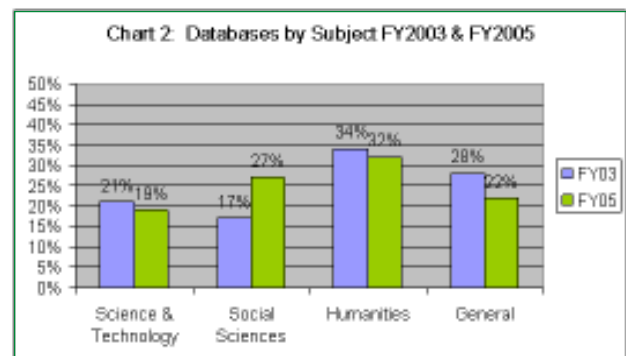
In FY2005, VALE offered a database portfolio consisting of 37 academic databases to its 52 member libraries at a total cost of nearly \$1.8 million. This growth represents a 24% increase in the number of resources licensed since the FY2003 Annual Report as well as a 12.5% increase in the funds managed. While membership remained stable, the number of fulltime equivalent students served by these resources rose from 248,400 to 261,234, an increase of 5.2%.

Chart 1 below provides a breakdown by subject of the FY2005 database portfolio. Of the 37 products offered, the greatest number 12 (32%) are humanities related resources, while the number of social science products at 10 (27%) is a close second. There are 8 (22%) general academic resources and a comparable number, 7 (19%) of science and technology databases.



As the number and variety of academic electronic resources published has increased, the role of the Electronic Resources Committee, chaired by Luis Rodriguez (Montclair State University), in seeking member input on database needs and in reviewing quality and content choices has increased significantly. While there has been a net gain of 24% in the number of databases provided since FY2003, the relative composition of the portfolio has also changed.

As Chart 2 below indicates, the proportion of science and technology and humanities resources remains relatively stable over the two-year period at approximately one-fifth and one-third, respectively. Social science databases account for 27% of all databases provided in FY2005 in contrast to 17% of the offerings in FY2003. The percentage of general academic, non-discipline specific products declined from 28% of the portfolio in FY2003 to 22% in FY2005.



As the database industry continues to mature and the variety of full-text resources increases, VALE has been able to license more full-text resources (as opposed to indexes or abstracts) that are so enormously popular with faculty and students. In FY2005 the number of full-text databases was 21 or 57% of the VALE suite. This number represents an increase of 17% over the number of full-text resources available in FY2003.

The faculty, students and staff of the VALE member libraries continue to demonstrate a strong reliance on VALE resources as shown by their increasing use of VALE databases. Table 1 provides data about the number of searches conducted in each of the VALE databases in FY2003 and FY2005, as well as information about the number of subscribing institutions and the average cost per search. Note that although database vendors and publishers have made

Table 1: Database Use and Costs for FY2003 and FY2005

	FY03			FY05		
	# Searches	# Libraries	\$ Cost/Search	# Searches	# Libraries	\$ Cost/Search
ABI Inform*	531,462	42	0.51	3,654,875	39	0.06
Academic Search Premier***	1,797,852	52	0.17	3,338,348	52	***
Academic Universe L-N **	700,000	40	0.40	962,068	41	0.32
ACM Digital Library	New in FY04			42,692	14	0.90
Alt-Health Watch	22,153	13	0.57	59,461	11	0.19
America: History & Life	20,166	14	2.68	30,016	16	2.41
Art Abstracts	12,106	16	.80	15,122	10	1.11
Art Full Text	New in FY05			19,218	11	1.42
Art Retro	521	1	0.49	867	1	0.30
ATLA	11,367	4	1.16	8,666	2	1.05
ATLAS	69,682	6	0.35	82,340	8	0.42
Basic Biosis	11,441	7	2.47	10,777	4	1.45
Biographies Plus	20,904	19	1.27	27,156	15	0.74
Biography Reference Bank	New in FY05			12,218	5	0.85
CINAHL	101,628	37	0.40	163,824	37	0.28
Communications & Mass Media	New in FY05			154,190	21	0.13
CQ Researcher	New in FY04			49,963	20	0.30
Criminal Justice Per. Index	New in FY05			201,000	20	0.13
Encyclopedia of Life Sciences	N/A	17	N/A	N/A	17	N/A
ERIC	225,447	48	No cost	395,974	31	No cost
Ethnic NewsWatch*	23,521	17	2.36	328,813	17	0.17
Gender Watch*	24,183	18	0.65	331,461	18	0.05
Grove Art	15,228	16	0.93	19,424	21	1.71
Grove Music	13,620	14	0.83	22,003	19	1.31
Health Reference Center	118,298	15	0.50	145,909	17	0.51
Historical Abstracts	11,935	13	4.48	15,984	16	4.61
LION	New in FY04			56,295	13	0.75
Literature Resource Center	369,093	21	0.44	412,305	32	0.26
MLA	124,202	21	0.52	148,600	20	0.50
Oxford English Dict.	N/A	15	N/A	112,497	24	0.25
PsycArticles	New in FY05			359,874	24	0.32
PsycInfo	269,820	28	0.45	391,509	25	0.32
Science Direct	82,933	15	1.73	322,053	27	1.01
Social Work Abstracts	46,286	10	0.39	26,829	9	0.79
GRAND TOTAL	4,623,848			11,922,331		

