On behalf of the members of the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, I would like to submit our report on scholarly publishing to the OSTP public access blog. This report is the product of the process that the House Science and Technology Committee, working in collaboration with OSTP, initiated last June. The objective of the Roundtable process was to bring together the full range of stakeholders involved in scholarly publishing to seek consensus recommendations on expanding public access to the results of federally funded research.

The members of the Roundtable brought their varied perspectives to a series of in-person meetings, conference calls, and other exchanges over the course of the summer and fall to identify ways to expand public access to the results of research while preserving the essential aspects of the scholarly publishing system as that system evolves in a time of rapid technological change.

Our report identifies a set of principles we regard as essential to a robust scholarly publishing system, including the need to preserve peer review, the necessity of adaptable publishing business models, the benefits of broader public access, the importance of archiving and preservation, and the interoperability and reuse of online content.

The report’s core recommendation is for each federal research funding agency to develop and implement an explicit public access policy that brings about free public access to the results of the research that it funds as soon as possible after those results have been published in a peer-reviewed journal. To implement this recommendation for public access, the report recommends the following:

- Agencies should work in full and open consultation with all stakeholders, as well as with OSTP, to develop their public access policies.

- Agencies should establish specific embargo periods between publication and public access.

- Policies should be guided by the need to foster interoperability.

- Every effort should be made to have the Version of Record as the version to which free access is provided.

- Government agencies should extend the reach of their public access policies through voluntary collaborations with non-governmental stakeholders.

- Policies should foster innovation in the research and educational use of scholarly publications.
• Government public access policies should address the need to resolve the challenges of long-term digital preservation.

• OSTP should establish a public access advisory committee to facilitate communication among government and nongovernment stakeholders.

In accordance with our charge, the Roundtable specified specific actions to be taken by federal research funding agencies in creating an interconnected multi-agency public access program, but we also stressed the interdependence of all stakeholders in the scholarly publishing system and called on federal agencies to reach beyond their statutory and regulatory boundaries to collaborate voluntarily as equal partners in the development of an interconnected, fully interoperable system of governmental and nongovernmental public access databases that evolve into a functional international network providing enhanced support of scholarship and greatly expanded public access to the results of that scholarship.

The report’s recommendations have been endorsed in full by the overwhelming majority of the panel (12 out of 14 members). The report, statements by the two members not endorsing the report in full, as well as Roundtable member biographies, the House Science and Technology Committee’s charge to the group, and related material can be found at http://www.aau.edu/policy/scholarly_publishing_roundtable.aspx?id=6894.

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