

Miami University Libraries at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio would like to thank the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for extending the opportunity to comment on public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research.

Public access to federally funded research offers one of the best prospects we have for improving research communication and encouraging commercialization. Therefore, it is important that complete collections of articles resulting from publicly funded research be made immediately freely accessible, so that the public can fully use the information without commercial restriction. This access will help advance the public good by driving discovery, collaboration, research, and advancement. Providing individuals and companies access to this information allows them to build new products and processes spurring economic growth and new jobs across broad sectors of the economy. Increased access leads to increased use and will deliver an accelerated return on taxpayers' investments.

The federal government is in the best position to ensure that publicly funded articles are made permanently accessible and usable, assuming that public access policies are developed with distribution and archive rights in mind. A federal public access policy does not need to rest solely on the federal government, however. Multiple repositories supporting access and use would allow for a more distributed system. Many university libraries, including the Miami University Libraries, have extensive experience and the existing infrastructure in which to collect, describe, and archive such work. Because of libraries' experience organizing and providing access to information, I would encourage you to consider private/public partnerships provided the partner repositories meet conditions for public accessibility, use rights, interoperability, and long-term preservation of these publicly funded articles.

Facilitating broad access to this information is an essential component of our nation's investment in science, the economy, and the future of its citizens. Without a viable public access policy we are not sharing the best available science for community level decision-making, and we are not providing equitable opportunities. All taxpayers have a right to timely access to federally funded research results, not just those who are affiliated with a university.

We thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Judith Sessions
Dean and University Librarian
Miami University, Oxford, OH

and

Jen Waller
Information Services and Special Projects Librarian
Miami University, Oxford, OH