

**From:** Dr. Richard Epand <epand@mcmaster.ca>  
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I would like to respond to your request for information.

While complete public access to publications of government funded research appears to be a just and valid goal, there are some aspects that put this conclusion into question. Whatever the system, publication of research is not without cost and there has to be a mechanism to pay for these costs. Currently in open access journals, a larger fraction of the cost of publication is passed on the author. This results in valuable government research grant funds being used for publication costs. There is also an issue of the efficiency of the dissemination of research results in terms of cost. Commercial publishers, while extracting a profit, do publish scientific results at a relatively low cost and without an over-riding system of author verification of granting agency policy and separate depositing of manuscripts. These publishers also maintain their own historical databank, which is not always the case with open-access journals.

There are now established open-access journals as well as journals published with initial restricted access. These restrictions are only for a limited period of time and these journals tend to be readily available in libraries. This system gives authors a choice, it is simple and efficient. Any increased regulation requiring free access to all publications will be detrimental to science in the long run.

Sincerely,  
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