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The Growing Call for Public Access

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The Issue

- Funders invest in research to further the **public good** - with the expectation that it will:
 - Advance science
 - Encourage discovery & innovation
 - Stimulate the economy
- The **value** of research findings can only be **maximized** through **use**.

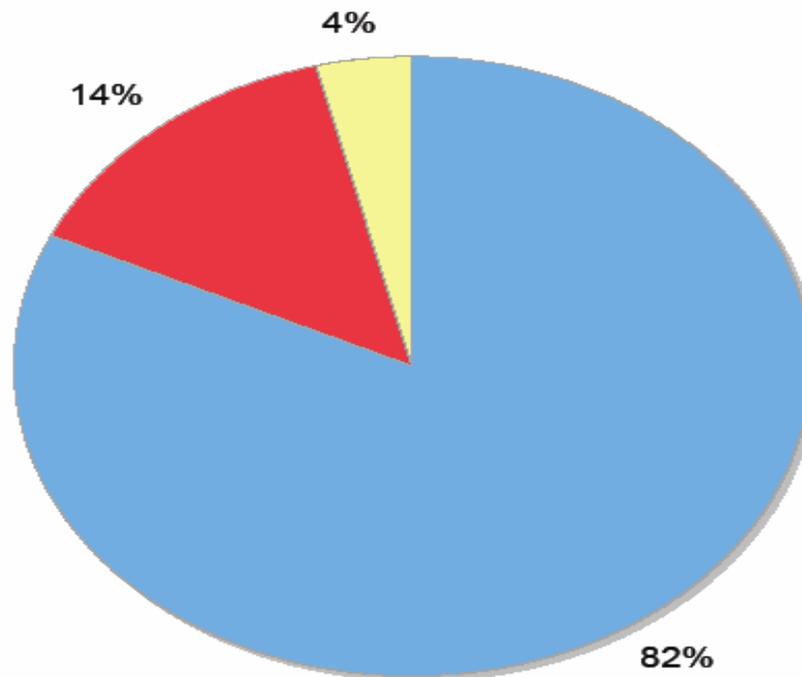
The Issue

- Internet = **new opportunity** to bring information broader audience.
- Research results (either publicly or privately funded) are not widely available to the community of potential users.
- **Result:** Call for new framework to allow research results to be more easily **accessed** and **used**.

Greater Access Is Important to: The Public

. If tax dollars pay for scientific research, people should have free access to results of the research on the Internet.

Source: **Wall Street Journal**, May 31, 2006, *“Most Americans Back Online Access to Federally Funded Research”*



