

I am writing in response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy's recent requests for information on public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications and digital data resulting from federally-funded research (76 FR 68517 and 76 FR 68518) on behalf of the National Science and Technology Council.

I encourage the Council to issue strong recommendations to maximize public access to data and publications resulting from federally-funded research. Openness maximizes the benefits of research by increasing its scientific and economic impact while upholding scientific integrity.

To ensure that taxpayers derive the most benefit from the research they support, the Council should recommend that federal agencies require grantees to make their publications freely accessible to the public at no cost no later than six months after publication.

In addition, the Council should recommend that federal agencies require grantees to submit data management plans describing how they will manage, share, and provide public access to their data, if at all. The Council should also recommend that agencies establish expectations that grantees will provide public access to their data to the greatest extent possible, with narrow and specific exemptions (such as to protect human subjects and national security).

By issuing these recommendations and encouraging agencies to promptly implement them, the Council will fulfill its responsibility to advance federal science and ensure the best use of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

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