



Response to Office of Science and Technology Policy
**Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications
Resulting From Federally Funded Research**

Submitted January 12, 2012 by:
Julia Zimmerman, Dean of Florida State University Libraries
jazimmerman@fsu.edu
Tallahassee, FL

Background

Florida State University Libraries are in the early stages of exploring the role a research library plays in public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally funded research. In the past 18 months the libraries have hired an E-Science librarian, an Associate Dean of Digital Scholarship and Technology Services and a Scholarly Communications Librarian who will all be working to address the concerns in the academic community surrounding adaptations in scholarly publishing. Additionally, in October of 2011, the Faculty Senate of Florida State University unanimously passed a resolution expressing support for open access in principle and faculty who chose to adapt their publishing habits. As part of this initiative and in response to the Request for Information issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Florida State University Libraries offers the following statements as our recommendations.

Statement

[How can policies for archiving publications and making them publicly accessible be used to grow the economy and improve the productivity of the scientific enterprise? What type of access to these publications is required to maximize U.S. economic growth and improve the productivity of the American scientific enterprise?]

Public access facilitates productivity and effective use of library resources.

Access to information is essential in contemporary society, as echoed in the mission of FSU Libraries, "...to support and enhance the learning, teaching, research, and service activities of the Florida State University by **providing organized access to quality information in all formats**, promoting information literacy, preserving information and **engaging in collaborative partnerships to disseminate ideas** to advance intellectual discovery." Supporting our faculty and researchers by offering greater, more immediate access to peer research will improve the caliber of scholarship that our institution produces. As a stakeholder on the consumption side of the publishing cycle, the research library will benefit from freely accessible and fully reusable research by transferring funding from increasing journal subscription costs to offer greater support and services to researchers. Training and resources could be put into assisting faculty with intellectual property issues and concerns, providing technical assistance in digitization and archival processes and more, all generally increasing the productivity of research. Therefore in order to fulfill our mission and support the continued excellence of our specific research community, our primary recommendation is that publications resulting from publicly funded research should be (1) made freely accessible and (2) fully reusable (3) without commercial



restriction (4) within six months of publication at most, and that a uniform policy be adopted by governmental agencies and funding bodies in support of the listed criteria.

[What specific steps can be taken to protect the intellectual property interests of publishers, scientists, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders involved with the publication and dissemination of peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally funded scientific research? Conversely, are there policies that should not be adopted with respect to public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications so as not to undermine any intellectual property rights of publishers, scientists, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders?]

Public access policies simplify intellectual property concerns by providing standards.

As a member organization of the Association of Research Libraries, Florida State University Libraries align with its goal to “establish alliances and develop relationships that promote open collaboration among stakeholders in the scholarly communication system.” Building on our recently adopted open access resolution at Florida State University, the Libraries are interested in pursuing dialog with publishers, Federal agencies and researchers on the topic of intellectual property and ensuring the rights of our faculty in regards to their publications and data.

Specifically, we believe it is in the best interests of faculty to be informed that copyright to their works is fully theirs, and that publishers need only require the rights necessary to distribute their works upon permission from faculty. We recommend that universities and libraries (1) adopt open-access policies that begin with the retention of copyrights for the faculty author or scholar and outline how the work can be used, with allowances for archiving in institutional or field-specific repositories. Further, we recommend (2) the adoption of a government-wide public-access policy that also begins with author’s rights and exists as a standard from which publishers and other stakeholders can build their own copyright transfer agreements for publications.

[What are the pros and cons of centralized and decentralized approaches to managing public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications that result from federally funded research in terms of interoperability, search, development of analytic tools, and other scientific and commercial opportunities? Are there reasons why a Federal agency (or agencies) should maintain custody of all published content, and are there ways that the government can ensure long-term stewardship if content is distributed across multiple private sources? What steps can be taken by Federal agencies, publishers, and/or scholarly and professional societies to encourage interoperable search, discovery, and analysis capacity across disciplines and archives?]

University libraries are prepared to preserve and provide access to digital content.

Institution-specific guidelines and models for stewardship of scholarly content are necessary. As Florida State University Libraries enter the space of open archives through our newly established institutional repository, ensuring interoperability and standardized metadata is a foundational concern. In addition to universities and libraries, a federally sponsored repository based on the same standards of openness and interoperability would be a welcome entity. A federal repository would provide a central location and would be openly searchable to the public and researchers alike, with content and metadata harvested from institutional repositories. The establishment of a repository at the federal level has the potential to encourage access, produce collaborations



between publishers, funding agencies, libraries and researchers, and build on the infrastructural standardization that the web is constantly undergoing.

[Please identify any other items the Task Force might consider for Federal policies related to public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from federally supported research.]

Public access to research supports the mission of libraries to provide access to information.

Finally, providing public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications supports the ideal of an unintended audience. As a research library, one of our most valuable assets is the serendipitous discovery a student or faculty member may have when searching for materials. In our technological moment, those discoveries have greater potential and impact online, where international, underprivileged and transdisciplinary readers have the opportunity to stumble across world-class research. It is our final recommendation that the Office of Science and Technology Policy recognize access to information, including and especially the peer-reviewed research of federally funded scholarship, as a human right, and work diligently to propose and enact policies that provide that opportunity.

Remaining on the cutting edge of science and technology, as well as the arts and humanities, depends on researchers' ability to innovate based on their peers and colleagues. It is essential that research be made freely accessible and fully reusable to the public that funds it, producing two distinct outcomes: the profile of the scholar, its supporting institution or university, the funding body, and the publisher of the work are all increased; and, more importantly, public knowledge is built, allowing global citizens to increase the quality of life and mind that makes our historical position so profound.

For more information regarding this submission, contact:

Julia Zimmerman
Dean, Florida State University Libraries
Tallahassee, Florida
850-644-5211
jazimmerman@fsu.edu

or

Micah Vandegrift
Scholarly Communications Librarian
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida
850-645-9756
mvandegrift@fsu.edu