

April 16, 2020

Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington DC, 20504

OSTP Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research

To The Office of the President for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP):

Thank you for taking the time to consult with stakeholders regarding the potential update to existing U.S. policy on access to research outputs.

As the University of California, Los Angeles Academic Senate's Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC), we are pleased to comment on the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Request for Information (RFI) regarding Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code, Resulting from Federally Funded Research.

Lack of access to publicly-funded research is a big problem. The United States government spends billions of taxpayer dollars on research, and the public has a right to access and use those results.

UCLA's Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication supports the zero-embargo policy for author-accepted manuscripts. The committee believes that the government should implement a strong national open access policy to ensure that taxpayers get immediate access to the results of scientific research that their tax dollars have funded. Such a policy would represent a move that would align with the University of California mission to serve society and provide long-term benefits through the transmission of research and knowledge.

Internationally, zero-embargo policies are becoming the norm. Countries in Europe, Asia and South America are adopting Open Access policies to accelerate scientific research, and the United States is falling behind. Our scientists need to quickly access critical research articles

and data to play a leadership role in science. Moving to a zero-embargo model is critical for higher education institutions, particularly a public institution such as ours. Not even the most well-funded campus libraries can afford to continue to pay subscription fees for all of the journals that their researchers need. Moving toward zero-embargo policies may help move publishers to pay-to-publish models of payment, in which a fee (often called an “Article Processing Charge”) is charged to publish in a journal, rather than the current model in which people pay to read articles.

We thank you for giving the University of California, Los Angeles, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue. We encourage the federal government to immediately implement a strong open access policy for the results of publicly funded research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mimi Tarn', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Derjung “Mimi” Tarn, Chair
UCLA, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication

cc: Dennis J. Ventry, University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication, Chair
Michael Meranze, Academic Senate, Chair
Shane White, Academic Senate, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
Joseph Bristow, Academic Senate, Immediate Past Chair
April de Stefano, Academic Senate, Executive Director
Members of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication