

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502

April 29, 2016

Dear Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

This letter is submitted in fulfillment of report language incorporated by reference in Division B of the Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Public Law No. 114-113. That statement directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to report on progress at each Federal department and agency in developing, finalizing, and implementing a plan to increase public access to the results of Federally-funded scientific research. This letter provides an update since my January 2016 report to you on the progress that Federal departments and agencies have made in response to an OSTP policy memorandum issued in February 2013 on *Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research*.¹

The February 2013 OSTP memorandum directed each Federal agency with more than \$100 million in annual expenditures for conduct of research and development to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of Federally-funded research, specifically to scholarly publications and digital data resulting from such research. Since my report to you in January, on additional agency, the U.S. Geological Survey has finalized its public access plan, bringing to sixteen the number of agencies that have completed their public-access plans and posted them publicly (see Appendix A). In addition, the Administration for Community Living, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, has completed and posted a plan for increasing public access to scholarly publications resulting from its funded research. The Department of Education has submitted its plan for departmental clearance following approval from OSTP and OMB. The U.S. Agency for International Development is completing a final round of review before submitting its plan for formal agency clearance. OSTP and OMB are actively engaged with the few remaining departments and agencies that have yet to complete their plans to bring them to completion.

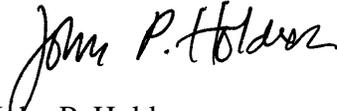
Departments and agencies with approved plans are proceeding with implementation. Twelve agencies now require public access to publications resulting from all newly funded research, and five additional agencies have begun phasing-in such requirements across their research portfolios. Eight agencies currently require data management plans for all new research projects (intramural and extramural), and seven additional agencies have begun phasing-in such requirements across their research portfolios. Since my report to you in January, OSTP has convened several additional interagency meetings to improve coordination of policy implementation across agencies and promote collaboration in addressing common challenges. It is expected that department and agency publication- and data-management policies and procedures will continue to evolve over time to best meet the needs of the public based on experience gained.

¹ See https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf.

In the February 2013 OSTP memorandum, departments and agencies were asked to identify “resources within the existing agency budget” to implement their plans. Beyond that request, OSTP has not required budget breakdowns detailing how departments and agencies choose to implement the policy. Therefore, OSTP does not have cumulative cost estimates for implementation. Departments and agencies may request more funding in their budgets for implementing their plans, and some departments and agencies may also request additional funding for efforts that go beyond the requirements of the plan (e.g., for increasing access to the data underlying the conclusions of scientific research papers and for data services).

OSTP remains committed to working with departments and agencies to finalize the remaining public-access plans and support effective implementation of agency policies and procedures. OSTP will continue to coordinate agency efforts and seek opportunities to further expand access to the scientific publications and data resulting from Federally-funded research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John P. Holdren
Director and
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

Appendix A. List of Available Federal Department and Agency Public Access Plans

Department of Agriculture (November 2014)

<http://www.usda.gov/documents/USDA-Public-Access-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

Department of Defense (February 2015)

http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/pdf/dod_public_access_plan_feb2015.pdf

Department of Energy (July 2014)

http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/08/f18/DOE_Public_Access%20Plan_FINAL.pdf

Department of Health & Human Services

<http://www.hhs.gov/open/public-access-guiding-principles/index.html>

Administration for Community Living (February 2016)

<http://www.acl.gov/programs/NIDILRR/docs/ACL-PublicAccessPlan-Jan2016.pdf>

Agency for Health Research & Quality (February 2015)

<http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/publicaccess/index.html>

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (February 2015)

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/science/Pages/AccessPlan.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control (January 2015)

http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/docs/Final-CDC-Public-Access-Plan-Jan-2015_508-Compliant.pdf

Food & Drug Administration (February 2015)

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ScienceResearch/AboutScienceResearchatFDA/UCM435418.pdf>

National Institutes of Health (February 2015)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/NIH-Public-Access-Plan.pdf>

Department of Transportation (November 2015)

<https://www.transportation.gov/open/official-dot-public-access-plan>

Department of Veterans Affairs (March 2015)

http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/Plan_for_Access_to_Results_of_VA_Funded_Rsch_02_14_2014.pdf

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (November 2014)

http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2014/12/05/NASA_Plan_for_increasing_access_to_results_of_federally_funded_research.pdf

National Institute of Standards & Technology (April 2015)

<http://www.nist.gov/data/upload/NIST-Plan-for-Public-Access.pdf>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (February 2015)

http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOAA_Research_Council/NOAA_PARR_Plan_v5.04.pdf

National Science Foundation (March 2015)

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15052/nsf15052.pdf>

Smithsonian Institution (August 2015)

http://public.media.smithsonianmag.com//file_upload_plugin/1f143b54-a9f9-4746-bef5-1c76151e3c7a.pdf

U.S. Geological Survey (February 2016)

http://www.usgs.gov/quality_integrity/open_access/downloads/USGS-PublicAccessPlan-APPROVED-v1.03.pdf