

**From:** Maura Smale  
**Subject: Re: Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research**  
**Date:** January 12, 2012 8:18:49 AM EST  
**To:** [publicaccess@ostp.gov](mailto:publicaccess@ostp.gov)

To the Science and Technology Policy Office,

I am writing in response to the Request for Information about Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting From Federally Funded Research.

I am a faculty member in the library department at NYC College of Technology of the City University of New York. As a faculty member, a librarian, an American, and a global citizen, I strongly believe that the results of scholarly research in all disciplines should be as widely disseminated and shared as possible.

I am outraged by the high subscription prices for academic journals, especially at this time of severe budget constraints for public education. These scholarly publishers do not compensate academics for their work on the articles that are published in the journals and, on top of that, price their subscriptions and articles so outrageously that access to the research is severely limited.

I have personally pledged to only submit the results of my own research to open access journals, and to only contribute my time as a peer reviewer or editor to OA journals. But if I did publish an article in a commercially-published journal, American taxpayers would pay up to 4 times for my research to be published:

1. For my salary as a faculty member at a public college
2. For the grant funding I receive to conduct my research
3. For the peer review and editing donated by scholars at other public institutions
4. And finally, for the subscription to the journal that published my article.

Of course, with tightening budgets across higher education, many libraries

cannot afford to purchase subscriptions to these very expensive scholarly journals. And with individual article charges of upwards of \$25, unaffiliated researchers and the general public cannot get access, either.

Further, I was absolutely dismayed to see the recently proposed Research Works Act (H.R. 3699), and hope that this office considers the rights of US taxpayers to the research that they fund, rather than the academic publishers who have already made such high profits from the work that the scholarly community freely provides.

In conclusion, I support any and all efforts to increase public access to scholarly and research-based information, including but not limited to encouraging open access policies instituted by colleges, universities, and research centers; as well as public access mandates for taxpayer-funded research with as little embargo as possible.

Thank you,  
Maura A. Smale, PhD, MLIS  
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Ask me about [Open Access!](#)