



February 26, 2010

Response to the January 2010 Scholarly Publishing Roundtable Report:
Report and Recommendations from the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable

The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) is pleased to see that many of its recommendations contributed in response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy's call for Request for Information match those offered by the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable Report. Key commonalities include:

- The application of consistent compliance regulations among additional agencies - Consistency in application of expanded mandates will enable librarians to efficiently educate academic and health sciences center personnel, leading to less confusion about the requirements of the various governmental funding agencies and ultimately to better compliance. Consistent rules and procedures will also result in less confusion for the average citizen, who is trying to access information from research funded by different government agencies.
- The use of digital and central repositories, such as PubMed Central, for the collection and long-term preservation of research results with linkages between such subject repositories, so collective discovery and access to federal government agencies' research results are possible.
- The need for continued dialogue with scientific-technical-medical (STM) publishers to collectively work toward providing immediate access to the research findings generated by public awards. We particularly appreciate the mention of the Chicago Collaborative within the Report as this group is administered by our organization and is a successful venue for editors, librarians and publishers to engage in conversations regarding scholarly communications (<http://www.chicago-collaborative.org/>).
- The desire to have only one final published version of research findings in order to ensure quality and consistency with the research results' expression. We encourage a solution that maximizes the rapid dissemination of reporting of quality research results with minimal duplication of effort or information and considers various parties' concerns.
- The length of the maximum embargo period needs to be revisited now that some evidence has been collected, with the goal of providing more immediate access to research information while taking into account true financial implications for publishers.

We also support the idea of a multi-stakeholder public access advisory group to help assess and refine government agencies' public access policies and procedures. In addition, we encourage this group to take into account the various ways research results are now being disseminated, including through social media technologies. In order to capture the knowledge distributed by these more ephemeral venues, all parties need to be working together to ensure that the resulting knowledge of federally-supported research is readily available regardless of the distribution channel for such information.

Our organization also endorses the Roundtable's recommendation that "policies should foster innovation in the research and educational use of scholarly publications". We all endorse novel ways for translating science to patient care and to the improvement of our health as well as our nation's. Only by working together can this be achieved.

The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) represents accredited U.S. and Canadian medical colleges and supports their academic health sciences libraries and directors in advancing the patient care, research, education and community service missions of academic health centers through visionary executive leadership and expertise in health information, scholarly communication, and knowledge management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Connie Poole".

Connie Poole
AAHSL President, 2009-2010