

Subject: Office of Science and Technology RFI

Date: December 15, 2011 10:36:58 AM EST

Comments:

Katie Porretta
National Safety Council,

As the managing editor of the Journal of Safety Research, I have 21+ years of experience with a peer-reviewed publication and, with that, federally funded research. Today's technology offers so much potential for easy international coverage for researchers to share their research, and translate this knowledge into action.

As such:

(a) Authors, editors, publishers are committed to providing the broadest possible access to our publications. Our goal is to expand access to the latest breakthroughs in the scientific research and developments in academic thought.

(b) The main purpose of a scholarly journal is to report on original research or experimentation in order to make such information available to the global research community.

(c) It requires considerable investment to maintain the highest standards for peer-reviewed scientific publication and sustainable mechanisms are required to enable this system to cooperate. This is threatened by access policies that do not take these costs into account, and it is critically important that any new policies do not damage the publishing institutions on which the Federal Government and science depend.

(d) Overall, access to research articles is good, particularly in the United States, where 97% of researchers are happy with access to journal articles.

(e) Publishers are committed to indentifying any gaps in access and have developed a number of mechanisms to close gaps in sustainable ways. This includes initiatives to broaden access for researchers in developing countries, patients, and the public

(f) Any effort by government to establish policies for peer-reviewed research should be done in consultation with all affected stakeholders, ensuring that such policies do not undermine the sustainability of the peer review publishing system which is necessary to ensure the quality and integrity of scientific research.

Thank you for your consideration.
Katie Porretta