



ACRL Representative Report

Unit Representative to: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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Background Information:

Founded in 1848, AAAS is affiliated with 258 societies (including ALA) and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals across vastly divergent fields of study and enterprise. The AAAS seeks to "advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people." This mission is very effectively pursued through its publications, diplomacy, professional workshops, meetings and career support, advocacy and public outreach to increase scientific literacy worldwide, support for professional scientists and objective, authoritative communication with news outlets. Its flagship publication *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of one million. Major program areas are outlined at www.aaas.org/programs, including R&D Budget and Policy, the intersection of science, ethics and religion, "invention ambassadors," and policy fellowships.

Major Activities of the Unit:

- *2015 Annual AAAS Meeting: San Jose, CA, February 12-16.* "Innovations, Information, and Imaging." — This year's theme was very closely allied with academic libraries, and librarians were visible presenting in the general poster session as well as in the session dedicated to ACRL librarians. The plenary lectures were all extraordinary. AAAS does a wonderful job of finding scientists able to engage with the public, inspiring people to be better informed and delighted by science. Science writers and other members from the media gave the meeting excellent visibility, and the plenary talks are posted online.
- *AAAS Forum on Science and Technology Policy, April 30-May 1.* This year's Forum featured speakers from the federal government, academia, for-profit and non-governmental organizations, plus a fair number of foreign dignitaries. Funding for science was a major focus of the Forum, always a concern for research universities. Registrants were each given AAAS Report XL: Research and Development FY 2016, a comprehensive analysis of the R&D proposals for the FY 2016 budget, prepared by AAAS and a group of its affiliated scientific, engineering, and higher education associations.

- Launch of the new peer-reviewed journal *Science Advances*, an “online-only gold open access journal.” advances.sciencemag.org/
- *Science and Human Rights Reports*. Published monthly, accessible electronically.
- Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) facilitates communication between scientific and religious communities.

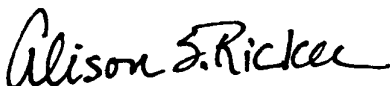
Implications for ACRL:

- *Science Advances* – the new journal has sparked some controversy over what is perceived as a relatively high manuscript submission fee. This was given thorough consideration at the science librarians’ session at the 2015 meeting, in discussion with the journal’s business director.
- *Science Librarians sponsored at AAAS Annual Meeting*. This was my fourth year of organizing a group of librarians (30 individuals) who are granted free meeting registration by the AAAS Publishing Division to the AAAS meeting. Sixty-five librarians requested free registration (or sponsorship), in response to my call on STS-L and in other appropriate venues. I used a Google form to manage this process, making it easier to grant the sponsorships on a first-come basis to librarians not previously sponsored.
- *Librarian session during AAAS Annual Meeting*. As in previous years the session for sponsored librarians was a good opportunity for networking and for librarians to make presentations related to the AAAS Meeting theme. In addition to remarks from the AAAS *Science Advances* Business Director, we heard and watched presentations from ten librarians – it was a packed session! The lightning talks are listed on the appended document and seven of the ten talks are captured in one PowerPoint presentation on the *Science* magazine “Librarians” site: www.sciencemag.org/site/help/librarians/Librarians2015session.pdf
- *Education Enhancement*. Project 2061 to increase STEM literacy is now represented by an online newsletter and a workshop planned for October 2015. The workshop is aimed at K-12 educators, but could have relevance for college librarians who collaborate with high school information specialists. www.aaas.org/program/project2061

Upcoming Activities:

- *2016 Annual AAAS Meeting: Washington, D.C., February 11-15*. “Global Science Engagement.” AAAS Publisher Relations will again sponsor attendance by librarians. Librarians may submit proposals for poster sessions, due in October 2015.
- *Awards*. To recognize scientists, journalists, and public servants for significant contributions to science and to the public’s understanding of science, AAAS administers fifteen different types of awards. Publicizing these awards on library blogs would be instructive for our academic communities. www.aaas.org/page/aaas-awards

Respectfully submitted,



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