

## AAHSL Scholarly Communication Committee 2008 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 addressed its charge as follows:

- **Participation in 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 and serves as a member of the OAWG. The group met frequently by conference call and relevant information was sent to AAHSL membership. Much of the work centered on advocacy for the NIH Public Access Mandate including letters opposing the Conyers bill which would have overturned the deposit requirement.

- **NIH Public Access Policy** – With passage of the NIH Public Access Mandate in December 2007 many messages were sent to AAHSL members to assist in implementing the policy at their institution. The AAHSL president attended the HHMI meeting on Open Access in October. In October 2008 a continuing resolution was signed by the president continuing programs and agencies under the department of Health and Human Services (including the NIH Public Access Mandate).

- **MLA Open Forum on NIH Public Access Mandate** - AAHSL and MLA co-sponsored an open forum at the MLA meeting in Chicago at the suggestion of the Scholarly Communication's chair. Karen Butter moderator the meeting and presenters include NLM, a hospital librarian and Pat Thibodeau, an AAHSL member. The session was well attended by the MLA membership and it identified best practices and raised a number of questions about implementation.

- **Member Survey on NIH Public Access Mandate** – Evelyn Morgen, Judy Kohn, Mike Kronenfeld and Lynn Thurman developed a survey for AAHSL members to identify institutional policies and procedures for the NIH Mandate. The survey was sent to AAHSL members in June 2008. Mike Kronenfeld used SurveyMonkey to post the survey, and received 59 responses. These responses were posted to the AAHSL list on July 16, 2008.

<http://www.atsu.edu/atsu/lrc/survey/SurveySummary.html>

The results indicate the lead role libraries played in supporting, publicizing, and helping guide institutions towards compliance. The majority of respondents created strong websites, developed educational programs, lead institutional discussions, and answered questions. Guidance in many aspects of scholarly publishing is clearly a major new role for libraries. This does not need to be limited to the NIH/PA mandate, and many libraries are using this as an opportunity to have important discussions with researchers, authors, and administrators.

The committee will discuss another survey marking the anniversary of the mandate in April 2009, possibly broadening its scope so it's not limited to the NIH/PA mandate. The focus could be "Has the NIH/PA mandate changed the role of the library in your institution." The next survey should separate out issues related to the current economy (ie reduced budgets and cancelling journal subscriptions) from the impact of the NIH Mandate on collection policies. ScholCom will consult with Charting the Future Task Force to consider macroeconomic issues and review other planned member surveys to avoid duplication.

• **Joint AAHSL Publisher Liaison Task Force** – The board appointed a new committee in 2008 to propose a strategy for AAHSL in opening up a dialogue between the publishers of scientific journals and our association. Gail Yokote and Michael Homan chair the Task Force and the Scholarly Communication Committee is represented by its chair. A report on progress will be presented at the Annual Membership meeting in November.

**HHMI Meeting** – Committee members Gretchen Arnold and Mary Ryan, (and President Linda Watson) attended a meeting sponsored by HHMI to review progress toward open access and the Bethesda Principles. This was a follow-up to a meeting held five years ago bringing together HHMI scientists, publishers, librarians and the Wellcome Trust. The morning included a presentation by Harold Varmus and four case studies. In the afternoon working groups discussed potential changes in the Bethesda Principles and action items. HHMI requires that the top 5 articles for HHMI refunding must be open access. HHMI will issue a report with statements from the Working Groups.

• **Scholarly Communication Blog** – The committee continues to use the blog for its work and to distribute up-to-date information on resources to support the NIH Public Access Mandate. At some point the Blog will transition to the AAHSL website. The committee recognizes the work of Bill Clintworth in maintaining the blog and helping us to use it effectively.  
[http://www.usc.edu/hsc/nml/aaahl/open\\_access\\_toolkit.html](http://www.usc.edu/hsc/nml/aaahl/open_access_toolkit.html)

**Other Efforts –**

The chair and committee members distributed email update to AAHSL members on developments related to scholarly publishing. The chair was appointed to the Ad Hoc MLA Committee for Advocating Scholarly Communications.

Karen Butter, Chair (2006-2009)  
Judy Cohn, (2007-2010)  
Bill Clintworth, (2005-2008)  
Jim Curtis, (2007-2010)  
Elizabeth Eaton (2007-2010)  
Evelyn Morgen, (2005-2008)  
Connie Poole, (2005-2008)  
Jean Shipman (2007-2010)  
Tom Singarella, (2005-2008)  
Regina (Kenny) Marone, (2006-2009)  
Clinton Thompson, Jr., (2005-2008)  
Mike Kronenfeld (2007-2010)  
Board Liaison: Mary Ryan