



SPARC TOOL KIT: Pressing for Congressional Action on FASTR During International Open Access Week, October 23-29, 2017

International Open Access Week, October 23-29, provides an opportunity for the open access community to press for action from the U.S. Congress on the [Fair Access to Science and Technology Research \(FASTR\) Act](#), which would ensure that public access to research articles becomes the law of the land. A bipartisan supported bill, FASTR was introduced in both chambers of Congress this summer. The next step is for the bill to be taken up in the House of Representatives and Senate committees of jurisdiction.

During Open Access Week, we are asking you to call your Representative and Senators and use social media to urge them to #MoveFASTR. Instructions and sample content are below.

About FASTR

FASTR calls for federal agencies with extramural research budgets of \$100 million or more to establish *consistent and permanent* public access policies for articles reporting on their funded research. This means that articles reporting on the results of taxpayer-funded research would be made available to the general public to freely access and fully use. FASTR would codify the 2013 [White House Directive](#) to provide greater public access to taxpayer-funded research.

FASTR was introduced in the House of Representatives by Kevin Yoder (R-KS-3), Mike Doyle (D-PA-14), and Zoe Lofgren, (D- CA-19) and in the Senate by John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). It was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. This bipartisan-supported bill:

- Represents the next step forward in the competitiveness agenda, spurring innovation and job creation in broad sectors of the economy, from agriculture and energy to health care.
- Improves transparency and accountability in government spending.
- Expands access to taxpayer-funded information while protecting classified research, royalty generating works, and preliminary data.
- Calls for free online public access to final peer-reviewed manuscripts or published versions as soon as practicable, but not later than 6 months after publication (12 months in the Senate bill) in peer-reviewed journals
- Makes these articles available in formats and under terms that enable productive reuse
 - including computational analysis and text and data mining.

CALLING YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Contacting your members of Congress is the most powerful action you can take to urge them to move FASTR through the House and Senate. To find your Representative's name, click [here](#); for your Senators, click [here](#). Once you have identified your members of Congress, call the Capitol switch board at (202) 224-3121 and ask for their offices (you will need to call back for each of the offices).

Sample Script

This script is provided as a guideline. You should feel free to speak in your own words. Ask to speak to the Legislative Aide who handles technology and innovation issues. If you are only able to talk to the receptionist, that's okay. As long as you call your own members of Congress (being a constituent is important), your message will be passed on to the staff person who handles the issue. If they ask if you need a response, you can say no.

Hello, my name is [your name] and I'm a constituent of [name of member of Congress]. I'm [a student at x; or I work at y] and I'm calling about the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act, often called FASTR. The bill would ensure that public access to federally funded research becomes the law of the land. FASTR was introduced this summer but has not moved through committee. I'm calling to voice my strong support for the bill and urge [name of Representative/Senator] to help move FASTR.

After Your Calls

If you have a Twitter account, it would be great if you would Tweet that you just called your member of Congress. (Note: to find the Twitter handle for House members, click [here](#); for Senators, [here](#).)

Suggested text:

.@JohnCornyn please support public access to research & #MoveFASTR! Join me in calling Congress this #OAWWeek: sparcopen.org/actionlinkhere.

OR

I just called my members of Congress and asked them to #MoveFASTR during #OAWWeek. Please join me and call yours.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are also hoping to get as many people as possible to Tweet about moving FASTR during Open Access Week. Please see suggested content below.

Guidelines for Posting

This content can be adapted by participants, alumni, employers, sponsors and supporters. Personal anecdotes and testimonials help to make the content more engaging, so we encourage you to share your own photos, videos and stories in addition to the suggested content. Using **#MoveFASTR** will help to unify the campaign.

To find the Twitter handle for House members, click [here](#); for Senators, [here](#).

Sample Twitter Posts for Individuals

With FASTR, we will take the next step forward in America's competitive agenda.

[#MoveFASTR](#) [#OAWeek](#) #OpenAccess

FASTR will provide students & all taxpayers with the opportunity to make a greater impact on our society. Time to [#MoveFASTR](#). [#OAWeek](#)

[#OpenAccess](#) harnesses the power of the Internet, allowing us to disseminate the results of publicly funded research. [#OAWeek](#) [#MoveFASTR](#)

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] pass FASTR to improve transparency and accountability in government spending. #MoveFASTR #OAWeek

.[@Your senators' or House members' twitter handle] Increasing access to public research promotes the max return on gov't's investment. [#MoveFASTR](#) [#OAWeek](#)

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] FASTR prevents taxpayers from having to pay twice to read research. #MoveFASTR #GovWaste

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] FASTR improves transparency and accountability in government spending. #MoveFASTR #OpenAccess

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] The gov't pays for articles it produces. It shouldn't pay a 2nd time to read them. #MoveFASTR #GovWaste

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] Increasing access to public research promotes the max return on gov't's investment. [#MoveFASTR](#) #OpenAccess

.[@Your senators or House members' twitter handle] Taxpayers need to know how the gov't is spending the research dollars they fund. #MoveFASTR #Transparency

Sample Twitter Posts for Libraries and Organizations

Show your support for [#FASTR](#) during [#OAWeek](#). Urge your US Senators and Rep. to [#MoveFASTR](#) to give everyone access to [#research](#).

FASTR will provide students & all taxpayers with the opportunity to make a greater impact on our society. Time to [#MoveFASTR](#). [#OAWeek](#)

[#OpenAccess](#) harnesses the power of the Internet, allowing us to disseminate the results of publicly funded research. [#OAWeek](#) [#MoveFASTR](#)

Taxpayers need to know how the gov't is spending the research dollars they fund. [#MoveFASTR](#)
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Increasing access to public research promotes the max return on government's investment.
[#MoveFASTR](#) [#OpenAccess](#)