



THE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING  
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World Bank QuickStart Program

**Public Access to  
Publicly Funded Research**

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# About SPARC

- Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition ([www.arl.org/sparc](http://www.arl.org/sparc))
- Academic & research libraries (200 in North America + 100 in Europe + affiliate in Japan)
- A catalyst for change in scholarly communication – stimulates emergence of new systems that:
  - Foremost, expand dissemination of research
  - Ultimately, reduce financial pressures on libraries
- Education, advocacy, and incubation
- Leader of movement for public access to US Government-funded research

# Impetus for change



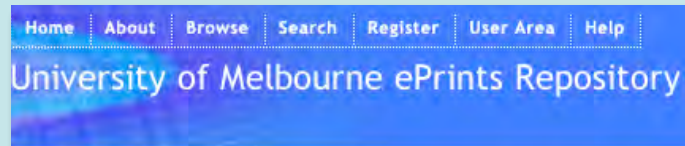
# “Public Access”

## What is “Public Access”?

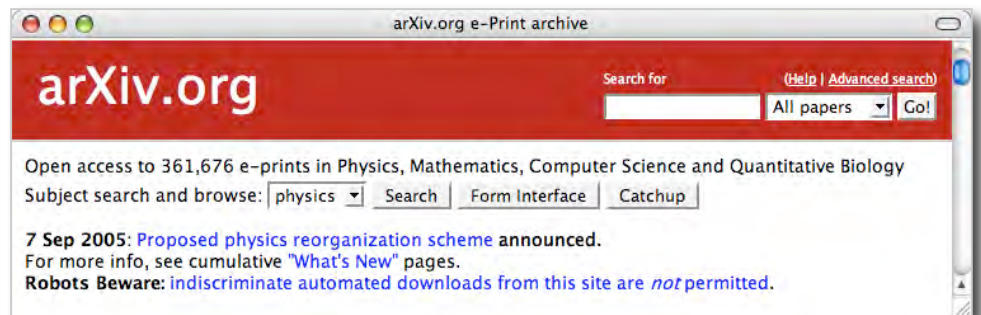
Free online access to full-text, peer-reviewed journal articles arising from taxpayer-funded research.

Also known as **Taxpayer Access**.

# Open (Digital) Archives



- Institutional or agency digital repositories
- Subject repositories
- Exist alongside traditional publishing



But not so fast...



Vested interests

- Publishers
- Societies
- Scientists
- Higher education

# Scientific imperative

## A Foundation for Discovery

If *sharing* of knowledge is the foundation of scientific advancement, then faster and wider sharing will fuel its progress.

### GOALS OF PUBLIC ACCESS

Accelerate  
Discovery

Stimulate  
Further  
Discovery

Translate  
Knowledge into  
Public Benefits

Improve  
Information  
Access &  
Sharing

Reduce  
Systemic Cost &  
Inefficiency

Enable New  
Research  
Strategies  
(e.g., data mining)



**Scientists want  
research  
papers freely  
available**

Aug. 30, 2004 –  
Twenty-five Nobel  
Prize-winning  
scientists today are  
calling for the  
government to  
make all taxpayer-  
funded research  
papers freely  
available.

# Financial imperative

## Credit Suisse First Boston:

“[W]e would expect governments (and taxpayers) to examine the fact that they are essentially funding the same purchase **three times**: governments and taxpayers fund most academic research, pay the salaries of the academics who undertake the peer review process and fund the libraries that buy the output, without receiving a penny in exchange from the publishers for producing and reviewing the content....

“**We do not see this as sustainable** in the long term, given pressure on university and government budgets.”

–*Sector Review: Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishing*, April 6, 2004

# Public imperative



The screenshot shows the ATA Membership page. At the top, the browser title is "ATA : Membership". The page header reads "THE ALLIANCE FOR TAXPAYER ACCESS". The ATA logo is on the left. A navigation bar contains three items: "member" with a group of people icon, "media" with a newspaper icon, and "birds of a feather" with a feather icon. The main content is divided into three columns. The left column has "Action" and "News" sections. The middle column is titled "Members" and lists various organizations. The right column has a box titled "How does my organization join?" with explanatory text. A large red watermark "www.taxpayeraccess.org" is overlaid on the bottom right of the page.

