Subject: **RFI - Public Access to Peer Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting from Federally Funded Research**

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1) Expanding access to publications resulting fromfederally funded research seems a positive step towards possible advancementacross science. Certainly, protecting intellectual property and copyrightshould be a priority. However, currently information is shared across a varietyof academic fields through the use of electronic databases housed by Universitylibraries or professional organizations and paid for by users. Researchers,academics, and practitioners in science understand the guidelines for respectof intellectual property, and universities and other public entititiescurrently involved in the dissemination and storage of such information arewell-practiced in how to protect such works. Steps that could be taken tobroaden access include expanding the ability of universities and other publicinstitutions to disseminate this information to the wider public - for example,there could be the creation of an electronic database (such as ProQuest,currently used widely for the dissemination of doctoral dissertations andtheses) that would provide access to federally funded research similarly to theway that certain databases cater to a particular scientific discipline, butwithout the user fee. This database could be housed and maintained byuniversities similarly to how other databases are currently managed, butwithout the restrictions currently placed on pay-for-use databases. The wideravailability of this information should encourage increased productivity byresearchers in both the public and private sectors, and thus, would fueleconomic growth due to innovations and advancements in the field. There wouldalso be the opportunity for employment of librarians, computer programmers, andother IT professionals to maintain the database.

2) There should be a way to register with thedatabase - for example, giving an email with one's name and address as well asaffiliation, and perhaps there could be a way to track who downloaded and/oraccessed what content. There also could be some kind of user agreement thatmust be affirmed prior to accessing the database so that it is understood thatintellectual property must be respected. Certainly, there could also be embargoprocedures for sensitive information similar to what are currently in place.

3) Decentralized approaches (such as via universities or otheragencies)

could be an advantage, as there would be a way to distribute theworkload and compensation that could be gained by maintaining the databases,and databases could be specialized to particular disciplines rather thanmanaged by one huge agency without the expertise of the discipline. What abouta combination of a centralized agency with whom all work is filed, but withinwhich various disciplines are maintained by more decentralized agencies?

4) There are a vast variety of databases currently in use and managedby both private and public agencies in almost every scientific discipline.Encouraging communication and coordination among these groups seems key inputting this initiative into place. One partnership with which I'm familiar isthe What Works Clearinghouse, which provides access to scholarly researcharound effective instructional practices and interventions. Public and privateschool systems and educators can access this work. Perhaps this agency couldserve as a model or provide input into what a comprehensive database wouldcomprise.

6) Perhaps only parts of the article (such as the abstract or anexecutive summary) or a more public-friendly document could be submitted aspart of the submission for a more traditional journal article, that then allowsfor easier consumption by the public, and may omit some of the more tedious,technical, or sensitive content. To minimize burden on stakeholders, it wouldseem to be important to streamline the process of submission. Perhaps, as partof submitting to a journal, it is simply one additional step to submit theabstract, executive summary, etc, to the federal database?

7) Not necessarily. Book chapters are already avthrough libraries. Conference proceedings often lead into scholarly workthat creates meaningful output in the form of journal articles. For right now,the focus should stay on journal articles as these are the most challenging toaccess because of the need to pay for access to such journals.

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