



November 14, 2007

John Holdren, Chair  
Board of Directors  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Kennedy School of Government  
Mailbox 53; 79 JFK Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138-5801

Dear Dr. Holdren:

We are writing to you as academic health sciences librarians to voice our strong objection to the recent decision of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to end its participation in JSTOR with future issues of the journal *Science*. The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) is composed of directors of libraries of the accredited US and Canadian medical schools associated with the Association of American Medical Colleges. AAHSL member libraries serve as the academic home to faculty who are members and contributors to the journal *Science*.

It appears that this decision was made without full consideration of the issues from the faculty/library perspective. Over the past 10 years JSTOR has emerged as a trusted, well-respected organization that has a central role in integrated access to journal archives. In moving to digital content many faculty have expressed their concern about future access to journal archives. Academic health science librarians have been able to respond with confidence in JSTOR's robust platform that supports preservation, access and content integration.

Withdrawing *Science* from JSTOR diminishes the value of both JSTOR and AAAS for the research community. The integration of *Science* within JSTOR allows cross disciplinary search, a hallmark of research today. Both *Science* and JSTOR are resources of great value – the combination creates an extremely rich research resource.

Our faculty, as members of the American Association of Advancement of Science, join the society to ensure that it serves their needs in advancing science. The decision to withdraw from JSTOR is contrary to the stated mission and to the best interests of the membership, and, in fact, will hinder access to the journal archives of *Science*. Not only will it eliminate the powerful advantage of content integration within a trusted repository, we are also concerned that this decision will result in higher costs to institutions for access to the journal archives. We fully expect that some institutions will not be able to license the archives reducing access to the publication.

AAHSL urges the society to reconsider its decision to withdraw future backfiles of *Science* archives from JSTOR.

Sincerely,

Linda Watson, President  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

cc: Alan Leshner, CEO – AAAS (1200 New York Avenue NW Washington, DC 20005)  
Chronicle of Higher Education