

Subject: Response to RFI in Federal Register Vol. 76, No. 214 Friday, November 4, 2011 regarding ACRA reauthorization

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Mr Wackler, As an independent researcher, I conduct literature searches to support the submission of grant proposals and articles for publication. State and federally funded libraries have discontinued many of their hard-copy journal subscription in favor of online subscriptions. The absence of hard-copy journals curtails research efforts because many of the full-text online journals require subscriptions, either institutional or individual, a practice that makes research difficult due to the cost of subscriptions. Since a good proportion of published research is publicly funded, it should be publicly available. Answers to specific questions:

1. Are there steps that agencies could take to grow existing and new markets related to the access and analysis of peer-reviewed publications that result from federally funded scientific research? Yes. Journal articles that contain results of research studies supported with public funds should be publicly available as full text documents, either on the journal's website and/or when displayed in search results from databases (e.g., Proquest).
2. Regarding protection of the intellectual property interests of publishers, scientists, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders involved with the publication and dissemination of peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally funded scientific research. The purpose of publication is to disseminate information and introduce new ideas or results into the scientific scholarly community. Access to new results and ideas improves and expands the knowledge base of emerging concepts. Perhaps federally funded research should be exempt from copyright law.
3. The pros and cons of centralized and decentralized approaches to managing public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications that result from federally funded research. I know little of centralized versus decentralized databases. Access from the online home page of a journal and the search results from databases such as Proquest are both important. The important thing is to enable access through a variety of databases and search engines.
4. Are there models or new ideas for public-private partnerships that take advantage of existing publisher archives and encourage innovation in accessibility and interoperability, while ensuring long-term stewardship of the results of federally funded research? Yes. Many publishers of scholarly journals, such as Sage or Routledge, for example, limit access to many journals to subscribers. Articles describing research that is government funded should be

available as full text from the journal home page, as well as a government database.

5. How should Federal agencies make certain that such minimum core metadata associated with peer-reviewed publications resulting from federally funded scientific research are publicly available to ensure that these publications can be easily found and linked to Federal science funding? The grant number should be used as a identifier to link articles to the funding source.

6. How can Federal agencies that fund science maximize the benefit of public access policies to U.S. taxpayers, and their investment in the peer reviewed literature, while minimizing burden and costs for stakeholders, including awardee institutions, scientists, publishers, Federal agencies, and libraries? Keywords and the ability to search for literal text strings can provide access from the online home page of journals and databases.

7. Besides scholarly journal articles, should other types of peer-reviewed publications resulting from federally funded research, such as book chapters and conference proceedings, be covered by these public access policies? Conference proceedings often contain timely content similar to that of journal articles and should be treated the same way. 8. What is the appropriate embargo period after publication before the public is granted free access to the full content of peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research? Due to the rapid pace of change in knowledge there might not be an appropriate embargo period.

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