



ACRL Representative Report

Unit Representative to:	American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
Representative Name:	Alison S. Ricker
Representative Email:	aricker@oberlin.edu
Report period:	July 2015 – June 2016

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. The website section on Public Engagement - www.aaas.org/programs/public-engagement-programs - shows the commitment of AAAS to advance scientific understanding among the general public through a wide variety of approaches.

Major Activities of the Unit:

- *2016 Annual AAAS Meeting: Washington, D.C., February 10-15.* The theme "Global Science Engagement" focused on how "the scientific enterprise can meet global challenges in need of innovation and international collaboration." The plenary lectures addressed global efforts to fight epidemic diseases and the very hot topic of the "CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing revolution." Jad Abumrad of public radio's *Radio Lab* was the final plenary speaker. He perfectly represented the merging of creativity, enthusiasm, social activism and scientific curiosity to bring new knowledge to listeners of that program; a inspiration for science librarians, certainly. Topical Lectures were equally amazing – from supermassive black holes and the evolution of the universe to forensics and the illegal ivory trade: aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/TOPICAL.html
- AAAS sponsored many important events in the first half of 2016, all with themes that closely match the interests of ACRL members. Here is a sampling of those events:
 - Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting: Climate Change and Human Rights

- LGBT Climate in Physics: Research and Policy Recommendations
- Reddit AMA with Jessica Hellmann and Tessa Hill: Improving How Scientists Can Talk with the Public about Climate Change
- The Role of U.S. Research Universities in Meeting the Global Food Security Challenge
- Live Webcast Panel on Implicit Bias in Scientific Peer Review
- *Science and Human Rights Reports*. Published monthly, accessible electronically.
- Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) facilitates communication between scientific and religious communities.

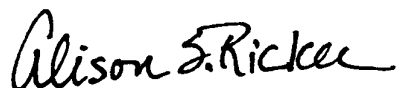
Implications for ACRL:

- *Science Immunology* and *Science Robotics* – AAAS continues to create new journals as part of the *Science* brand. Subscription prices for these latest titles can't be discovered on the website – one must submit a request for price information, which is not ideal. The first issue of *Science Immunology* appeared July 2016; *Science Robotics* is expected to publish its first issue in the Fall. Most librarians do not appreciate this sort of proliferation of journals; Nature Publishing (now Springer Nature) as made a huge publishing empire out of the practice, garnering more of academic library budgets.
- *Science Librarians sponsored at AAAS Annual Meeting*. Seventy-two librarians requested free registration (the highest number of requests since I became liaison), in response to my call on STS-L and in other appropriate venues. At least two librarians had posters accepted for presentation at the general poster session, which includes scientific and educational posters.
- *Librarian session during AAAS Annual Meeting*. Three of the sponsored librarians gave presentations at the session, setting the stage for roundtable discussions on several different topics. Their presentations and those given by librarians at other sessions during the conference are posted on the AAAS “Librarians” portal: www.sciencemag.org/librarian. A summary of the roundtable discussions is appended to this report.

Upcoming Activities:

- *Annual AAAS Meeting: Boston, Mass., February 10-16, 2017*. “Serving Society Through Science Policy.” AAAS Publisher Relations will again sponsor attendance by librarians. Librarians may submit proposals for poster sessions, due in October 2016.
- *AAAS Leadership Seminar in Science and Technology Policy, Nov. 14-18, 2016*. This is just one of many upcoming events noted on aaas.org/events. This ties in well with ALA and ACRL objectives related to advocacy for policies that support libraries in the broadest sense. In particular, the leadership seminar will cover “how to interact effectively with both congressional offices and executive branch agencies; the role of lobbying... and how science advice is acquired and used by various parts of government.”

Respectfully submitted,



Science Librarian
Oberlin College
Oberlin OH 44074
August 2, 2016