Open Access Initiatives: Public Access Policies in the United States

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About SPARC

- Coalition of academic & research libraries (200+ in North America) working to address inequities in scholarly publishing system.

- Pragmatic agenda -- mission is to:
  - expand dissemination of research
  - Leverage networked digital environment to serve scholarship.
  - reduce financial pressures on libraries.

- Strategy: Education, Incubation and Advocacy
Market forces driving change

1. Technology has changed **everything**!
2. Research library funding constraints continue to grow
3. Market power of STM giants - mergers, acquisitions change complexion of marketplace

“…it’s clear the current model is breaking up.” – Outsell (Feb. 2004)
Research conducted and can be easily communicated electronically - and communicated much more widely, advancing scholarship.

"More sites, more cites."
Library funding constraints

Serial & Monograph Costs, 1986-2002

North American research libraries

ARL Statistics
Market power of STM giants

Change in Market Share

- Share of Library's Spend
- Year

Legend:
- Big Deal
- Other Journals
Opportunity knocks

“An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good”

.....BUDAPEST OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE
Research results - a public good

- Leverages economics of Internet -- low marginal cost of dissemination
- Expands and accelerates dissemination
  - Magnifies benefits of innovation
    - Economic (e.g., prosperity)
    - Social (e.g., health)
- Open access leverages return on investment
- Benefits far outweigh dislocations
Impetus for change

Why open access?

Market Forces
Grassroots Efforts

Societal Benefits
Develop Public Policy

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

How open access?
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
A diverse and growing alliance of organizations representing taxpayers, patients, physicians, researchers, and institutions that support open public access to taxpayer-funded research.

**Statement of Principles:**

1. American taxpayers are entitled to open access on the Internet to the peer-reviewed scientific articles on research funded by the U.S. Government.
2. Widespread access to the information contained in these articles is an essential, inseparable component of our nation’s investment in science.
3. 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.
4. 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.

**What is “Taxpayer Access”?**

Access to scientific and medical publications has lagged behind the widespread reach of the Internet into U.S. homes and institutions. Subscription barriers limit U.S. taxpayer access to research that has been paid for with public funds.

Taxpayer access removes these barriers by making the peer-reviewed results of taxpayer-funded research available online, and for no extra charge to the American public.

To achieve this, the ATA supports applying the developing practices of Open Access as defined by the Budapest Open Access Initiative in February 2002.
Emerging policies

• First salvo: The Sabo Bill, or the “Public Access to Science Act” - June, 2003
  - “U.S. government-funded research belongs to, and should be freely available to, every person in the U.S.”
  - “…any Department or Agency should make every effort to develop and support mechanisms for making the published results of research…freely and easily available to the scientific community, the private sector, physicians and the public.”
Emerging policies

- NIH Public Access Policy (FY05)
  Appropriations Committee Report Language -
  June, 2004

  “The (U.S. House of Representatives
  Appropriation’s) Committee is concerned that there
  is insufficient public access to reports and data
  resulting from NIH-funded research.”

  “….contrary to the best interests of the U.S.
  taxpayers who paid for this research.”
Emerging policies - draft legislation underway

- CURES Legislation - (slated for Fall 2005 introduction) U.S. Senate
  - Focus on accelerating translation of research into medical cures through removal of barriers - including access barriers for all researchers and the public.

- Public Access Across Agencies - (slated for October 2005 introduction - (U.S. Senate)
  - Focus on public access to research results across all major U.S. science agencies
Common themes in policies

- Right of public to have access to results of taxpayer funded research
- Create useful, long-term archive of federally funded material
- Accelerate pace of research; stimulate discovery and innovation
- Leverage the return on taxpayer investment
- Promote the advancement of science
Policies under development

For more information on progress of these (and other) emerging Open Access policies in the U.S., please see:

www.arl.org/sparc/soa
www.taxpayeraccess.org
www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html
www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/