* FY2005 Each library selects which ProQuest databases to include as part of their default search. Data may include multiple (non-unique) searches.

** FY2003 Search total estimated

*** Paid for by the NJ State Library

Due to the unique natures of these products, the usage data for the following resources is not comparable to the other products and is not included in the total: Books in Print; Global Books in Print

great improvements recently in standardizing the collection and reporting usage statistics, the goal of comparing usage data across vendor lines has not yet been fully achieved. Further, between FY2003 and FY2005 most vendors changed their methods for reporting annual data, so strict comparisons of the data remain a challenge. Given these caveats, the data are provided to document the overall increases in the numbers of searches conducted using most the VALE databases.

The grand total in Table 1 shows an increase of nearly 300% in the number of searches conducted in FY2005 over FY2003. However, when the FY2005 data are adjusted to eliminate databases not available in FY2003 and the ProQuest products (where search totals depend upon how individual libraries set up their accounts), the data indicate a more conservative increase of 160% in the number of searches. Regardless of calculation method, the data clearly indicate that usage has increased significantly, even within the same database products. On an FTE basis, the increase can be seen as a jump from 17 searches per FTE in FY2003 to 25 searches per FTE in FY2005.

In FY2005 the costs per search range significantly among database products. Seventy-one percent of the database costs are well below one dollar per search. This demonstrates VALE's success in minimizing search costs for each of the subscribing member libraries.

New Jersey Knowledge Initiative

VALE members are integral partners in the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative (NJKI), whose goal is to provide New Jersey's entrepreneurs, small businesses, researchers, faculty, and students with access to 21st century scholarly information resources through Web access to science, technology, medical and business databases. A \$6 million allocation in the state's FY2005 budget, administered by the New Jersey State Library, provides access to the information resources listed in Table 2 at fifty VALE libraries and over one hundred qualified business locations, through June 2007. Since access to information is a recognized and essential tool for economic development, NJKI supports the state's goal to transform New Jersey into the premier technology state.

The Knowledge Initiative also has comprehensive and far-reaching benefits for students and faculty at every participating institution. Although a small number of New Jersey academic libraries previously subscribed to some of these resources, most of the resources are new to them and greatly expand their scope and accessibility to high-end scientific and business resources.

Access to these resources expands opportunities for faculty and students who would not otherwise have access to resources of this caliber. This access, in turn, fosters academic excellence among students in New Jersey's institutions of higher learning.

TABLE 2: NJKI LICENSED RESOURCES

- Academic Search Premier *
- Biomedical Reference Collection
- Business Source Premier
- CINAHL and Pre-CINAHL
- MEDLINE
- Nature, Nature Research and Review Journals
- Nursing and Allied Health Collection
- OVID Selected Core Medical Journals
- ReferenceUSA
- Regional Business News
- Wiley InterScience

* Now paid for by NJKI

Providing Reference Service Round the Clock

QandANJ.org, New Jersey's online reference service, streamlined service to college students by introducing an academic queue. Librarians at fourteen VALE member libraries respond to the questions. Reference Services Committee Chair, Jane Crocker (Gloucester County College), reports that this enhancement has been very well received. Students 'calling' into the queue are asked to identify their institution as a point of verification and to insure accuracy of the call count. The latest available figures, as of November 2005, show a call count of 855 for the month, and a year-to-date call count of 6,524 sessions for 2005. Session lengths averaged 14.45 minutes and users experienced an average wait time of only 1.5 minutes before reaching a librarian.

Librarians from the following academic institutions answer questions on the QandA.NJ.org academic queue: Atlantic Cape Community College, Burlington County College, Caldwell College, Centenary College, Drew University, Gloucester County College, Kean University, Middlesex County College, New Jersey City University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Ramapo College, Rowan University, UMDNJ (Newark & Stratford campuses), and William Paterson University.

