The Chicago Collaborative: Facing the Grand Challenges of Scholarly Communication

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THE CHICAGO COLLABORATIVE: FACING THE GRAND CHALLENGES OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

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The Chicago Collaborative is a working group established in 2008 to promote open communication and education among some of the primary stakeholders in the scholarly scientific communication arena. Its membership includes representatives from the Association of American Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) and from national and international scientific/technical/medical (STM) publishing and editing associations.

In a series of four meetings – two held each year in spring and fall of 2008 and 2009 – the Collaborative provides a forum where the group can come together to discuss challenging issues and consider ways in which educational outreach programs and recommendations on the topics can effectively increase awareness and understanding in the scholarly community. Among the topics currently being addressed are: preservation and archiving; effective research authorship; peer review and quality assurance; dynamic information content containers; branding STM content and the future of the journal.

An important aspect of the Collaborative's strategy is to ensure that both librarians and publishers have an equal voice in the dialogue and any statements or recommendations that the group issues. A key component is to better educate the constituencies and other interested parties, and preliminary plans are underway to develop informational sessions to educate authors, librarians and publishers about the other aspects of the scholarly communication chain. Already in the pipeline are two tutorials – Biomedical Publishing 101 to brief librarians on publishing issues and, conversely, Libraries 101 to inform publishers about the working of their library customers. The first presentations are expected to be scheduled for spring 2010.

At the Charleston Conference, the session presenters will outline the Collaborative's current plans, encourage suggestions and comments about how to effectively roll out educational and outreach programs and enlist the cooperation of conference attendees in seeking venues – such as library and publishing conferences and meetings as well as opportunities in academic settings – where the educational programs may be held in the year ahead.