

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

October 28, 2015

Dear Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

This letter is submitted in fulfillment of Division B of the Joint Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015. That statement directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to report on progress at each Federal Department and Agency in developing, finalizing, and implementing a plan to increase public access to the results of federally funded scientific research. This letter provides an update since my July 2015 report to you on the progress that Federal departments and agencies have made in response to an OSTP policy memorandum issued in February 2013 on *Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research*.

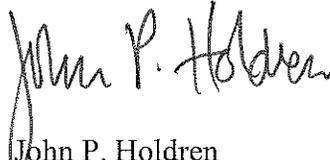
The February 2013 OSTP memorandum directed each Federal agency with more than \$100 million in annual conduct of research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of Federally funded research, specifically to scholarly publications and digital data. Since my report to you in July 2015, two additional departments and agencies—the U.S. Department of Transportation and Smithsonian Institution—have completed and received approval for their public-access plans, bringing to fifteen the number of completed public-access plans that have been approved by OMB and OSTP (see Appendix A). OSTP and OMB have not yet issued final approval for the plans from the remaining departments and agencies. Six departments or agencies are in the process of revising plans based on previous reviews by OSTP and OMB. OSTP is actively engaging with all of these departments and agencies with the aim of providing final approval to the remaining plans as soon as possible.

Departments and agencies with approved plans are at various stages of implementation. Several have already begun implementing their plans or expect to begin implementation in January 2016. Others are putting in place necessary policies and procedures for intramural and extramural investigators, following timelines outlined in their plans. Some departments and agencies are collaborating with one another to make use of shared infrastructure for providing access to scholarly publications and digital data, and several are examining steps to require funded researchers to make the data underlying scientific publications available for free at the time of initial publication. Department and Agency publication and data management systems are intended to evolve to best meet the needs of the public based on experience gained. We therefore anticipate the implementation details to change. OSTP aims to coordinate ongoing activities to improve the consistency and compatibility of approaches adopted across departments and agencies.

In the February 2013 Memorandum, departments and agencies were asked to identify “resources within the existing agency budget” to implement their plans. Beyond that request, OSTP has refrained from requiring budget breakdowns detailing how departments and agencies choose to implement the policy. Therefore OSTP does not have cumulative cost estimates for implementation. Departments and agencies can choose to request more funding in their budgets for implementing their plans, and some departments and agencies may also request additional funding for efforts that go beyond the requirements of the plan (e.g., for increasing access to the data underlying the conclusions of scientific research papers and for data services).

OSTP remains committed to continuing to work with departments and agencies to finalize and approve the remaining draft plans and to expand access to the data underlying scientific publications resulting from federally funded research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John P. Holdren
Director and
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

Appendix A. List of Completed Federal Department and Agency Public Access Plans

Department of Agriculture (November 2014)

<http://www.usda.gov/documents/USDA-Public-Access-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

Department of Defense (February 2015)

http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/pdf/dod_public_access_plan_feb2015.pdf

Department of Energy (July 2014)

http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE_Public_Access%20Plan_FINAL.pdf

Department of Health & Human Services

<http://www.hhs.gov/open/public-access-guiding-principles/index.html>

Agency for Health Research & Quality (February 2015)

<http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/publicaccess/index.html>

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (February 2015)

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/science/Pages/AccessPlan.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control (January 2015)

http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/docs/Final-CDC-Public-Access-Plan-Jan-2015_508-Compliant.pdf

Food & Drug Administration (February 2015)

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ScienceResearch/AboutScienceResearchatFDA/UCM435418.pdf>

National Institutes of Health (February 2015)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/NIH-Public-Access-Plan.pdf>

Department of Transportation (October 2015)

Department of Veterans Affairs (March 2015)

http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/Plan_for_Access_to_Results_of_VA_Funded_Rsch_02_14_2014.pdf

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (November 2014)

http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2014/12/05/NASA_Plan_for_increasing_access_to_results_of_federally_funded_research.pdf

National Institute of Standards & Technology (April 2015)

<http://www.nist.gov/data/upload/NIST-Plan-for-Public-Access.pdf>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (February 2015)

http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOAA_Research_Council/NOAA_PARR_Plan_v5.04.pdf

National Science Foundation (March 2015)

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15052/nsf15052.pdf>

Smithsonian Institution (August 2015)

http://public.media.smithsonianmag.com//file_upload_plugin/1f143b54-a9f9-4746-bef5-1c76151e3c7a.pdf