



June 5, 2020

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier  
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Dr. Droegemeier,

On behalf of these seven organizations, representing thousands of libraries, universities, publishing professionals, and civil societies supporting open access in the U.S., we are writing to thank the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) for its leadership in convening a substantive and thoughtful discussion process on broadening public access to the results of federally funded research. Your efforts to meet with a broad range of stakeholders and to solicit written input from the public provided an important opportunity to build on more than 15 years of ongoing consultation and incremental policy change in this area by the federal government.

Since the first U.S. public access policy was implemented at NIH under the Bush Administration in 2004, the United States has been steadily moving toward a policy of making “open and machine readable” the default mode for the results of the \$65 billion dollar investment that U.S. taxpayers make each in scientific research, and these recent discussions have substantially advanced this effort.

Public access to taxpayer-funded articles and data is an essential component of our nation's investment in research, and fast, open sharing of this information will lead to increased usage by millions of scientists and professionals - maximizing the return on America's investment in research by making it readily accessible to the countless businesses and entrepreneurs who can put it to innovative use. With advances in networked digital communications, it is no longer acceptable for taxpayers to have to pay twice for the science they fund – once to support the

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

June 5, 2020

Page 2 of 2

research, and a second time just see the results. American tax dollars intended for research should be spent on that research – and not line the pockets of publishers who routinely make 30%-40% profit margins by selling back the results.

As we have seen with the current COVID-19 pandemic, scientists are able to make faster progress towards testing, treatment, and vaccines for the coronavirus through initiatives such as the COVID-19 database. The millions of Americans whose lives are affected by cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and countless other health conditions deserve to have research outputs that their tax dollars have funded made just as readily accessible. It is crystal-clear that the future of science is making research articles, data, and code routinely open, machine-readable, and AI-ready in all scientific disciplines – not just in the event of a pandemic.

The U.S. should provide taxpayers with immediate access to the research their tax dollars fund, and ensure that their investment in research is being maximized in turning breakthroughs into better lives. We urge you to enact a strong national open access policy, and we stand ready to collaborate with you and all other stakeholders to ensure that U.S. federally funded research achieves the maximum public good it is intended to promote.

Respectfully,

The American Library Association

The Association of College and Research Libraries

The Association of Research Libraries

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries

Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI)

Creative Commons

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

CC:

Mark Meadows, Chief of Staff

Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Mark Paoletta, General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget

Michael Kratsios, Chief Technology Officer

Brooke Rollins, Acting Director, Domestic Policy Council

Larry Kudlow, Director, National Economic Council

Lisa Nichols, Assistant Director for Academic Engagement, OSTP