

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

July 22, 2016

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 April 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. As of today, sixteen Federal departments and agencies have completed public access plans and posted them on their open government websites. A list of completed plans is contained in Appendix A and is also available on a newly established interagency web page.² In addition, since my last report to you in April, two agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence have submitted public access plans for internal agency clearance following sign-off from OSTP and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Department of Education is making final adjustments to its public access plan following departmental review. OSTP and OMB are actively engaged with two remaining departments and agencies, the Department of Homeland Security and Environmental Protection Agency, to bring their public access plans to completion.

Departments and agencies with approved plans are making steady progress in policy implementation. Fourteen agencies now require public access to publications resulting from all newly funded research, and two additional agencies have begun phasing-in such requirements across their research portfolios.³ Nine agencies now require data management plans for all new research projects (intramural and extramural), and seven additional agencies have begun phasing-in such requirements across their research portfolios. Departments and agencies have developed and posted on their websites training and communications materials to assist affected researchers in understanding and meeting these new requirements. They have also engaged 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.

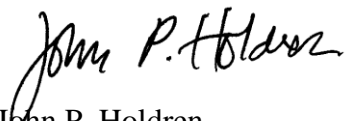
Significant progress has also been made in establishing necessary technical infrastructure. Repositories are in place to accept publications resulting from research funded by all agencies with active public access policies. Most recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) launched the NOAA Institutional Repository for public access publications, making use of technology developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Several departments and agencies are exploring the development of new data repositories and data catalogs to improve access to data associated with research publications and make such data easier to find. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), for example, awarded an initial set of pilot projects to develop and test a cloud-based model of data storage and access, and the initial prototype of an NIH-funded system for discovering biomedical and health data, DataMed, was released on June 30. The National Science Foundation issued two recent awards for exploratory research related to data discovery and search, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to develop infrastructure for the Ag Data Commons prototype, a centralized catalog system linked to distributed repositories of agricultural data.

It is expected that departments and agencies will continue to improve their policies and procedures for increasing access to scholarly publications and digital data as they gain more experience. OSTP continues to convene a series of interagency meetings to coordinate policy implementation and technology development across agencies and promote collaboration in addressing common challenges.

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).

OSTP remains committed to working with departments and agencies to finalize the remaining public access plans and support effective implementation of agency policies and procedures. OSTP will continue to coordinate agency efforts and seek opportunities to further expand access to the scientific publications and data resulting from Federally-funded research.

Sincerely,



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 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 Transportation (November 2015)

<https://www.transportation.gov/open/official-dot-public-access-plan>

Department of Veterans Affairs (March 2015)

http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/Plan_for_Access_to_Results_of_VA_Funded_Rsch_02_14_2014.pdf

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (November 2014)

http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2014/12/05/NASA_Plan_for_increasing_access_to_results_of_federally_funded_research.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>

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