College students who have used the service are asked to complete a satisfaction survey. Those who completed the survey record high satisfaction with it. New developments are planned for 2006 including the redesign of the academic queue homepage and a class notes blog for repetitive questions.

Communicating with Membership

The three primary means of communicating to and among VALE members remain the VALE listserv, hosted by TCNJ, the VALE Web site, hosted by Rutgers University Libraries and the annual VALE / NJ ACRL Conference. With the expansion of VALE activities to new areas of collaboration such as cooperative collection management and digital media, the number of VALE committees has grown to thirteen and the need for timely, accurate communication channels has become critical.

In response to this need, a new VALE Web site committee, chaired by Ray Schwartz (William Paterson University), was formed in FY2005 for the purpose of enhancing communication and information about VALE and its activities. Among the committee's accomplishments are the acquisition of a professionally designed logo, the standardization of committee information and page designs and the creation of a calendar of VALE events. A major redesign with several new features was rolled out to the membership in the fall of 2005. Please visit <http://www.valenj.org>.

The annual VALE Conference continues to be an enormous success. Co-sponsored with NJ Association of College and Research Libraries each year in January, the conference now draws an attendance of approximately 200 academic

librarians from across the state. Vibiana Bowman (Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey) and Joan Getaz (Camden County College) once again served as co-chairs for both the FY2004 and FY2005 conferences. In FY2004 the conference theme was *Strategic Planning: Promoting Our Resources and Ourselves* and Stephen Abram, Vice President for Corporate Development at Micromedia ProQuest (Canada) provided the keynote address. Thirteen breakout sessions on a wide variety of professional topics as well as the celebration of VALE's fifth anniversary provided a full day of programming for the participants.

The FY2005 conference theme was *Issues in Scholarly Communication: From Creator to Producer to User* and Robert Boynton, journalist and director of New York University's graduate magazine journalism program, delivered the keynote address. A professor at New York University, he is well known for his piece published in the New York Times, entitled "The Tyranny of Copyright" (January 25, 2004). Fifteen breakout sessions and nearly a dozen poster presentations offered attendees many opportunities to become engaged with their colleagues on professional topics.

Making Print Collections More Accessible

Under the leadership of Judy Gardner (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey), the Resource Sharing Committee expanded the reciprocal borrowing program among VALE libraries to include both faculty and graduate students. The faculty reciprocal borrowing program includes 47 participating VALE member libraries and the graduate borrowing program has 22 participating libraries. All new documentation appears on the Web site including instructions, an updated brochure, and a list of participating libraries.

The Last Copy/Repository Issues Group was created in FY2005, under the leadership of Mary Mallery (Montclair State University). Its work resulted in a White Paper that was distributed to the membership and presented at the 2005 VALE Conference. As libraries reach maximum capacity and print materials are carefully scrutinized for their unique quality and long-term retention, these issues take on new urgency.

Therefore, the Group was renamed the Cooperative Collection Management Committee and established as a standing VALE Committee, with an enhanced charge to examine last copy and retention issues, and keep abreast of regional and national developments to assist in the preservation of unique resources housed in the state's academic libraries.

VALE Finances

William Paterson University continues to serve as the fiscal agent for VALE. As a service to the consortium, the University accepts funds from the member libraries and issues payments to the consortium's vendors. Each year, VALE member libraries select from among the database portfolio those products to which they wish to subscribe.

Table 3: VALE Expenses FY2004 and FY2005

Expense	FY 2004	% of Total	FY 2005	% of Total
Databases ^{1,2}	\$1,462,566	96.4	\$1,784,022	97.3
Salaries and Benefits	41,908	2.7	43,454	2.4
PR & Users' Conference ³	8,967	.6	5,066	.3
Other	4,004	.3	290	.01
TOTAL	\$1,517,445	100.0	\$1,832,832	100.0

1. These expenditures do not include payments for Elsevier's *ScienceDirect* database which, although negotiated by VALE, is licensed directly to the participating libraries.
2. The FY2004 expenditure does not include subscriptions to *Literature Resource Center* since a specific promotional opportunity from the vendor required direct payment from the participating libraries.
3. FY2004 PR and Users' Conference expenses included payments for the VALE 5th anniversary celebration as part of the Users' Conference and the printing of the last VALE annual report.

Costs to each institution are based on the most recent FTE as posted on the Web site of the Commission on Higher Education. In addition, members pay a service fee to offset expenses, such as salaries and benefits, public relations and the annual conference. Calculated as a percentage of each library's previous year's

database expenditure, the FY2004 service fee remained at 2.6%, while in FY2005 it was raised, for the first time, to 3.9%.

