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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this RFI on Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research. This topic is a critical one to academic and research communities and the libraries that support them.

Access to taxpayer funded research is a right for US citizens. As a taxpayer and an academic librarian, I have seen the benefits of readily available research personally and professionally. As a personal example, I am part of family that is at risk for breast cancer. Both my sisters have been diagnosed and treated. Because of my risk level, I am a participant in the Sisters Study and Army of Women, two initiatives that promote and conduct research into causes and cures of breast cancer. The Sisters Study is longitudinal research that looks at both genetic and environmental causes. Army of Women connects women with various studies and clinical trials. It is important for me to be involved in this efforts and, as both a participant and a taxpayer, I want immediate access to the research results to make decisions about my own health and risk.

Professionally, the scientists that we support at Kansas State University conduct research in critical areas that impact our state and national economy, health, and security. Some of this research results directly in opportunities for economic development through technology transfer, start-ups, new product development, and other ventures that provide employment and attract related business activity to Manhattan and the state. As with the rest of the nation, Kansas has been facing challenging economic times but Manhattan has been very fortunate to attract the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility and we are seeing related small businesses and research facilities moving into the area as a result. While we have managed better than many, the recent announcement that Boeing will move its operations out of Wichita, Kansas will result in the loss of over 2,000 jobs. Where will the new work opportunities come from? Many will come through innovative partnerships between universities and the business community and will directly benefit from the research and scholarship that is conducted here and at other state universities. That is, as long as those results are shared easily and quickly. Immediate access is desirable; however, realistically, embargo periods of a year or less are likely to be needed for various reasons including the economic viability of some journal publishers.

Public access to scholarly publications is also important to the teaching mission in higher education. The rapid proliferation of information, ever-increasing interdisciplinarity, and expectations for immediate and ready access to information are driving students and faculty to look for and apply cutting-edge

research and scholarship in the classroom. At a time when the quality and value of higher education and student learning outcomes are under close scrutiny by legislators, parents, funding agencies, donors, and others, open access to scholarship is essential. Graduating students who have studied and applied new and emerging theories, research, and ideas will create the next generation of scholars who will continue to advance these concepts as well as workers who will apply them to economic growth and societal needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond.

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"Singing has always seemed to me the most perfect means of expression. It is so spontaneous."--Georgia O'Keeffe