The Open Access Policy Imperative

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Change is all around
The gathering storm

- Political Forces
- Economic Forces
- Technology
- Societal Pressures
- Market Forces

Scholarly Communication
But not so fast...

Vested interests
- Publishers
- Societies
- Authors
- Higher education
- Libraries
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 OPEN 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)
It’s about data, too

Flu researchers slam US for hoarding data

LONDON, Sept 21 (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*. 
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

Taxpayers

Congress • Funding Agencies

Benefits

• 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)

Functionaries

• Publishers • Societies • Authors
• Higher education • Libraries
“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
A voice for taxpayers

THE ALLIANCE FOR TAXPAYER ACCESS

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. Widely spread 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 to expand the benefits of knowledge.
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 essential and medical publications has lagged behind the wide 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 to the public.

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

Waiting for www.taxpayeraccess.org...
ATA principles

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- 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.
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.

"Science is the measure of the human race's progress," scientists say in a letter to Congress and the National Institutes of Health.

“The status quo is not an option,” NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni said last week at a meeting on the agency's Bethesda campus.

...“Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) says he hopes a reasonable policy will emerge on open access.”
NIH Public Access Policy

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting From NIH-Funded Research

ACTION: Notice; final policy statement.

SUMMARY: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces its policy on enhancing public access to archived publications resulting from NIH-funded research. Beginning May 2, 2005, NIH-funded investigators are requested to submit to the NIH National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) PubMed Central (PMC) an electronic version of the author’s final manuscript upon acceptance for publication, resulting from research supported, in whole or in part, with direct costs from NIH. The author’s final manuscript is defined as the final version accepted for journal publication.

Just the first step...
Taxpayer access

A BIG IDEA
built on a simple notion
that will only continue to grow