

# U.S. Repository Network Initiative

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October 27, 2022

Dr. Arati Prabhakar & Dr. Alondra Nelson  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Dr. Prabhakar and Dr. Nelson:

On behalf of the [U.S. Repository Network](#) (USRN), we are writing to thank you, your colleagues at OSTP, and the Administration for the landmark step forward in public access that the August 2022 memorandum on *"Ensuring Free, Immediate and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research"* represents, and to discuss ways we can assist in this effort.

The USRN is an interoperable network of repositories based at universities and colleges, representing an essential component of our national research infrastructure. In contrast to a highly centralized approach, which is at risk of failure or buy-out, the distributed nature of this network is our great strength as it is sustainable, can support a diversity of domains, content types, and formats, and has direct links with researchers on campus.

The USRN is committed to supporting and ensuring the success of US public access policies. We look forward to working with OSTP and the NSTC Subcommittee on Open Science in efforts to engage with the repository community. In particular, we are eager to contribute to the development of desirable characteristics of online digital publication repositories, given our current work building on [best practices for publications repositories](#) established by the global repository community.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to explore ways we might collaborate to provide information and expertise on repositories as you work with federal agencies to develop their updated public access policy plans.

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We as USRN Steering Group Co-Chairs and our USRN Program Officer, Tina Baich, would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience, and we look forward to discussing how the Network might best offer its assistance as this policy guidance is further developed.

With our thanks,

Vicki Coleman, USRN Co-Chair  
Dean of Library Services, North Carolina A&T State University

Martha Whitehead, USRN Co-Chair  
Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian, Harvard University

CC: Chris Marcum (OSTP)  
Jerry Sheehan (NIH), Co-Chair Subcommittee on Open Science  
Pat Knezek (NASA), Co-Chair Subcommittee on Open Science  
Alan Tomkins (NSF), Co-Chair Subcommittee on Open Science