



Talking Points on the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

- The FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill makes important progress toward making taxpayer-funded scientific research freely accessible in a digital environment.
- The bill requires federal agencies under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the bill with research budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with online access to articles reporting on federally funded research no later than 12 months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Thank you to the White House, Senator Harkin, Senator Cornyn, and others. Without their strong leadership this would not have been possible.
- The Omnibus language codifies a section of the White House Directive requirements into law for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Department of Education, among other smaller agencies.
- The additional agencies covered would ensure that approximately \$31 billion of the total \$60 billion annual US investment in taxpayer funded research is now openly accessible.
- Report language was also included throughout the bill directing agencies and OSTP to keep moving on the Directive policies, including the US Departments of Agriculture, Interior, NSF and Commerce.
- The language in the Omnibus bill affirms the strong precedent set by the landmark NIH Public Access Policy, and more recently by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Directive on Public Access.
- At the same time, we continue to press for the strongest possible implementation, including additional provisions to strengthen the language – many of which are contained in the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act – including requiring that articles are:
 - Available no later than six months after publication;
 - Available through a central repository similar to the NIH's highly successful PubMed Central, a 2008 model that opened the gateway to the human genome project and more recently the brain mapping initiative. These landmark

programs demonstrate quite clearly how opening up access to taxpayer funded research can accelerate the pace of scientific discovery, lead to both innovative new treatments and technologies, and generate new jobs in key sectors of the economy; and

- Provided in formats and under terms that ensure researchers have the ability to freely apply cutting-edge analysis tools and technologies to the full collection of digital articles resulting from public funding.

The President signed the Omnibus into law on January 17, 2014.