

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

January 29, 2016

Dear Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

This letter is submitted in fulfillment of report language incorporated by reference in Division B of the Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 [Public Law No: 114-113]. 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 October 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*.¹

The February 2013 OSTP memorandum directed each Federal agency with more than \$100 million in annual expenditures for conduct of research and development to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of Federally funded research, specifically to scholarly publications and digital data resulting from such research. To date, fifteen agencies have completed their public-access plans and posted them publicly (see Appendix A). Another agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, has received approval from OSTP and OMB on its plan and is completing its internal clearance process before publishing the plan. OSTP and OMB are actively engaged with the departments and agencies that have yet to complete their plans and are working closely with them to finalize the remaining plans expeditiously.

Departments and agencies with approved plans are proceeding with implementation. Since my last report to you, several additional agencies have put in place new policies and procedures that require investigators to prepare data-management plans for new research projects and to submit peer-reviewed scholarly publications to designated public-access repositories. In addition, the National Science Foundation launched its public-access repository (NSF-PAR) in October 2015, containing an initial set of almost 10,000 full-text journal articles and making use of technology developed by the Department of Energy. The National Institutes of Health expanded its PubMed Central repository to support the public-access policies of other HHS agencies, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Transportation are leveraging the repository developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Department and agency publication- and data-management systems are intended to evolve to best meet the needs of the public based on experience gained. Implementation details will likely change over time and inter-agency collaboration will continue.

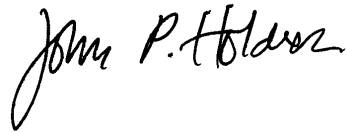
In the February 2013 OSTP memorandum, departments and agencies were asked to identify “resources within the existing agency budget” to implement their plans. Beyond that request, OSTP has refrained from requiring budget breakdowns detailing how departments and agencies choose to implement the policy. Therefore OSTP does not have cumulative cost

¹ See https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf.

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 working with departments and agencies to finalize and approve the remaining draft plans. OSTP has engaged with departments and agencies to support and help coordinate continuing implementation efforts to expand access to the scientific publications and data resulting from Federally funded research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Appendix A. List of Available 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 (November 2015)

<https://www.transportation.gov/open/official-dot-public-access-plan>

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