

Publishers Support Balanced Public Access Regulations

The scholarly publishing sector is a pillar of America's global competitiveness and economic growth. Scholarly publishers support almost 40,000 jobs across the United States and provide researchers, engineers, physicians and other professionals with both the information and distribution outlets they need to make and announce discoveries that advance knowledge, create innovative new products and services, and improve medical care.

Scholarly publishers' mission is to provide broad access to high-quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles, preserve the integrity of the scholarly record and enable the necessary investments in the dissemination of knowledge to help advance science, scholarship and innovation. Our ongoing support of public access includes several initiatives and public-private partnerships launched by publishers that improve access to and the discoverability of content. These include CHORUS (www.chorusaccess.org), Crossref (www.crossref.org), ORCID (www.orcid.org), and others.

Scholarly publishers support public access policies to make articles that report on taxpayer-funded research widely available and discoverable in a manner that:

- Supports academic freedom by empowering authors to publish in journals they feel have greatest potential to reach target audiences and advance their area of research;
- Preserves the maximum possible funding for research, rather than diverting resources to duplicative infrastructure or burdensome compliance mechanisms;
- Protects intellectual property rights, which enable publishers to sustainably invest in and disseminate peer-reviewed literature and export worldwide;
- Fosters partnerships between the research community, librarians, agencies and other stakeholders to advance scholarship in order to drive innovation and progress;
- Respects the needs of different research communities and disciplines through appropriate and flexible evidence-driven public access policies (e.g., variable embargo periods); and
- Facilitates the continuing development of a competitive marketplace and sustainable business models.

Public access regulations must be balanced to expand access without burdening researchers or undermining the research publishing enterprise. We cannot support public access policies that:

- Are economically unsustainable, undermining market-driven innovation or the quality and integrity of scholarly research;
- Prevent federal agencies from entering into public-private partnerships and flexibly adapting to changing technologies and academic practices;
- Contain one-size-fits-all post-publication embargoes that do not rely upon evidence or account for differences between and among academic disciplines; or
- Contain licensing restrictions that effectively diminish the value of intellectual property rights, including by way of compulsory open license policies or other requirements that undermine basic copyright principles.

High-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly communication is essential to U.S. growth, innovation, and economic strength. Scholarly publishers urge continued support for flexible, evidence-based agency policymaking that will ensure the continued integrity and availability of the scholarly and scientific record. We urge the rejection of untested and rigid policy mandates lacking the evidence necessary to prevent unintended negative consequences for science and scholarly communication.