

To whom it may concern:

I recently heard that the US government is considering doing away with the open access model put in place several years ago, requiring federally-funded publications to be deposited into pubmed central within 12 months of publication. This repository of open access articles is crucial to our competitiveness. There should not be significant worry of other nations picking up US-generated data and outcompeting the US. All else equal, greater funding will determine the winner in research output (comparing countries). The US still has the greatest funding for biomedical research. We want to keep the US competitive, so please do not curtail the open access model.

If you limit the access to this information, the translation of basic research to cures will be significantly delayed, adding costs to health care. If the current model is reversed tax payers' dollars will be wasted in numerous ways including but not limited to: unnecessary duplication of studies due to insufficient knowledge of what has been published, slower validations and just as important invalidations of existing research, and certainly a wasteful increase of researchers' time searching for information (papers which could have been quickly obtained over pubmed central) instead of testing hypotheses and doing experiments in the public's benefit! In the field of medical diagnostics in which I work, the pace is swift for improved technologies and the exact details of studies (provided through the published paper) are needed in order to make technological improvements in the field of molecular diagnostics (a rapidly growing and cost-saving subset of health care technology field).

As in the "time value of money" it is more important to have information now, than in the future, and will lead to better returns of NIH and NSF-funded research. In a time where expanding research funding is very difficult for the US to do, let's certainly not decrease the efficiency of each dollar spent on research.

Sincerely,

Cameron Gundry, M. Sci.
Associate Product & Marketing Manager
Life Science Division (LightScanner Product line)
Idaho Technology, Inc. (ITI)
1-801-736-6354 Cameron's Extension = 444
1-800-735-6544 Cameron's Extension = 444-Toll Free



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