

Chicago Collaborative Rules of Engagement

The Chicago Collaborative (CC) is unique in the way that it brings individuals from different sectors of the scholarly publishing continuum together to share ideas, concerns, and potential solutions to the Grand Challenges that face us. In order to foster a spirit of open engagement and trust, individuals participating in CC meetings agree to abide by these “rules of engagement.”

- The CC “Statement of Purpose” guides the CC in developing priorities and projects.
- The CC is not an advocacy organization and does not take positions on specific legislative and regulatory proposals. These are more properly the purview of the constituent associations.
- Meetings are conducted under the Chatham House Rule.* Discussions at CC meetings and on the CC discussion list are considered to be confidential. (Exceptions may be made in cases where meetings are declared “open” for some specified purpose, or when guests are invited to participate in a particular discussion).
- An Executive Summary of each meeting is posted on the CC website. Other Public Statements may be posted by agreement of the member representatives (who may be required to obtain endorsement from their sponsoring associations).
- Public statements made by the CC are not binding on the constituent associations except to the degree where specific endorsement is sought and obtained through the official decision making process of the constituent associations.
- The CC is not a deliberative body and, as such, meetings do not typically adhere to standard parliamentary rules. As a general practice, decisions about priorities, planned projects, individual responsibilities, etc., are arrived at by informal consensus rather than by formal vote.
- Constituent associations agree to insure that at least one representative attend each scheduled meeting of the CC. Selection of representatives and funding for meeting attendance are left to the discretion of the constituent associations.

* “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.” Using the rule “allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organizations, and therefore it encourages free discussion. People usually feel more relaxed if they don't have to worry about their reputation or the implications if they are publicly quoted.” For more information on the Chatham House Rule, see <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/about/chathamhouserule/>

Approved, August 2010