

Subject: comments on the 2010 America COMPETES Act

Date: December 7, 2011 9:30:39 PM EST

Dear Sir or Madm,

Is there any other realm of public spending where the public is not entitled to partake of the benefits?

The US government's massive spending on research is to be applauded and sets a high bar for every other country. However, the full benefits of this research, both to the US based researchers and to others, has been hampered far too long by privatizing this intrinsically public data and more recently, delaying it's release into to the public domain.

I have performed research at world class institutions in the US (MIT and U. Washington) and overseas (ICDDR,B in Dhaka, Bangladesh and CICAMS in Beijing, China). In each of those contexts I experienced some degree of restricted access to research findings which were funded by US federal grants. In the US it has meant wasted time trying to gather the articles from other sources and institutions. However, for my colleagues overseas, restricted access has often left them without alternatives and therefore may limit their ability to properly execute and interpret studies to their fullest potential. This backward pressure benefits no one.

It is not only logical that publically funded research should be made freely available to the public at the time of publication, but it is in the long term interest of all of us as well.

Kind regards,

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