

Subject: RFI: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Publications

Date: November 21, 2011 12:38:40 PM EST

In response to the Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research, I would like to briefly offer a perspective from a small college library in Minnesota.

At Gustavus Adolphus College, students and their faculty conduct research in part to extend our knowledge and in part so that students will be equipped with the habits and skills of inquiry so that they can be engaged citizens. In the sciences, in particular, our small library has difficulty providing access to essential research. We have had to cut journal subscriptions three times in the past ten years and this year have had increases in subscriptions to two essential journal packages from the American Chemical Society and SAGE amounting to 22% and 25% respectively.

In the face of these costs we have reduced individual journal subscriptions and purchasing books and videos, cuts that are particularly hard on our humanities and social sciences programs. Because publishers make it difficult for libraries to share electronic versions of articles, we find we are forced to buy articles published in journals we don't have directly from publishers at costs typically ranging from \$30 to \$50 per article. Though we are staggering along, this is difficult to sustain.

Liberal arts colleges like ours disproportionately educate future scientists. Many of our students go on to graduate school and careers in medical and scientific research and practice. We can't do this without access to the primary literature, which increasingly is only available at well-funded research institutions. The heroic stance taken by the NIH to develop a path forward in the face of commercial publishers' hostility, making good on the extraordinary and necessary investment we collectively make toward funding basic science, should be emulated by all federal agencies that invest in research. Without the results of that research, most of us are left with severely constrained access to knowledge that we have paid for in order to advance our understanding.

As a citizen, I feel closing the loop of funding research by including the dissemination of results is the only way our investment in basic science and other funded research will bear fruit. It's important for our national prosperity and important that we share American science with the world because global scientific and medical advances will help the world's well being. As a librarian at a small undergraduate institution where future scientists learn how to do research alongside their faculty who involve them in authentic research experiences, we need access to this material, and purchasing every article that might be relevant is not always possible.

Thank you for raising these questions.

Yours truly,

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