

**Subject: In Strong Opposition to the Research Works Act**

**Date:** January 9, 2012 11:42:24 PM EST

Dear Science and Technology Policy Office,

Publicly funded research must be freely available to the public. Research paid for by the public should not be a commodity that private entities may control and profit from.

As Peter Murray-Rust argues in a [comment](#) on Mike Taylor's [blog post concerning the Research Works Act](#):

To clarify the discussion of:“closed access means people die”This applies to ALL scientific publication.

If you are an engineer and want to be sure that a new material is safe for a medical device you need to read the literature

If you are a policy wonk and worried about epidemics you need to know the mathematics of epidemiology (maybe in a stats or maths journal)

If you are trying to improve the drainage in tropical countfries you need to know about the sociology of cooperation and conflict over water

If you are worried about obesity you need to know about the psychology of human behaviour.

and that’s just medical

I was in two earthquakes last week (in berkeley). Small ones. But I would like to know that everyone involved in prevention and warning could read the appropriate literature.

There is NO discipline which can be regarded as irrelevant to the benefit of humankind

Murray-Rust's own [blog post concerning the Research Works Act](#) on the Unilever Centre for Molecular Informatics site argues this point at more length.

Thank for accepting comments on Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research.

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