Table 3 provides a snapshot overview of VALE's finances in FY2004 and FY2005. Databases expenditures continue to dominate the spreadsheet, accounting for more than 96% of the total dollars spent. VALE salaries and benefits, accounting for less than 3% of the total expenses, support one half-time coordinator and six hours a week of technical support from a part-time employee.

Executive Committee Members FY04-FY05

Judy Avrin

William Paterson University, 04-05

Norma Blake

New Jersey State Library, 04-05

Brother Paul Chervenik

College of St. Elizabeth, 04

Anne Ciliberti

William Paterson University, 04-05

Judy Cohn

UMDNJ, 04-05

Jane Crocker

Gloucester County College, 04-05

Colleen Daze

New Jersey State Library, 04-05

Greg Fallon

Passaic County Community College, 05

Marianne Gaunt

Rutgers University, 04-05

Joan Getaz

Camden County College, 04-05

Judith Jeney

Ramapo College, 04-05

Nancy Madacsi

Centenary College, 04

James Marcum

Fairleigh Dickinson University, 04-05

Lewis Ostar

Middlesex County College, 04-05

David Pinto

Richard Stockton College, 04-05

Andrew Scrimgeour

Drew University, 04-05

Richard Sweeney

NJIT, 04-05

Pat Tumulty

New Jersey Library Association, 04

VALE Member Libraries

Assumption College for Sisters
<http://www.acscollegeforsisters.org/library.htm>

Atlantic Cape Community College
<http://www.atlantic.edu/library/index.htm>

Bergen Community College
<http://www.bergen.edu/library>

Berkeley College
<http://www.berkeleycollege.edu/library/index.htm>

Bloomfield College
<http://www.bloomfield.edu/library/>

Brookdale Community College
<http://www.brookdalecc.edu/library/>

Burlington County College
<http://staff.bcc.edu/library/>

Caldwell College
<http://www.caldwell.edu/library/>

Camden County College
<http://www.camdencc.edu/library/index.htm>

Centenary College
<http://faculty.centenarycollege.edu/library/>

College of St. Elizabeth
<http://www.cse.edu/library/>

County College of Morris
<http://www.ccm.edu/library/>

Cumberland County College
<http://www.cccnj.edu/library/index.cfm>

DeVry Institute
<http://www.nj.devry.edu/library/>

Drew University
<http://www.depts.drew.edu/lib/>

Essex County College
<http://www.essex.edu/library>

Fairleigh Dickinson University
<http://library.fdu.edu/>

Felician College
<http://www.felician.edu/library>

Georgian Court College
<http://www.georgian.edu/library/index.html>

Gibbs School - Montclair, NJ
<http://www.gibbsmontclair.com>

Gloucester County College
<http://www.gccnj.edu/library/>

Hudson Community College
<http://www.hccc.edu>

Kean University
<http://library.kean.edu>

Mercer County Community College
<http://www.mccc.edu/>

Middlesex County College
<http://www.middlesexcc.edu/library/>

Monmouth University
<http://library.monmouth.edu/>

Montclair State University
<http://library.montclair.edu/>

New Jersey City University
<http://www.njcu.edu/guarini/home.htm>

New Jersey Institute of Technology
<http://www.library.njit.edu>

New Jersey State Library
<http://www.njstatelib.org>

Ocean County College
<http://lib.ocean.edu/>

Passaic County College
<http://www.pccc.cc.nj.us/library/>

Princeton Theological Seminary
<http://www.ptsem.edu/library>

Princeton University
<http://princeton.edu/>

Ramapo College of New Jersey
<http://library.ramapo.edu>

Raritan Valley Community College
<http://library.raritanval.edu>

Richard Stockton College of NJ
<http://library.stockton.edu>

Rider University
<http://library.rider.edu>

Rowan University
<http://www.rowan.edu/library/>

Rutgers University
<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu>

Salem Community College
<http://www.salemcc.edu/lrc/>

Seton Hall University
<http://library.shu.edu>

St. Peter's College
<http://library.spc.edu/>

Somerset Christian College
<http://www.youseemore.com/somersetcc/about.asp>

Stevens Institute of Technology
<http://www.lib.stevens-tech.edu>

Sussex County Community College
<http://www.sussex.edu/library/index.html>

The College of New Jersey
<http://www.tcny.edu/~library/index.php>

Thomas Edison State College
<http://www.tesc.edu/students/support/library.php>

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
<http://www.umdny.edu/libweb/>

Union County College
<http://www.ucc.edu/library/>

Warren County Community College
<http://www.warren.cc.nj.us/>

William Paterson University
<http://www.wpunj.edu/library>