ATA : Membership

THE ALLIANCE FOR TAXPAYER ACCESS

**ATA**

member media birds of a feather

### Action

Watch for opportunities or recent progress involving:

- [U.S. Congress](#)
- [NIH](#)
- [ATA](#)
- [You](#)

### News

These sources will keep you updated on the latest developments related to taxpayer access:

- [SPARC Open Access Newsletter](#)
- [Open Access News blog](#)

### Members

- [AIDS Action Baltimore](#)
- [AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition](#)
- [American Association of Law Libraries](#)
- [American Library Association](#)
- [American Medical Student Association](#)
- [Amherst College Library](#)
- [Arthritis Foundation](#)
- [Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum](#)
- [Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries](#)
- [Association of College & Research Libraries](#)
- [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs](#)
- [Association of Research Libraries](#)
- [Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease and Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis Alliance \(ARPKD/CHF Alliance\)](#)

### How does my organization join?

The Alliance for Taxpayer Access is a coalition of patient groups, physicians, researchers, educational institutions, publishers and health promotion organizations that support barrier-free access to taxpayer-funded research.

Organizations that support ATA's four principles are invited to become members of the alliance.

To join, have your organization complete our membership form. The form is available here, [in PDF format](#).

**www.taxpayeraccess.org**

# ATA principles

- American **taxpayers are entitled to open access** on the Internet to the peer-reviewed scientific articles on research funded by the U.S. Government.
- Widespread access to the information contained in these articles is an essential, **inseparable component of our nation's investment in science**.
- This and other **scientific information should be shared** in cost-effective ways that take advantage of the Internet, stimulate further discovery and innovation, and advance the translation of this knowledge into public benefits.
- Enhanced access to and expanded sharing of information **will lead to usage** by millions of scientists, professionals, and individuals, and will deliver an accelerated return on the taxpayers' investment.

# NIH Public Access timeline

- **1999** – NIH Director Varmus opens public discussion that leads to development of PubMed Central, NIH digital archive of journal articles (voluntary deposit by publishers)
- **Feb. 2000** – PubMed Central launched
- **July 2003** – U.S. House Appropriations Committee asks NIH to report on state of access to NIH-funded research in light of high price of journals
- **July 2004** – U.S. House Appropriations Committee urges NIH to require public access to NIH-funded research through deposit in the NIH's PubMed Central



# NIH Public Access timeline

- **July-August 2004** – NIH Director Zerhouni furthered discussion of access to NIH-funded research by conducting multiple public meetings with publishers, scientists, and patient groups
- **Sept. 2004** – NIH proposal for free public access to NIH-funded research published in *Federal Register* for public comment.
- **Sept.-Nov. 2004** – 6,249 comments received, the vast majority favorable.
- **Feb. 2005** – Current voluntary policy announced.
- **May 2005** – Current voluntary policy implemented.

# NIH objectives

- **Archive** – Create a stable archive of peer-reviewed research publications resulting from NIH-funded research to ensure the permanent preservation
- **Advance science** – Secure a searchable compendium of these publications that NIH can use to manage better its research portfolio and that NIH awardees can mine.
- **Access** – Make peer-reviewed results of NIH-funded research more readily accessible to the public, health care providers, educators, and scientists.

# NIH policy provisions

- Pertains to peer-reviewed **manuscripts** of journal articles that result from research supported, in whole or in part, with NIH direct costs
- **Published version** of article may be substituted at publisher's discretion
- “NIH-funded investigators are **requested** to submit an electronic version of the author's final manuscript upon acceptance for publication”
- “Posting for public accessibility through PMC is requested and strongly encouraged as soon as possible (and within **twelve months** of the publisher's official date of final publication)”

# NIH Public Access timeline

- **Nov. 2005** – NIH Public Access Working Group recommends *mandatory* policy, maximum *6-month* embargo
- **Jan 2006** – NIH report to Congress confirms low rate of voluntary deposit (~4%)
- **Feb. 2006** – Board of Regents of NIH's National Library of Medicine endorses working group recommendation
- **Current** – NIH and Congress contemplating whether and how policy should be adjusted

The Washington Post

## **Government Health Researchers Pressed to Share Data at No Charge**

March 10, 2006 – Political momentum is growing for a change in federal policy that would require government-funded health researchers to make the results of their work freely available on the Internet. Advocates say taxpayers should not have to pay... hundreds of dollars for..

## U.S. legal basis

“The Federal awarding agency(ies) reserve a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so.”

– 2 CFR 215.36

# Spreading interest

## **American Center for Cures Act of 2005 (S.2104)**

### **Sec. 499H-1. Public Access Requirement For Research**

- Introduced by Senators Lieberman & Cochran
- Deposit required
- Public access within 6 months
- Applies to investigators funded by NIH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

## **US Government-wide public access bill**

- under development, expected soon



It's about data, too

## **Flu researchers slam US for hoarding data**

LONDON, Sept 21, 2005 (Reuters) - Influenza researchers are being hindered in their work by the United States' disease control agency's reluctance to share data, according to the journal *Nature*.

# A final thought

“If you have an apple and I have an apple,  
and we exchange these apples then you and I  
will still each have one apple.

But if you have an idea and I have an idea,  
and we exchange these ideas, then each of us  
will have two ideas.”

– George Bernard Shaw

# Contact SPARC



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