



President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dr. Alondra Nelson
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20504

August 26, 2022

Dear President Biden and Dr. Alondra Nelson,

I am writing today on behalf of SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) a membership organization representing more than 200 academic and research libraries in colleges and universities throughout the U.S. in support of the updated policy guidance issued by the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) that will make taxpayer-funded research immediately available for the public to freely access and fully use.

SPARC wholeheartedly supports the new memorandum on [Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#), and we thank you and your Administration for your decisive actions to remove restrictions on access to, and reuse of, federally funded research results. This action lays the foundation for a more open and equitable system of research in the U.S. and around the world.

We applaud your administration for eliminating the current 12-month waiting period for access to research results. The world learned how critical open access to research was during the COVID-19 pandemic. When paywalls were lifted for coronavirus articles, scientists and doctors were able to access the latest research without delay, leading to the fastest development of a vaccine in history.

Because of your leadership, the public will be guaranteed the same fast access to information on countless other areas critical to their lives. Today's action unlocking both the articles reporting on the results of federally funded research and the data needed to validate their results will enable scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, and communities to speed solutions for global challenges—from cancer to climate change.

SPARC has long advocated for systems of research and education that are both open by default and equitable by design. We believe that openness is a key enabling strategy that allows us to bring more voices into the global scientific conversation and advance equity and inclusivity throughout the research process. The policy guidance issued by OSTP increases the openness of taxpayer-funded research and will improve public confidence in science, strengthen scientific research integrity, accelerate the pace of research, and allow researchers to take advantage of computational technologies in a way that closed science simply cannot.

We thank you for your steadfast leadership on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you and your Administration to support and assist in implementing this important policy guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Joseph
Executive Director, SPARC