Scholarly Communication Corner: Federal Public Access Requirement Changes

By Sandy De Groote

In 2013, the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy mandated that federal agencies with Research & Development budgets of over $100M devise plans that would require grant recipients to provide access to research publications and data created as a result of grant funding. Many of those agencies have now announced their policies requiring that a version of their resulting articles be deposited in an open access repository (such as PMC, PAGEs, or other specified repository). In addition, many agencies are requiring that a data management plan be submitted as part of grant proposals, and several are providing plans related to data sharing and deposit.

Many may already be familiar with the NIH Public Access Policy (NIHPAP) which requires that electronic versions of final, peer-reviewed manuscripts resulting from NIH funded research are to be submitted to PubMed Central (PMC) upon acceptance for publication and made publicly available in PMC no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. The policies emerging from other federal agencies are following a similar path, although specific requirements and repositories for both data and articles vary for each agency.

The White House Office of Science and Technology is doing this so that “the direct results of federally funded scientific research are made available to and useful for the public, industry, and the scientific community.” There is research to support that when information and data are accessible/open, it increases the speed of discovery and innovation. [1,2,3]. In addition, research examining the impact of the NIH PAP found that NIH funded articles that complied with the policy were cited more than NIH funded articles published in the same journals, that did not comply with the policy. [4]

The University of Illinois at Chicago University Library has created a guide to link researchers to the policies from the various federal agencies. In addition, the University Library has guides available on Open Access and on Data Management.

- Public Access Mandates for Federally Funded Research - http://researchguides.uic.edu/ostp
- About Data Management - http://researchguides.uic.edu/dataplans
- About Open Access - http://researchguides.uic.edu/sc/openaccess

For questions and help with this process, please contact your Library Liaison or Sandra De Groote, Scholarly Communication Librarian and Professor, sgroote@uic.edu
References


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