

**Subject: Response to RFI**

**Date:** January 2, 2012 11:34:58 AM EST

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Request for Information: Public access to peer-reviewed scholarly  
publications resulting from federally funded research

Kansas State University recently signed the Berlin Declaration making the pledge to support an open access paradigm where the dissemination of knowledge is not complete until information is made readily available to society. It is our belief that research results must be made available freely and openly to everyone, regardless of their institutional affiliation or ability to pay. This holds especially true when public funds are financing the research. Taxpayers are entitled to immediate access of the results of the research our tax dollars fund.

1. Grow the open access portion of the existing publishing market. Include open access publishing expectations and publishing fees in the grant structure. Don't just award publishing fee monies when researchers ask. Hold an expectation that articles that result from federal grants will be openly and freely available. Archival and access policies facilitate greater sharing of information, which results in greater productivity from the grants. Data and results are more likely to be built upon by future research if they are freely available, giving more value for the initial grant outlay. Require archiving at an institutional level at the least, allowing universities and institutes to house the research their researchers/scholars produce.
2. Do not allow researchers to sign over copyrights or exclusive licenses to their federally funded scientific research. This protects the intellectual property interests of the scientists, federal agencies, and other stakeholders.
3. A centralized approach puts all the research funded by a particular funding body in one place, which can be very positive for the public who funds it. That said, because

of this centralized approach many publishers only allow researchers to archive their work in the one central archive, and not in their institutional repository as well. With powerful search engines, the need for a central repository is not as great - - the work will still be found where ever it is placed. A distributed approach where the research is deposited in a central repository but also is allowed to be deposited in an institutional repository would be ideal. This allows universities and institutes to archive the research produced on their campus and to produce an inventory of their research. Inventories such as these can be exceptionally valuable for universities to illustrate to stakeholders (donors, state legislators, etc.) the work being undertaken on the campus and why continued funding is important. A distributed system also allows continued stewardship by the granting agency. 6. Treat federally grant funded researchers as what they are – temporary employees of the Federal Government for the research that is grant-funded. As such, the resultant research should be in the public domain. This protects the IP interests of the funding agency and stake holders (tax payers) and allows wider distribution of the research - which is in the best interest of the researchers and other stake holders. 7. Yes. Different areas of research distribute the final product of the research in different ways, from books to articles to conference papers. To fully capture the research resulting from federally funded grants, all forms of transmittal should be covered by public access policies. 8. No more than 6 months. Research (especially scientific) is often out of date by the time it gets through the publishing process. The sooner information is freely available, the sooner more researchers/scholars can build upon it with their own work.

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