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.

“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
“[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

Source:

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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 (within 6-12 months) after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
• 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.

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](http://www.arl.org/sparc)
- [www.taxpayeraccess.org](http://www.taxpayeraccess.org)
- [www.arl.org/sparc/meetings/ala06mw/index.html](http://www.arl.org/sparc/meetings/ala06mw/index.html)
- [www.sciencecommons.org](http://www.sciencecommons.org)
- [www.dfg.de/lis/openaccess/](http://www.dfg.de/lis/openaccess/)
- [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html)
- [www.rcuk.ac.uk/access/default.htm](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/access/default.htm)
- [publicaccess.nih.gov/](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/)