



AAAS NEWS AND NOTES

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REPORTS

Report Looks at Federal Research and Development Budget

Federal support for research and development continues to flourish in the new era of federal budget surpluses. This trend is described in a report recently released by AAAS on the final appropriations enacted by Congress on the R&D portions of President Clinton's proposed budget for FY 2000.

According to the report, although it was expected that tight statutory caps on discretionary spending would result in painful cuts in the fiscal year 2000 budget, Congress and Clinton granted moderate increases in most areas of federal support for R&D. Even after a last-minute across-the-board cut in all discretionary spending, some high-priority areas in defense and health R&D received substantial increases.

Total federal support for R&D in FY 2000 increased substantially to \$83.3 billion, which is \$4.0 billion, or 5.0 percent more than FY 1999, primarily because of large increases for the Department of Defense and

the National Institutes of Health. Basic research, health-related R&D, energy R&D, and information technology were also high priorities in the FY 2000 budget.

The report, *Congressional Action on Research and Development in the FY 2000 Budget*, was published by the AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program in cooperation with the Intersociety Working Group. It is the third report in the AAAS series of publications keyed to the FY 2000 budget cycle. AAAS has begun work on its first report in the FY 2001 budget cycle, *AAAS Report XXV: Research and Development, FY 2001*, now that the Clinton administration has submitted its 2001 budget. The report will be released at the 25th Anniversary AAAS Colloquium on Science and Technology Policy, which will be held 11 to 13 April at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The report on the FY 2000 budget is available online at the AAAS R&D Web site at www.aaas.org/spp/R&D.



President Bill Clinton addressed AAAS at its headquarters on 8 February and signed a U.S. Executive Order to prevent discrimination against federal employees based upon genetic testing results.

INTERNATIONAL

AAAS Studies Online Journals in Africa

Online journals offer the chance for instant access, cost saving, and searching tools to conduct research, but in Africa these benefits are overshadowed by high subscription costs as well as poor Internet connections. AAAS, with UNESCO support, recently conducted a feasibility study of online journals at African universities, looking at a wide range of technical issues that must be resolved if online journals are to be effective.

AAAS traveled to four African universities in order to test the downloading of articles from online journals and to evaluate a range of technical and other factors that affect the overall feasibility of online journals accessibility. The participating universities were the University of Zambia; Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda; the University of Ghana at Legon; and the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal.

The resulting report discusses the meaning of feasibility, presents findings for each of the universities visited, and makes some recommendations for African universities, interested donors, and publishers of online journals. The report can be found at www.aaas.org/international/ssa/ojrep1.htm.

The study is part of a larger AAAS effort to evaluate emerging information technologies in Africa, which has included a journals distribution program and a CD-ROM database and document-delivery pilot project. AAAS is planning a follow-up workshop to focus on cost-effective strategies for utilizing emerging digital media at universities.

AWARDS

AAAS Honors Scientists and Journalists

AAAS named its 1998–99 awards to honor achievements in science, engineering, and journalism. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the 2000 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

AAAS Philip Hauge Abelson Prize: Neal F. Lane, assistant to the president for science and technology.

AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology: Lawrence M. Krauss, Ambrose Swasey Professor of Physics, professor of astronomy, and chairman of the Physics Department, Case Western Reserve University.

AAAS Award for International Scientific Cooperation: Gunter E. Weller, professor of geophysics emeritus and director of the Center for Global Change Research and of the NOAA-UAF Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

AAAS Mentor Award: Luz Claudio, assistant professor of neuroscience, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

AAAS Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement: Isiah M. Warner, Philip W. West Professor of Analytical Chemistry, Louisiana State University.

AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility: Aleksandr Nikitin, Bellona Foundation.

AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize: Matthew Holman and Norman Murray, co-authors of the report "The Origin of Chaos in the Outer Solar System" (published in *Science*, 19 March 1999, pp. 1877–1881).

AAAS Science Journalism Awards: George Johnson, *The New York Times*; Gayle Worland, *Denver Westword*; Robert Kunzig, *Discover*; Charles W. Petit, *U.S. News and World Report*; Elizabeth Arledge, NOVA/WGBH-TV; Michael Lamp, KNAU, Northern Arizona Public Radio.