

Talking Points on White House Directive

SPARC welcomes the February 22, 2013, White House Memorandum on “Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research.”

- We fully support the primary objective of the Memorandum, which is to ensure that the direct results of federally funded scientific research be made available to and useful for the public, industry and the scientific community.
- We believe that the development of consistent federal agency policies to ensure access to this information will benefit our nation, our economy, and our future, and that it will accelerate scientific discovery, improve education, and empower entrepreneurs to translate research into commercial ventures and jobs.
- We appreciate that memorandum calls for agency plans need to be developed in consultation with stakeholders, which include academic and research institutions and their libraries, who share common interests with the federal government in promoting broad public access and productive reuse of scientific publications.
- We strongly encourage that agency policies be as consistent as possible in their compliance requirements to minimize the cost and complexity of compliance with grant requirements for both principal investigators and research administration.
- To help ensure such consistency in compliance, each researcher funded totally or in part by the agency should be required to submit their final manuscript to a suitable repository *upon acceptance* for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- While we would prefer that articles arising from federally funded research be made available to the public *immediately* upon publication to fully leverage their value, we support the inclusion of a flexible embargo period that is as short as practicable, and *no longer than six months* after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- A suitable repository should be defined as one that meets the full requirements for ensuring full public accessibility, productive reuse (including downloading, machine analysis and computation), interoperability with other archives housing federally funded scientific publications, and long-term stewardship, preservation, and access without charge.
- Open standards are necessary to ensure interoperability in repositories, and the metadata describing scientific publications should also be based on open standards.

- We fully agree that policies should be designed to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing mechanisms, and we strongly encourage agencies to consider leveraging the public investment in the NIH's repository infrastructure, PubMed Central, as a potential repository solution.
- Additionally, research and academic institutions and their libraries have invested significantly in infrastructure to support the development of institutional repositories. Preservation is a fundamental role for libraries and, because of their experience and expertise, they can provide long-term stewardship to final peer-reviewed scholarly publications. Libraries should also be considered candidates for hosting suitable repositories.
- We strongly believe that appropriate copyright or IP rights should be assigned to scientific publications in a nonexclusive manner to ensure discovery, sharing, text mining. Public access policies can stimulate the development of new tools and services that generate opportunities for the public, industry, and the scientific community. Licensing arrangements should ensure that no one single entity or group secures exclusive rights.
- Final peer-reviewed scholarly publications should be linked openly to their source data to allow for reuse and replication of results.
- In order to facilitate reuse of content and development of new services, Agencies should require the use of persistent, unique identifiers for publications, data, authors, and other elements of research output.
- To track the effectiveness of agency policies, variety of metrics and identifiers should be supported to provide information on access, use, and impact of final peer-reviewed scholarly publications.