NEWS


Advancing Open Access to Articles from Federally-Funded Research is a Public Good, Maximizes Taxpayer Investments

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), representing libraries at 40 research institutions across 11 states, strongly supports increased public access to the output from scholarly work. To this end, we applaud the White House directive of February 11, 2013 that requires research articles and data resulting from most federally-supported research to be made publicly available within one year of publication.

ASERL believes recent White House directive is an important expansion of the very successful public access policy created by the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) in 2008. ASERL believes the 2008 NIH policy has been unquestionably successful. One estimate shows that 20% of recent medical literature is freely available online as a direct result of NIH’s leadership.

Similarly, ASERL believes the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act of 2013 furthers the goals of open access to research and data. Introduced with bipartisan support in the House and Senate, FASTR “require[s] federal agencies with annual extramural research budgets of $100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.” Importantly, FASTR would also require the content of the articles to be made available in electronic form for “productive re-use, including computational analysis” and includes provisions for long-term archiving to ensure the information can be used by generations of future researchers, scientists, and citizens.

ASERL believes codifying these principles into law – as proposed by FASTR – would be an important advance to the long-term sustainability for these policies across federal research agencies, and would constitute a considerable leap forward in freeing public access to taxpayer-funded research.

About ASERL

Founded in 1956, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries is the largest regional research library cooperative in the country. ASERL operates numerous projects designed to foster a high standard of library excellence through inter-institutional resource sharing and other collaborative efforts. By working together, ASERL members provide and maintain top quality resources and services for the students, faculty, and citizens of their respective communities. More information about ASERL can be found at www.aserl.org.