

March 12, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned support efforts to make high-quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles widely available, preserve the integrity of the scholarly record and enable continued investments in the dissemination of knowledge to help advance science, scholarship and innovation.

We actively support and invest in various ways to provide access to the articles we publish. This includes the development of new business models and voluntary public-private partnerships in collaboration with federal agencies and others.<sup>1</sup>

We support public access policies that will:

- Make articles that report on taxpayer-funded research widely available to and discoverable by researchers and the public;
- Foster partnerships between the research community, librarians, agencies and other stakeholders to advance science in order to drive innovation and progress;
- Preserve the maximum possible funding for research, rather than divert resources to duplicative infrastructure or burdensome compliance mechanisms;
- Facilitate the continuing development of a competitive marketplace and diverse and sustainable business models to broaden public access;
- Respect the needs of different research communities and disciplines through appropriate and flexible evidence-driven public access policies (e.g., variable embargo periods); and
- Support academic freedom by empowering authors to publish in journals they feel have greatest potential to reach target audiences and advance their area of research.

We cannot support:

- Public access mandates that are economically unsustainable or that would harm market-driven innovation or the quality or integrity of scholarly research;
- Overly rigid approaches that would prevent federal agencies from flexibly adapting to changing technologies and academic practices;
- One-size-fits-all post-publication embargoes that do not account for evidence of differences between and among academic disciplines; or
- Public access policies that undermine copyright.

High-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly communication is essential to U.S. growth, innovation, and economic strength. We therefore urge you to join us in support of flexible and evidence-based agency policymaking that will ensure the continued integrity and availability of the scholarly and scientific record, and to oppose legislation that imposes rigid mandates.

Sincerely,

*(Organization list starts next page)*

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<sup>1</sup> For government-funded research, publishers have worked to enable systems that can minimize the administrative burden of any public access policy and preserve federal funding for research. These efforts include CHORUS ([www.chorusaccess.org](http://www.chorusaccess.org)), a system to assist agencies by providing reliable and efficient public access to articles that report on agency-sponsored research, using existing infrastructure rather than new taxpayer investments.

ACSESS (Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies)  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Anatomists  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American College of Physicians  
American Dental Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
American Institute of Physics  
American Institute of Physics Publishing  
American Mathematical Society  
American Meteorological Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association Publishers  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Indexing  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
ASIS International  
Association of American Publishers/Professional & Scholarly Publishing  
Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers  
Botanical Society of America  
Brill  
Crop Science Society of America  
Davies Publishing  
Ecological Society of America  
Elsevier  
FirstForum Press  
GeoScienceWorld  
Harrington Park Press  
Hogrefe Publishing  
Human Factors & Ergonomics Society  
IEEE  
Institute for Operations Research & the Management of Sciences (INFORMS)  
Institution of Agricultural Engineers

International Association for Dental Research  
International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)  
International Media Publications Group  
John Wiley & Sons  
Kumarian Press  
Lynne Rienner Publishers  
Mary Ann Liebert Publishers  
Midwest Political Science Association  
New England Journal of Medicine  
Optical Society of America  
Royal Society of Chemistry  
SIIA Software & Information Industry Association  
Silverchair  
Slack, Inc.  
Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE)  
Society for Developmental Biology  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)  
Society for the Study of Reproduction  
Society of Toxicology  
Soil Science Society of America  
South African Association of Botanists  
Springer Publishing Company  
Taylor & Francis  
Techna Group  
Thieme Publishers  
University of Chicago Press  
Wolters Kluwer