

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

January 9, 2017

Dear Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

This letter is submitted in fulfillment of report language incorporated by reference in Division B of the Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Public Law No. 114-113. That statement directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to report on progress at each Federal department and agency in developing, finalizing, and implementing a plan to increase public access to the results of Federally-funded scientific research. This letter provides an update since my October 2016 report to you on the progress that Federal departments and agencies have made in response to an OSTP policy memorandum issued in February 2013 on *Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research*.¹

The February 2013 OSTP memorandum directed each Federal agency with more than \$100 million in annual expenditures for conduct of research and development to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of Federally-funded research, specifically to scholarly publications and digital data resulting from such research. I am pleased to report that all departments and agencies subject to the February 2013 OSTP memorandum have now completed their public-access plans. Since my last report to you in October, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have completed public-access plans and have posted them on their open government websites. A list of completed plans is contained in Appendix A and is also available online.²

With planning now complete, all departments and agencies are moving ahead with implementation of their public-access policies. Seventeen agencies now require public access to publications resulting from all newly funded research, and three additional agencies have begun phasing in such requirements across their research portfolios.³ Fourteen agencies now require data-management plans for all new research projects (intramural and extramural), and four additional agencies have begun phasing in such requirements across their research portfolios. All agencies have designated repositories for providing public access to publications resulting from funded research. Both DHS and EPA will make use of the National Institutes of Health's PubMed Central repository, as the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and all agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services are already doing. Departments and agencies are also making progress with the preservation and accessibility of digital data resulting from their funded research. Departments and agencies have developed training and communications materials to assist affected researchers in understanding and meeting these new requirements and are engaging in various outreach activities with affected stakeholders.

¹ See https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf.

² See http://www.cendi.gov/projects/Public_Access_Plans_US_Fed_Agencies.html.

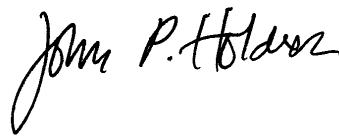
³ A list of implementation dates for department and agency public access plans is available at http://www.cendi.gov/projects/Public_Access_Plans_US_Fed_Agencies.html#AwardDates.

Departments and agencies are expected to continue to improve their policies and procedures for increasing access to scholarly publications and digital data as they gain more experience with these activities. To formalize this process and help guide future efforts to improve access to the results of Federally-funded research, the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science established an Interagency Working Group on Open Science (IWGOS) in October 2016. The IWGOS will build upon progress to date and facilitate interagency coordination and cooperation on topics of common interest. It will identify additional steps agencies can take to improve the preservation, discoverability, accessibility, and usability of digital data and other outputs of Federally-funded scientific research. The IWGOS held its first meetings in December 2016 and January 2017 and plans to publish a report in the summer of 2017.

In the February 2013 OSTP memorandum, departments and agencies were asked to identify "resources within the existing agency budget" to implement their plans. Beyond that request, OSTP has not required budget breakdowns detailing how departments and agencies choose to implement the policy. Therefore, OSTP does not have cumulative cost estimates for implementation. Departments and agencies may request more funding in their budgets for implementing their plans, and some departments and agencies may also request additional funding for efforts that go beyond the requirements of the plan (e.g., for increasing access to the data underlying the conclusions of scientific research papers and for data services).

The completion of department and agency public-access plans marks a milestone in the Federal government's efforts to increase access to the results of Federally-funded research. Continued agency efforts to expand access to scientific publications, digital data, and other results of Federally funded research promise to increase the return on the Federal investment in research, accelerate scientific discovery, stimulate innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and enhance economic growth and job creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John P. Holdren
Director and
Assistant to the President for Science and
Technology

Appendix A. List of Available Federal Department and Agency Public Access Plans

Department of Agriculture (November 2014)

<http://www.usda.gov/documents/USDA-Public-Access-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

Department of Defense (February 2015)

http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/pdf/dod_public_access_plan_feb2015.pdf

Department of Education (October 2016)

<https://ies.ed.gov/funding/pdf/EDPlanPolicyDevelopmentGuidanceforPublicAccess.pdf>

Department of Energy (July 2014)

http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE_Public_Access%20Plan_FINAL.pdf

Department of Health & Human Services

<http://www.hhs.gov/open/public-access-guiding-principles/index.html>

Administration for Community Living (February 2016, publications only)

<http://www.acl.gov/programs/NIDILRR/docs/ACL-PublicAccessPlan-Jan2016.pdf>

Agency for Health Research & Quality (February 2015)

<http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/publicaccess/index.html>

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (February 2015)

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/science/Pages/AccessPlan.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control (January 2015)

http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/docs/Final-CDC-Public-Access-Plan-Jan-2015_508-Compliant.pdf

Food & Drug Administration (February 2015)

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ScienceResearch/AboutScienceResearchatFDA/UCM435418.pdf>

National Institutes of Health (February 2015)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/NIH-Public-Access-Plan.pdf>

Department of Homeland Security (December 2016)

<https://www.dhs.gov/publication/plan-support-increased-public-access-results-research-funded-federal-government>

Department of Transportation (November 2015)

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/Official%20DOT%20Public%20Access%20Plan%20ver%201.1.pdf>

Department of Veterans Affairs (March 2015)

http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/VA_RSCH_DATA_ACCESS_PLAN_07_23_2015.pdf

Agency for International Development (October 2016)

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/USAIDPublicAccessPlan.pdf>

Environmental Protection Agency (November 2016)

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/epascientificresearchtransperancyplan.pdf>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (November 2014)

http://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/206985_2015_nasa_plan-for-web.pdf

National Institute of Standards & Technology (April 2015)
<http://www.nist.gov/data/upload/NIST-Plan-for-Public-Access.pdf>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (February 2015)
http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOAA_Research_Council/NOAA_PARR_Plan_v5.04.pdf

National Science Foundation (March 2015)
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15052/nsf15052.pdf>

Office of the Director of National Intelligence (October 2016)
https://www.iarpa.gov/images/files/Documents/ODNI%20Public%20Access%20Plan_Sept%202016.pdf

Smithsonian Institution (August 2015)
http://public.media.smithsonianmag.com//file_upload_plugin/1f143b54-a9f9-4746-bef5-1c76151e3c7a.pdf

U.S. Geological Survey (February 2016)
http://www.usgs.gov/quality_integrity/open_access/downloads/USGS-PublicAccessPlan-APPROVED-v1.03.pdf