

Subject: Public access to results of funded research

Date: December 21, 2011 9:49:22 AM EST

Under the current system research a significant part of the results of research funded by the US government is not accessible to the public due to the cost barrier imposed by publishers. While this may have made sense at a certain point in time when publishers did make a significant contribution to the work by helping in its dissemination, that is no longer the case in the current world where the cost of distributing information has dropped to near zero. Under these conditions, the overwhelming value of the published research resides in the research itself, payed by our tax dollars, with very little value added by the publishers.