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May 5, 2020

Dr. Lisa Nichols  
Assistant Director for Academic Engagement  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Submitted via email: [OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov](mailto:OpenScience@ostp.eop.gov)

**RE: Docket ID [OSTP-2020-0004](#) Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research (RFI Response: Public Access)**

Dear Dr. Nichols:

I write on behalf of the University of California Santa Barbara with regard to the Request for Information (RFI): Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting From Federally Funded Research, issued on February 19, 2020.

UCSB endorses the UC system response authored by Lourdes G. DeMattos, Acting Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis & Coordination, University of California.

UCSB unequivocally supports a zero-embargo policy for peer-reviewed author accepted manuscripts resulting from federally funded scientific research. Since the coronavirus emergency, UCSB faculty have been actively working – as have many researchers across the world – on developing solutions. It is now abundantly clear that immediate sharing of research is a matter of life and death, and, indirectly, mitigation of economic harm to society.

UCSB Library took the lead in administering a UC-wide poll to gauge sentiment about the UC's position in negotiating for open access for UC research and, as a result, not currently having immediate access to Elsevier journal articles. A strong majority of our faculty supported the underlying principles and negotiation's goals. We received numerous comments along these lines:

*"The UC did the right thing and should continue to resist the trend by Elsevier et al. to consolidate control of research content and charge more money." (UCSB Faculty)*

*"I'm all in favor of open access and I'm glad to see UC take steps towards Open Science. The US should follow suit to the steps taken in Europe." (UCSB Graduate Student)*

*"Open Access articles are the future and I am happy to be at an institution that is taking the necessary first steps to make science more accessible." (UC Berkeley Graduate Student)*

*"Open science please!!!! Keep up the good work!" (UCSF, Postdoc)*



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The UCSB Library is also taking the lead, with colleagues in the UK, on developing a prototype open platform (wikiTOCs) that will promote open access versions of articles in the context of journals' tables of contents. WikiTOCs will enable researchers and the general public across the globe, and especially those who are not familiar with existing disciplinary databases and preprint servers, to discover and read current research. A zero embargo policy will greatly enhance the utility of this community-focused platform.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments on behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristin Antelman".

Kristin Antelman  
University Librarian