

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)
Membership Definitions, Policies, and Practices
Developed by the AAHSL Membership Task Force
August 2009

Membership

Full Members: Full membership in AAHSL is linked to the AAMC /LCME accreditation process, and all LCME accredited U.S. and Canadian medical schools can be full members of AAHSL. AAHSL membership is institutional with one voting representative from each institution. The institutional representative is the medical library director or the library director's designee.

Canadian members are full members of AAHSL, but pay the Associate member dues rate, to acknowledge AAHSL activities, such as lobbying, which have more benefit for U.S. members.

Associate Members: Associate members are institutions or organizations that have an interest in the purposes and activities of the Association. Associate members may include academic health sciences libraries of institutions accredited by agencies or boards other than the AAMC / LCME (such as osteopathic or non-North American schools), associations, federal agencies, or other groups related to AAHSL.

New medical schools may initially join as associate members and must become full members when the school receives provisional accreditation status (after receiving preliminary accreditation) and enrolls a charter class.

Branch libraries that are part of member institutions are included in the membership of the parent library. Branch libraries may join AAHSL as associate members, with permission of their institutional representative.

Voting:

Full members have one vote.

Associate members are not eligible to vote.

Participation:

Officers and Board: Only institutional representatives of voting (full) members may serve as officers and on the board of directors.

Committees:

Representatives of full members can serve as committee or task force members, chairs, and official representatives to other groups.

Representatives of associate members can serve on committees or task forces as members, but cannot serve as chairs.

Other committee service:

AAHSL institutional representatives may recommend other selected library staff, such as fellows, former fellows, deputy/associate directors, and senior level staff, with exceptional expertise, to serve on AAHSL committees and task forces. If appropriate, special skill sets may be sought further among member library staffs. In general, AAHSL institutional representatives seeking committee appointments will be considered for appointment, before others are considered.

Listserves:

Two listservs are available for communication within the Association. One list includes all institutional representatives, plus senior staff, fellows, and others recommended by their directors; the other includes institutional representatives only.

New Director Training

Any first-time director (permanent, acting, or interim) representing a full or associate member is eligible to participate in “new director” orientations or symposia. First-time branch library directors, who are not associate members, may participate with the approval of their institutional representative. Nonmember directors may participate, if space is available and an appropriate fee is applied.

AAHSL Statistics

AAHSL Statistics are a significant membership benefit and are supported by both submission of data and dues. Effective in 2010, only AAHSL academic health sciences library members (both full and associate) may contribute to the statistics. All full and associate members will receive a print copy of the statistics. All full members will receive access to the AAHSL Statistics Web portal. Associate members that are academic health sciences libraries will receive portal access to contribute statistics.

Sale of the print statistics will have differential pricing for members and nonmembers. To qualify for the member price, the order must be placed directly with AAHSL Headquarters. Orders placed via library vendors will be charged the nonmember rate.

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)

Membership Benefits

AAHSL membership categories are full and associate. Full members are academic health sciences libraries whose medical schools hold member status in the Association of American Medical Colleges (www.aamc.org) and are accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (<http://www.lcme.org/>). Associate members are institutions or organizations that have an interest in the purposes and activities of AAHSL, including academic health sciences libraries of institutions accredited by agencies or boards other than the AAMC / LCME (such as osteopathic or non-North American schools).

Many member benefits are afforded to both full and associate members:

- Community of colleagues, with access to the collective knowledge and intellectual capital of peer directors
- Two dedicated listservs: one to exchange information and queries among library leaders and one to provide exclusive communication among institutional representatives
- AAHSL Website with members-only section and links to key resources
- Annual library and salary survey (print copy free with membership) and individual access to Web portal with annual statistics data and benchmarking and other online tools (library members only)
- Mini surveys on topics of current interest with online survey tool availability
- Workshops and annual meeting presentations on critical issues
- Toolkits on key issues and trends
- Leadership training programs for new directors and emerging leaders
- Influential partnerships with other associations and organizations to further mutual goals
- Official representation in AAMC via the Council of Academic Societies
- Ground-breaking initiatives with significant partners in scholarly communications, teaching and learning, leadership development, and research
- Collective voice and influence with medical organizations, government agencies, and library associations

Only institutional representatives of full members may vote and serve as officers, directors, committee chairs, and representatives to other organizations. Institutional representatives of associate members may serve on committees.