

**Subject: Re:Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research**

**Date:** January 10, 2012 6:36:30 AM EST

To: Office of Science and Technology Policy

Executive Office of the President

725 17th Street Room 5228

Washington, DC 2050

From: Janice Flahiff

Re: Response to the White House RFI on OA publications

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy request for information on "Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research."

As a library employee with over 15 years of professional and paraprofessional experience, I have seen how limited access to government funded research affects students and researchers. Unnecessary access limitations often result in relevant articles not being read. For example, an embargoed article may be too expensive for the library to obtain via interlibrary loan. This embargoed article may well be a key source of information to fill in a knowledge gap for either a student summarizing current trends in an area. It also could contain good information for a researcher's grant application or experiment. Multiply these individual concerns and the larger concerns are continued roadblocks to innovation, progress, and a nimble knowledge base.

For these reasons I strongly support White House action to require and enhance public access to government-funded research.

It is understood that there are many areas and stakeholders in this area. There are compensation and intellectual property issues.

However, unless we all work together in advancing pure and applied research, misplaced efforts in areas of ownership and compensation will work towards detriment to all stakeholders.

While I have not answered specifics in the RFI, I am hoping all concerned work together in a spirit of cooperation for the greater common good. For some reason, I cannot get the image of Benjamin Franklin's cartoon out of my head, "Join or Die".

Please do all you can to bring together all stakeholders for true scientific progress.

Your efforts in creating this RFI are much appreciated. May the upcoming discussions be conducted in a spirit of cooperation.