

To whom it may concern:

I work at the University of Kansas, which was the first public university to approve a faculty-led open access policy. All of my publications in applied linguistics are available through KU ScholarWorks. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to questions regarding public access to digital data. I am in favor of a broader open-access policy for peer-reviewed scholarly publications and data sets, particularly those supported by federal grants. I will respond to questions (7) and (8):

(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?

Yes. These publications should be available in digital, accessible form after a suitable “embargo period” of six months for non-critical literature. Book chapters and conference proceedings are particularly important contributions to long-term scholarship in any field, and they are notoriously difficult to access in digital form.

(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?

Six months is an appropriate embargo period. University researchers, many of whom have access to digital databases through library subscription, will have first access rights in real time, and publishers will continue to be compensated. After six months, access to journal articles should be available to all. I recommend that the embargo period for book chapters and conference proceedings be somewhat longer (12 months), since review, editing, and production typically take more time and resources from publishers than journal publications, and they deserve to be compensated for this increased effort.

Respectfully,

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