Subject: **Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly ,Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research**
Date: December 22, 2011 10:16:12 PM EST

I declare myself to care deeply about this issue on behalf of the scientists at the Geophysical Institute (GI) and the students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where the GI is located. I feel strongly that publicly funded research should be published Open Access.

The GI in my opinion does excellent research, much of it funded by a federal agency. The results are published but are not necessarily Open Access. Therefore many who might be interested in the research results never see them. This is to the detriment of:
the public who would like to read the research results;
the federal agencies which believed the work worthy of financing as the results are not disseminated as broadly as possible;
the scientists who did the research as the results are not disseminated as broadly as possible;
the University of Alaska Fairbanks where there is excellent research carried out but the results are not disseminated as broadly as possible

1 Re productivity of the American scientific enterprise.
UK and European institutions already are far along with Open Access policies. Just an hour ago I was looking at a list of scholarly societies which have OA journals and noted that the European Geosciences Union has several. Meanwhile the American Geosciences Union journals are priced beyond the reach of many libraries, e.g. community colleges, small liberal arts colleges such as Vassar College where I used to be Science Librarian. It is my firm belief that Europe and other countries will see their science efforts having a higher impact simply because everyone can access their results. To me it is highly significant that CERN has mandated OA and thus their scientists do not publish in Nature which doesn't allow making a PDF of a publication accessible in a repository. Their science hits the front page weekly!

2. The Creative Commons has addressed these questions very thoroughly. Since the publishers do not have to pay authors for their work I do not see the need for the publishers to obtain ownership. There are several Author Addenda in existence which confer all the rights to the publisher to publish and to republish should there be some future format change but allowing authors to keep ownership and rights to disseminate as they wish.

3. Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe. While ArXiv is facing financial issues there seems to be the will in the physics community to solve these issues. If it was run by a single Federal Agency it would be at risk of being axed at some budget cutback or being unavailable during ever more frequently threatened government shutdown.

4. I think there have been several successful partnerships already - Highwire Press with Pubmed, for example.

7. Yes

8. The ideal is no embargo period as CERN mandates. 1 year at most, 6 months would be better as is the case with PNAS, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science which makes all its articles OA after 6 months. No-one would dream of cancelling their paid subscription to PNAS because the information is free after 6 months. Springer allows OA to accepted papers while they are "In Press" but again no library will cancel a Springer journal just because the material is free if you are fast enough.

I do not speak for the Geophysical Institute nor the University of Alaska Fairbanks but I know every student who has discovered the ideal research paper but then can't access it in our library or using Google is frustrated but then digs some more and uses another research paper which is available. Or else the student makes an InterLibrary Loan request which means a delay in getting the information. Why should federal funding agencies pay for the research to be done without insuring access to the results? How ironic when it is government scientists who sometimes can't access the results without delay!

As a librarian, as an Alaskan resident, and as a tax-payer I whole-heartedly endorse OA for all research but believe it most imperative for federally funded research.

Thanks for allowing me this opportunity to share my ideas.

Flora Grabowska

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