Support Public Access to Tax-Payer Funded Research

Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 (FASTR)

National Library Legislative Day
May 2013

ALA’s Position: The American Library Association encourages members of Congress to demonstrate their support of open access to taxpayer funded research by co-sponsoring the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 (FASTR).

What does this bill mean for libraries and the public?

- U.S. taxpayers underwrite publicly-funded research and they have a right to expect that its dissemination and use will be maximized, and also that they themselves will have access to it.

- Without the passage of S. 350/H.R. 708, taxpayer-funded research will continue to be inaccessible without an additional fee to those already funding it—the public.

If passed, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013 would:

- Extend the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access policy to an additional 11 federal agencies and departments as it would require those with an annual extramural research budget of $100 million to develop a policy to ensure researchers submit an electronic copy of the final manuscript accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

- Ensure that the manuscript is preserved in a stable digital repository maintained by that agency or in another suitable repository that permits free public access, interoperability, and long-term preservation.

- Require that each taxpayer-funded manuscript be made available to the public online and without cost, no later than six months after the article has been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

FASTR of 2013, S. 350, was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). Additionally, Reps. Mike Doyle (D-PA), Kevin Yoder (R-KS), and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) introduced the House version of FASTR of 2013, H.R. 708.