

# Talking Points

## AB 609: The Access to Publicly Funded Research Act

- **Timely, barrier-free access to the results of state funded research is an essential component of Californian's collective investment in science.** Increased access to and use of this information will advance the pace of discovery and speed its translation into innovative new services and products.
- **AB 609 will fuel innovation and job creation in broad sectors of the economy, from agriculture and energy to publishing.** The establishment of open digital repositories containing state funded research will create an unprecedented, valuable new resource for researchers – and all interested members of the public – to tap into. By providing faster access to articles, businesses, individuals, and the investors who back them, can cultivate ideas directly from publicly funded research and create jobs by developing new services and products for the marketplace.
- **AB 609 reflects the growing worldwide trend of government and higher education institutions a working to maximize access to and sharing of research results.** It advances the progress made by the public access policy of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the first U.S. agency to require public access to taxpayer-funded research, and the recently announced White House Directive to apply NIH's public access policy to all applicable federal agencies.
- **AB 609 creates opportunities for unprecedented access to state funded research, while at the same time providing appropriate safeguards to protect the interests of those who contribute to the validity and quality of research results.** The requirement for deposit of the author's final manuscript, rather than the final published article allows those publishers who want to maintain a traditional subscription based publication the opportunity to continue to market a product that contains value - added enhancements beyond what is available in the public repositories.
- **We encourage AB 609's sponsor to consider strengthening this legislation by including a provision to ensure that manuscripts reporting on state-funded research be made fully usable by the public.** To fully unlock the value of the information contained in these digital articles, they should be made available in formats and under licensing terms that permit users to read, downloaded, search, compute on, data mine or analyze for any lawful purpose.
- **We also encourage AB609's sponsors to shorten the required embargo period to no more than 6 months after publication in a journal.** Policies for access to articles should standardize their compliance requirements as much as possible, and AB 609 meets this critical requirement by requiring funded researchers to deposit articles at the time of acceptance by a peer reviewed journal.