

Scholarly Communications Committee Report, Emily McElroy, Chair

Jerry Perry, Board Liaison to Committee
Sept. 2019

Programming for AAMC on OA

The bulk of this report pertains to the work of Melissa De Santis, former Chair of the Committee and ad hoc liaison from the Committee to AAMC re: potential AAHSL-sourced programming on Open Access. The following is an abbreviation of a recent message from Melissa to the rest of the Committee.

On Aug. 6, Melissa met with AAMC staff to talk about a possible joint program with AAHSL and AAMC. Megan von Isenburg (Duke) was also invited to the meeting as the GIR liaison from AAHSL.

Background: Chris Shaffer (UCSF) shared with the Board that the topic of OA came up at two different AAMC meetings he recently attended (Council of Deans and CFAS) and that AAMC expressed possible interest in joint programming with AAHSL to AAMC members on the topic. The Board asked the Scholarly Communications Committee to pursue this opportunity.

AAMC participants in the Aug. 6 meeting were:

- Heather Sacks,
- Eric Weissman (CFAS),
- Russ McKinney (Chief Science Officer), and
- Ann Steinecke (COD and GIR).

Melissa asked the AAMC representatives what OA topics they were most interested in. Per the reps., the key topic was the transition from pay-to-read (subscription model) to pay-to-publish (OA). Other topics they mentioned:

- How will this transition happen?
- What will the impact be for med schools, med students, junior faculty, and budgets?
- How will this impact smaller schools that can't cover APCs?
- What do we (librarians) think the model will look like?
- How will quality be controlled?
- How do will they address COI?
- Will Academic Societies be damaged, because they rely on revenue streams from subscriptions?

AAMC is apparently not presently interested in some of the broader topics of "open", like open science, open data, OER, etc.

Megan and Melissa shared that any kind of transition is probably not imminent, as there are still a lot of unknowns.

At the meeting, they also discussed what format the programming might take. The idea that rose to the top was creating an editorial that would be published in AAMC News and potentially followed with a webinar. However, it could also be a series in AAMC News, or a series of webinars. It could also be a program at Learn, Serve, Lead 2020.

One of the goals would be for the programming to foster dialog between faculty and Deans on this topic. We believe these discussions are taking place on our various campuses, but from a very local point of view – primarily about how faculty can get access to articles if the campus loses access to a publisher. One idea was to create programming that would describe the advantages/disadvantages of the two models, the issues involved, the challenges, etc.

Next steps:

- Eric is going to follow up at AAMC on the Editorial idea and see if there is interest.
- Melissa will see Eric and Heather in mid-September for the AAHSL Fellows Capstone and will connect then.
- It was Melissa’s plan to bring to her meeting with Eric and Heather ideas from the Committee for possible programming, including whether Committee members knew faculty at their campuses who could speak about pros/cons, issues, challenges.

Apparently the AAMC reps asked AAHSL had created a resource on OA. The Committee has not, intentionally wishing to not recreate the wheel, so instead pointed to resources other organizations have produced.

Other News

Emails Updates on “All Things OA” to AAHSL Lists:

- Still receiving compliments from members – appears to be popular!

Committee Meeting time in Phoenix:

- Will meet from 4-6 pm on Thursday.

Website:

- Committee wishes to use LibGuides for organizing information on Committee work, and OA, for the AAHSL membership, and have been in communications with AAHSL HQ. It appears AAHSL is going to agree with linking-to the LibGuide, to be developed by Committee member Janna Lawrence (University of Iowa), provided there is a sustainability plan to make sure the link and content remain current.