



ACRL Representative Report

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

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Background Information:

Founded in 1848, AAAS is affiliated with 252 societies (including ALA) and academies, serving more than 10 million individuals and “representing the world’s largest federation of scientific and engineering societies.” The AAAS is “dedicated to advancing science for the benefit of all people.” Interest and membership in the AAAS increased dramatically this year, rising rapidly after the outcome of the presidential election in November and spiking noticeably after the inauguration of President Trump. AAAS created a new (lower cost) membership category, “science advocate,” to strengthen outreach to new individual members who are “not scientists or engineers, but believe in the importance of science for our society.” It is a very good fit for library and other information professionals.

The AAAS advocacy mission is clearly represented by its new website “Force for Science,” and its leadership for the March for Science held on Earth Day, April 22, in at least 610 cities and locales worldwide. It now publishes six highly respected peer-reviewed journals, including its flagship journal *Science*, which reaches hundreds of thousands every week. Major program areas are outlined at www.aaas.org/programs, including Government Relations; Science, Human Rights and Law; Invention Ambassadors; and Research Competitiveness, among others.

Major Activities of the Unit:

- *2017 Annual AAAS Meeting: Boston, Mass., February 10-16.* “Serving Society Through Science Policy.” [Archived video](#) of the most significant symposia and plenary lectures demonstrates AAAS commitment for upholding evidence-based science policy and educating the public to recognize “fake news” and “alternative facts.”
- *March for Science.* A “Stand up for Science” rally took place during the AAAS Meeting in February, as a precursor to the March of Science. AAAS held educational events before and after the March in April, providing amazing support to marchers in Washington, D.C.
- AAAS has and will sponsor many events ([50 events in 2017, to date](#)) that are timely and important, including sessions via Webinar, Video Chat, Facebook Live and Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything).

An upcoming in-person event is the Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting: the Right to Science, in Washington, D.C., July 27-28.

Implications for ACRL:

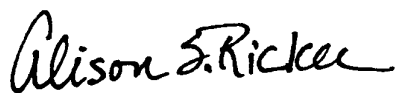
- AAAS is a very good partner for strengthening information literacy in our society, as well as promoting scientific literacy at every education level and in the general public. Their workshops on communicating science are useful for teaching any researcher how to explain research findings, and could inspire librarians to collaborate with faculty or other administrators to sponsors such workshops at their institution.
- *Science Librarians sponsored at AAAS Annual Meeting.* Forty-eight librarians requested free registration (a much smaller number of requests from the high of 77 last year), in response to my call on STS-L. As in previous years, some librarians presented posters during the General Poster session. AAAS provided free registration for 30 librarians; nearly all were first time attendees.
- *Librarian session during AAAS Annual Meeting.* Seven sponsored librarians gave lightening talks at the program session that I organized and moderated, on topics ranging from library makerspaces to citizen science projects supported by academic libraries. A slide show of their presentations is posted in [ALA Connect](#). In addition to the librarians' talks, we heard from representatives of AAAS Publisher Relations. That division graciously sponsored a reception for the sponsored librarians on Friday evening of the conference.
- ACRL Board of Directors approved partnering with the Earth Day Network and the March for Science, and encouraged ACRL members to participate. Two *ACRL Insider* posts give more information: [acrlinsider/archives/13607](#) and [acrlinsider/archives/13776](#)

Upcoming Activities:

- *Annual AAAS Meeting: Austin, TX, February 15-19, 2018.* "Advancing Science: Discovery to Application." AAAS Publisher Relations will again sponsor attendance by librarians. Librarians may submit proposals for poster sessions, due October 19, 2017. An exciting development is the move from paper to [electronic poster format](#). The e-poster format promises to be convenient and interactive.
- *Science Diplomacy & Leadership Workshop, Sept. 10-16, 2017.* This "first-of-its-kind course is designed as an immersion experience in the science diplomacy ecosystem of Washington D.C., combining academic lectures, field visits, professional development workshops, networking opportunities and leadership training." It seems a perfect fit with ACRL and ALA advocacy efforts. Graduates of the course "become part of the AAAS [Science Diplomacy Education Network](#), launched at the Science Diplomacy Conference 2017."

In closing, I sincerely thank ALA and ACRL for giving me the privilege of representing ALA to the AAAS. It has been a very satisfying and intellectually broadening experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to working with the next appointed AAAS liaison, to assure a smooth transition.

Respectfully submitted,



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