March 12, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned support efforts to make high-quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles widely available, preserve the integrity of the scholarly record and enable continued investments in the dissemination of knowledge to help advance science, scholarship and innovation.

We actively support and invest in various ways to provide access to the articles we publish. This includes the development of new business models and voluntary public-private partnerships in collaboration with federal agencies and others.[1]

We support public access policies that will:

- Make articles that report on taxpayer-funded research widely available to and discoverable by researchers and the public;
- Foster partnerships between the research community, librarians, agencies and other stakeholders to advance science in order to drive innovation and progress;
- Preserve the maximum possible funding for research, rather than divert resources to duplicative infrastructure or burdensome compliance mechanisms;
- Facilitate the continuing development of a competitive marketplace and diverse and sustainable business models to broaden public access;
- Respect the needs of different research communities and disciplines through appropriate and flexible evidence-driven public access policies (e.g., variable embargo periods); and
- Support academic freedom by empowering authors to publish in journals they feel have greatest potential to reach target audiences and advance their area of research.

We cannot support:

- Public access mandates that are economically unsustainable or that would harm market-driven innovation or the quality or integrity of scholarly research;
- Overly rigid approaches that would prevent federal agencies from flexibly adapting to changing technologies and academic practices;
- One-size-fits-all post-publication embargoes that do not account for evidence of differences between and among academic disciplines; or
- Public access policies that undermine copyright.

High-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly communication is essential to U.S. growth, innovation, and economic strength. We therefore urge you to join us in support of flexible and evidence-based agency policymaking that will ensure the continued integrity and availability of the scholarly and scientific record, and to oppose legislation that imposes rigid mandates.

Sincerely,

(Organization list starts next page)

[1] For government-funded research, publishers have worked to enable systems that can minimize the administrative burden of any public access policy and preserve federal funding for research. These efforts include CHORUS (www.chorusaccess.org), a system to assist agencies by providing reliable and efficient public access to articles that report on agency-sponsored research, using existing infrastructure rather than new taxpayer investments.

ACSESS (Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies)
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Immunologists
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American College of Physicians
American Dental Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Physics
American Institute of Physics Publishing
American Mathematical Society
American Meteorological Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychiatric Association Publishers
American Psychological Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Indexing
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
ASIS International
Association of American Publishers/Professional & Scholarly Publishing
Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
Botanical Society of America
Brill
Crop Science Society of America
Daviess Publishing
Ecological Society of America
Elsevier
FirstForum Press
GeoScienceWorld
Harrington Park Press
Hogrefe Publishing
Human Factors & Ergonomics Society
IEEE
Institute for Operations Research & the Management of Sciences (INFORMS)

Institution of Agricultural Engineers
International Association for Dental Research
International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)
International Media Publications Group
John Wiley & Sons
Kumarian Press
Lynne Rienner Publishers
Mary Ann Liebert Publishers
Midwest Political Science Association
New England Journal of Medicine
Optical Society of America
Royal Society of Chemistry
SIIA Software & Information Industry Association
Silverchair
Slack, Inc.
Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE)
Society for Developmental Biology
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society of Toxicology
Soil Science Society of America
South African Association of Botanists
Springer Publishing Company
Taylor & Francis
Techna Group
Thieme Publishers
University of Chicago Press
Wolters Kluwer