

It's time for taxpayers to have access to government-funded research.

Support open sharing of research findings on the Internet

“Open Access” is the worldwide movement for immediate, free, open availability of scientific and scholarly research findings on the Internet. Imagine if research results were available to all, not just the few at institutions that can afford journal subscriptions – which often cost thousands of dollars. Just as *open source* software has revolutionized computer science, *open access* is revolutionizing research and accelerating the pace of discovery.

For several years the U.S. government has been considering “Public Access” measures to make all federally funded research (about half of which is conducted at universities) freely accessible on the Internet. It started with the National Institutes’ of Health (NIH) public access policy, introduced in 2004. But NIH’s policy is voluntary and has improved access to only 5% of the eligible research papers.

In 2006, Senators Cornyn and Lieberman introduced “The Federal Research Public Access Act.” It’s a much stronger measure that would require key federal agencies to make manuscripts of peer-reviewed journal articles stemming from their funded research freely available on the Internet. They plan to reintroduce in the current Congress.

Students have an important role to play in supporting the growing call for public access to federally funded research. To learn more about Open Access and its offshoot, Public Access to Federally Funded Research, visit www.taxpayeraccess.org/students/ or your campus library. Then learn what you can do to TAKE ACTION and ensure all potential users have access to research findings!

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