AAHSL Scholarly Communication Committee
2010 Annual Report

The AAHSL Scholarly Communication Committee was appointed in February 2003 to develop, recommend, and guide the implementation of a plan and activities in support of the Association's stand on the range of issues relating to scholarly communication.

The Committee undertook the following activities:

Participation in SPARC and the Open Access Working Group (OAWG) - The OAWG is a coalition of open access advocates coordinated by SPARC that includes major library associations, PLoS, Public Knowledge, and the SPARC lobbyist. AAHSL contributes financial support to both organizations and has a representative seat on each (the SCC Chair). The groups meet frequently by conference call and relevant information is sent to the AAHSL membership, as permitted, which is limited. Much of the work centers on advocacy for the NIH Public Access Policy including letters and testimonies, support for FRPAA, and Open Access initiatives such as COPE, Compact for Open Access Publishing Equity.

As there appears to be a lot of overlap between the work of SPARC and OAWG, the SCC Chair has asked AAHSL to reconsider its membership in both organizations.

SPARC has set Open Access Week for October 18-24, 2010 and information about it may be found at www.openaccessweek.org The Chair has sent information about the week to the AAHSL membership including the ability to post event information on the Open Access Directory.

Congressional Hearing on the issue of Public Access to Federally Funded Research
SPARC and OAWG helped to encourage and organize a congressional hearing on the Public Access to Federally Funded Research topic which was held on July 29th. News of the hearing was sent to the AAHSL membership as well as a summary report prepared by OAWG.

OSTP Public Comment Forum and Scholarly Publishing Roundtable Report –
In January, the SCC Chair (with Committee input) contributed a public comment on behalf of AAHSL during the three rounds for such to the Forum on Public Access to Published Federally Funded Research, and also updated the AAHSL membership when all of the public comments were viewable. In February, AAHSL also submitted a response, prepared by the SCC Chair, concerning the actual Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) Roundtable Report. Both responses are viewable on the aahsl.org website. Scott Plutchak also spoke to the SCC at their May meeting regarding his experience as part of the Roundtable. An official report summarizing the public comments are due soon and will be distributed. The report is located at
http://www.aau.edu/policy/scholarly_publishing_roundtable.aspx?id=6894

NIH Public Access Policy –
Information was also distributed regarding My NCBI Tool to Replace eRA Commons for Bibliography Management.

New ICMJE Statement in NEJM –
Information about the revised International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) statement and form regarding disclosing conflicts of interest by authors was sent to AAHSL members.

AAHSL Member Survey on Impact of NIH Public Access Policy

AAHSL members were surveyed in 2008 and 2009 to track ways member libraries participated in publicizing and assisting in compliance with the NIH Public Access Mandate. The survey results were discussed at the Nov 2009 AAHSL meeting. Both surveys demonstrated that the NIH mandate enhanced important discussions with researchers, authors, and administrators. 68% of respondents noted an increase in Scholarly Communication efforts in 2009. A summary of the survey results is posted on the AAHSL web site. Survey team members included Evelyn Morgen, Michael Kronenfeld, Judy Cohn, and Lynne Turman.

MLA Member Survey on Impact of NIH Public Access Policy on Subscriptions –
The Ad Hoc MLA Committee for Advocating Scholarly Communications surveyed association members over the summer to identify the impact of the NIH Public Access Mandate on collection development decisions including journal subscription cancellations. The SCC helped to clarify questions for the survey.

Joint Statements -
The committee drafted several statements, with MLA and SPARC, for AAHSL Board review.

On June 18, MLA and AAHSL wrote to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Science and Technology expressing concerns about the public access provision of section 123 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (H.R. 5116). The associations' support efforts to extend public access policies to other federal science agencies and urged that final legislation not interfere with the ongoing operation of the successful National Institutes of Health public access policy. The House passed H.R. 5116 in May, and the Senate addressed its bill in July.

At the end of April, MLA and AAHSL also sent joint letters of thanks to the House of Representative members who introduced H.R. 5037, "The Federal Research Public Access Act".

SPARC drafted a letter of thanks for the congressional members who helped to revitalize FRPAA. AAHSL was one of the signees on the letter.

Chicago Collaborative -
The Chair applied on behalf of the Chicago Collaborative to MLA for a Biomedical Publishing 101 CE course to be taught at MLA 2011, which was not approved. In addition, she worked with an AAHSL consultant to apply for an IMLS grant to teach librarians about the publishing process. This grant was not funded due to non-appreciation for the topic by the reviewers. The chair is working with the CC presenters of BioMedical Publishing 101 to offer it to three regions of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine as a webinar using Adobe Connect on December 7th. The regions include the host region – MidContinental, and also the South Central and Pacific Southwest regions. Other regions can also request that the webinar be given to their regions thereafter.

The SCC Chair consulted with the CC Conveners and AAHSL President-Elect regarding future plans for AAHSL members serving on the CC as the Joint AAHSL Publisher/Liaison Task Force is to sunset this fall. There was a lot of discussion about merging the CC AAHSL representatives with the SCC, but this will not happen as the missions of the two groups are different.

The Chair will assist with an open forum for AAHSL members about the CC at the November meeting. She will also attend the last Joint AAHSL Publisher/Liaison Task Force meeting at that same meeting.

Other Efforts –

Leslie Schick has agreed to update the content provided on the SCC's website – the Scholarly Communications Toolkit.

The chair and chair-elect have submitted a budget for the upcoming year for Board approval.

The chair and committee members distributed email updates to AAHSL members on developments related to scholarly publishing and communications, including highlights from the SPARC OA Newsletter by Peter Suber. The chair represented the committee on the Ad Hoc MLA Committee for Advocating Scholarly Communications, the Chicago Collaborative (CC), the Joint AAHSL/MLA Legislative Task Force, SPARC and OAWG. The chair distributed information to AAHSL from the MLA Ad Hoc Committee and the CC.

Linda Walton has been monitoring activities related to ORCID and sending out information to the AAHSL membership. ORCID stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID. ORCID aims to solve the author/contributor name ambiguity problem in scholarly communications by creating a central registry of unique identifiers for individual researchers and an open and transparent linking mechanism between ORCID and other current author ID schemes. These identifiers, and the relationships among them, can be linked to the researcher's output to enhance the scientific discovery process and to improve the efficiency of research funding and collaboration within the research community. The ORCID initiative is being driven by several STM publishers and others such as NPG, Elsevier, PLOS, CrossRef, Wiley, and many more.

Linda also did a June mini-survey of the various software packages our AAHSL institutions are using to map their research efforts, especially citation analysis and/or networking software.

The Committee did discuss requesting funding from the HHMI to cover publishing author fees for AAHSL institutions with HHMI investigators, but decided not to pursue this funding. We also decided to not address the Gale/EBSCO issue regarding exclusive licensing agreements.

The Committee continues to monitor university campus-wide OA mandates.

The SCC listserv that had been hosted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham was closed as was the SCC blog.

In-person Committee Meetings -
The committee met on May 23, 2010, at MLA 2010 and on November 8, 2009, at the 2009 AAHSL meeting. It also plans to meet at the AAHSL 2010 meeting on Sunday, November 7th at 8am.

At the MLA meeting, the Committee had guest speakers to share information about CC efforts, CTSA initiatives such as Eagle-i and VIVO, and also about the OSTP Roundtable.

Gretchen Arnold (2008-2011)
Judy Cohn (2007-2010)
Jim Curtis (2007-2010)
Carlene Drake (11/09-11/12)
Sandra Franklin (11/08-11/11)
Michael Kronenfeld (2007-2010)
Evelyn Morgen (2008-2011)
Leslie Schick (11/09-11/12)
Jean Shipman, Chair (2009-2011)
Rajia Tobia (11/09-11/12)

Linda Walton (11/09-11/11)
Board Liaison: Pat Thibodeau (11/09-11/10)