

CHICAGO COLLABORATIVE
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
April 2009

The Chicago Collaborative was created from a conviction that we are at a pivotal moment in the history of scholarly communication. It's 1453 and we're in a workshop in Mainz trying to do a better job of getting this wine press to push these metal bits evenly onto this sheet of paper. We're in the coffeehouses of London in 1664 trying to work out a scheme for gathering and reproducing reports from the greatest scientists of the day so that we can send them all across the continent in serial issues.

And it's the early 21st century, and in libraries and editorial offices and publishers meetings across the globe, we are trying to figure out how to use the internet and the web and this startling array of new digital tools to once again push scholarly communication in a new direction.

The members of the Chicago Collaborative believe that collaboration is essential to the development of a scholarly communication system that serves the best interests of the entire scholarly community. The future of scholarly communication will, we believe, be determined not only by the opportunities and challenges before us, but by the way we approach them. While the opportunities before us today far exceed the imaginings of those visionaries from past eras, making the most of these opportunities will require the active, constructive engagement of not just some but all stakeholders.

The founding members of the Chicago Collaborative believe that success in this crucial endeavor will require a relationship of trust and a spirit of collaboration among all stakeholders. Without this essential engagement, we will fail to meet our responsibilities to society.

It is in order to create an environment where these relationships can flourish, and the grand challenges for scholarly communication of our age can be confronted, that we have founded the Chicago Collaborative.

Chicago Collaborative Founding Members

Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

Association of American Medical Colleges, Council of Academic Societies

Association of American Publishers, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division

Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology/DC Principles

International Association of Science, Technical & Medical Publishers

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors

Society for Scholarly Publishing

For more information: Please contact the Chicago Collaborative at aaahl@sbcinc.com, or visit the [Chicago Collaborative website](#).

“Chicago Collaborative” Chronology

June 4, 2009

Background: Following extensive discussion of scholarly communication concepts and issues submitted to the AAHSL Board by Scott Plutchak, President Elaine Martin and the AAHSL Board of Directors established a new task force in August 2007. Initially called the “New Models Task Force”, the task force name was changed to the Joint AAHSL/Publisher Liaison Task Force with the following charge:

“Establish an AAHSL Board strategy to promote direct ongoing dialog and examination of issues of joint concern and importance to AAHSL and STM publishers, and to develop and promote a presence for AAHSL among STM publishers.”

The following Task force members were invited to participate by President Martin and approved by the AAHSL Board in October 2007: Karen Butter, Logan Ludwig, Scott Plutchak, Mary Ryan, Jean Shipman, Pat Thibodeau, Michael Homan (co-chair), and Gail Yokote (co-chair).

April 2008 Following TF discussion, an invitation to a May 22, 2008 planning meeting was issued to the leadership of a number of publishing and editorial organizations (see list following chronology). Representatives from the invited organizations were expected to represent the sponsoring organization rather than the interests of a specific publisher employer.

May 2008 Nearly all organizations contacted identified one or more representatives to attend the planning meeting. The meeting was held following the MLA Annual Meeting in Chicago at the O’Hare Hilton Hotel on May 22, 2008. The major consensus-driven recommendation coming out of this initial meeting was to establish a new working group of representatives from publishing and editorial organizations and AAHSL with AAHSL as the administrative sponsor to address the grand challenges of scientific communication. Tentative name = “Chicago Collaborative” to reflect the location of the first meeting and the spirit of the new working group.

June 2008 AAHSL Board accepted responsibility of becoming the administrative home of the new working group and approved the use of AAHSL website to post public documents related to the new group (Note: website design and information placement not yet activated).

July 2008 Two documents were developed to explain the derivation of the new working group, its membership, guiding principles, and relationship to sponsoring organizations (Framework document) and to address common questions about the new group (FAQ document). Drafts of these documents were sent to the sponsoring organizations including AAHSL and once approved will be posted on the AAHSL website. A summary of the content of these documents appears following this chronology.

August 2008 Following the highly successful first meeting and to assist with ongoing communication, an internal Wiki for use by the new group was established at Duke University Medical Center Library. A monitored Listserv for Collaborative representatives was established at the University of California, Davis. The AAHSL Board approved funding for AAHSL representatives to attend the second 2008 meeting of new working group.

September 2008 A second meeting of the new working group was held in Chicago at the American Medical Association on September 17, 2008. The proposed group name, “Chicago Collaborative” was confirmed by representatives and further discussion on aims and outcomes (e.g., education, dialog) of Collaborative occurred. Representatives agreed to have their respective organizations review and approve the draft Framework and FAQ documents. An assignment to create a press release was made. Discussion about the frequency and location of 2009 meetings also occurred.

Oct – Dec 2008 Refinement and vetting of Framework and FAQ documents will be completed by leadership of sponsoring organizations. Press release will be drafted and approved by Collaborative members. Public documents (Framework; FAQ; press release; minutes of first two meetings; e-mail contact) will be posted on the AAHSL website.

April 2009 A third meeting of the group was held in Chicago at the Four Point by Sheraton Hotel on Rush Street on April 8, 2009. A discussion of various educational and promotion programs took place. A statement of purpose was created and approved after this meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for November 2009 in Boston, MA.