■ Agree ■ Neither Agree Nor Disagree ■ Disagree



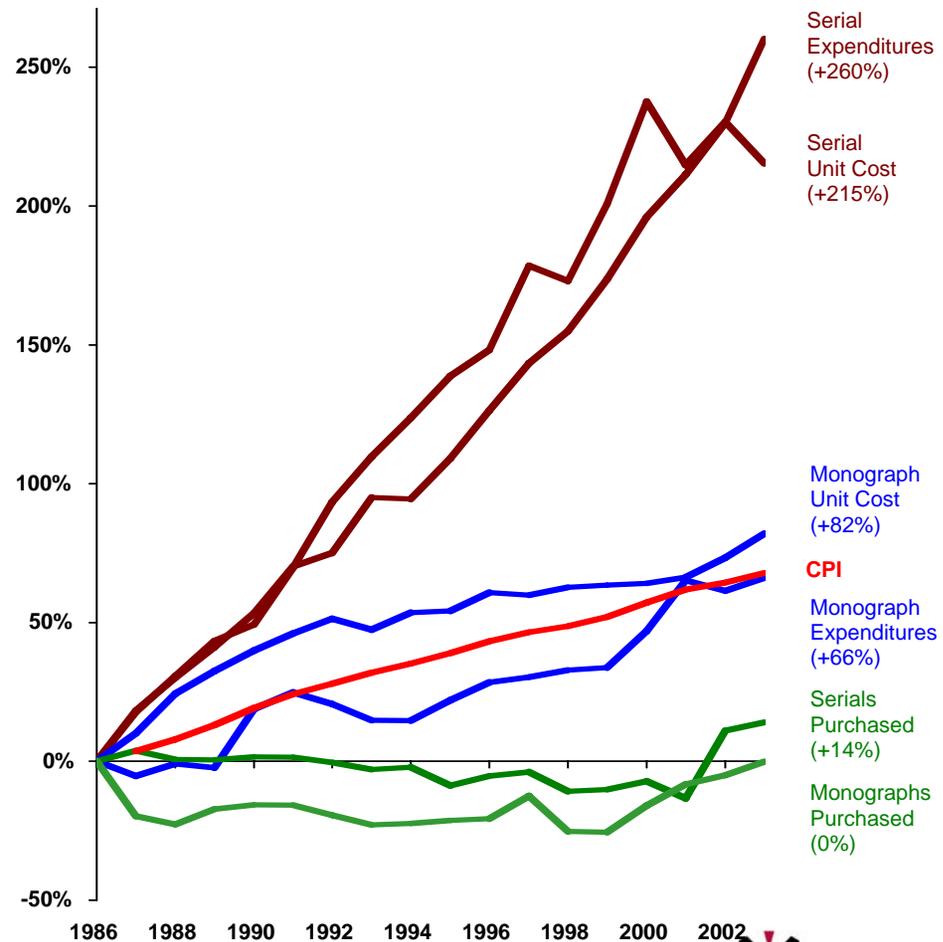
Greater Access Enables Researchers

“Greater access serves scholarly communication by: facilitating text-mining; data and literature integration; construction of large-scale knowledge structures; and creation of co-laboratories that integrate the scholarly literature directly into knowledge creation and analysis environments...”

-- - Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information, ARL/CNI/SPARC Public Access Forum, October 20, 2006

Greater Access is Important to: Libraries

Even the wealthiest, best-funded private institutions simply can not afford to give their patrons access to all of the peer-reviewed resources that they require.



Greater Access is Central to Higher Education

*“The **broad dissemination** of the results of scholarly inquiry and discourse **is essential** for higher education to fulfill its long-standing commitment to the advancement and conveyance of knowledge. Indeed, **it is mission critical.**”*

--25 U.S. University Provosts, in an Open Letter to the Higher Education Community, 7/24/06

Greater Access is a Market Issue

*“[W]e would expect governments (and taxpayers) to examine the fact that they are **essentially funding the same purchase three times**: governments and taxpayers fund most academic research, pay the salaries of the academics who undertake the peer review process and fund the libraries that buy the output, without receiving a penny in exchange from the publishers for producing and reviewing the content....**We do not see this as sustainable in the long term....**”*

- (Credit Suisse First Boston, Sector Review: Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishing. April 6, 2004.)

Greater Access is a Policy Concern

“Governments would boost innovation and get a better return on their investment in publicly funded research by making research findings more widely available.... And by doing so, they would maximize social returns on public investments.”

-- International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Report on scientific publishing, 2005

Selected Proposed Policies

- The European Commission
- Research Councils United Kingdom
- Australian Research Council
- Research Foundation Flanders (Belgium)
- Brazilian Parliament
- Canadian Institute of Health Research
- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Ukrainian Parliament
- South African Academy of Sciences
- German Research Fund (DFG)
- CNRS, France
- **U.S. National Institutes of Health**
- **U.S Federal Research Public Access Act**

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[http://www.eprints.org/openacces
ss/policysignup/](http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/)

Common Goals of Public Access Policies

Access - Provide fast, free electronic access to results of federally-funded research.

Advance Science- Create new information resource for scientists to use in innovative ways.

Archive - Provide permanent archive of vital federally-funded research results.

Accountability - Allow federal agencies to manage research portfolios more effectively and transparently.

Common Elements Access Policies Require:

- Deposition of **final manuscript** that has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal into stable online repository.
- **Repository must provide free public access, interoperability, and long-term preservation of material.**
- Manuscripts must be made freely available as soon as possible (w/in **6-12 months**) after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Positive Cost/Benefit Analysis

- Cost - NIH estimates costs for its public access program to be \$3.5 million annually - an amount equal to **0.01% of the agency's \$28 billion budget.**
- Benefits - A recent study in Australia found that a 5% increase in access and efficient use of research results could deliver A\$628 million in economic and social benefits¹.

1. *'Research communication costs in Australia : Emerging opportunities and benefits'*. Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, Melbourne. <http://eprints.anu.edu.au/archive/00003519/>

Policies Protect the Peer Review System

Key provisions that protect journals:

- A **delay** of up to **12 months** in providing access to articles via the public archive (versus immediate access for journal subscribers).
- Inclusion in the public archive of the **author's final manuscript** rather than the publisher's formatted, paginated version preferred for citation purposes.

Public Access Policies Serve:

- **Researchers** - Greater reach, greater impact, new avenues for discovery
- **Libraries** - Enhanced ability to provide users with resources they need
- **Universities** - improves ability to achieve core mission
- **Publishers** - New avenues for creating value added services and products.
- **Public** - Access to previously unavailable materials
- **Policy makers** - Increased return on their investment, greater public good.

Selected Resources for Additional Information

- www.arl.org/sparc
- www.taxpayeraccess.org
- http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study_en.pdf
- www.arl.org/sparc/meetings/ala06mw/index.html
- www.sciencecommons.org
- www.dfg.de/lis/openaccess/
- www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html
- www.rcuk.ac.uk/access/default.htm
- publicaccess.nih.gov/
- cornyn.senate.gov/index.asp?f=record&lid=1&rid=237171