



January 8, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the undersigned national and regional library, research, publishing, and advocacy organizations, we are writing to express our commitment to ensuring that American taxpayers are guaranteed immediate, free, and unfettered access to the results of scientific research that their tax dollars support, and to encourage the Administration to support continued progress towards this shared goal. We strongly endorse updating existing U.S. policy to eliminate the current 12-month embargo period on articles reporting on publicly funded research, and to ensure that they are made immediately available under terms and conditions that allow their full reuse. To unlock the full value of our collective investment in science, the underlying data needed to validate an article's conclusions, along with any corresponding software or code, should also be made immediately available.

As you know, the U.S. government funds more than \$60 billion in scientific research each year on behalf of the public. Making sure that the results of this research are readily accessible to all citizens speeds the pace of scientific discovery, spurs innovation, and provides fuel for the creation of new jobs across a broad spectrum of the economy. One challenge industries face today is gaining quick access to research for commercial application to spur the development of new, innovative products. Businesses – small and large – need faster access to this information to be competitive in the global marketplace. It is also critical that this information be made available in machine-readable form in order to take advantage of new computational technologies, including machine learning and AI.

To address this challenge, we support open access policies that take advantage of federal digital repositories and provide the public with fast, comprehensive, and

cost-effective access to articles reporting on the results of the research funded by taxpayers. These policies provide a rich and growing resource to tap into, so that new connections can be drawn by any interested entrepreneur, business owner, teacher, student, or citizen, who would otherwise face significant barriers to access this crucial information. Additionally, these policies improve transparency and accountability in government spending by requiring that the results of publicly funded science be openly shared.

Perhaps most importantly, U.S. taxpayers directly fund this research and they have a right to expect that they will have access to its results. They also have a right to expect that the distribution and use of these results will be maximized to increase their return on their research investments. We encourage you and your administration to support a policy that makes this access a reality for all taxpayers.

As other nations around the world increasingly adopt immediate Open Access policies, the U.S. risks being left behind. Last year, more than a dozen national research funders across Europe introduced "Plan S," a policy making all their funded scientific works freely available as soon as they are published, citing their fiduciary responsibility as funders to provide a strong, functional science system to the taxpayers who fund it. Support for Open Access has also grown among private research funders, with foundations – including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - requiring immediate open access to articles and data.

We are committed to working with you, federal agencies, and other important stakeholders in the research environment, to ensure that the public's investment in research is maximized to the fullest extent. Specifically, we request that the Administration issue a policy eliminating the current 12-month embargo on articles access, and ensure that articles and supporting data resulting from taxpayer funded research be made immediately available under terms and conditions that allow their full reuse.

Respectfully,

The American Library Association  
The Association of College and Research Libraries  
The Association of Research Libraries  
The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries  
Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI)  
Creative Commons  
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)  
Peer J  
The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

cc: Mick Mulvaney, Acting White House Chief of Staff and Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

