

I have personal and professional reasons for supporting both the NIH policy on open access and its extension to other federal branches:

1. As a librarian, I support as much open access to information as possible.
2. As a taxpayer, I support the idea that taxpayers should be able to access information for which they have paid.
3. As a citizen, I support open access as a way of addressing one aspect of the digital divide.
4. As an individual, I support open access in order to be able to access relevant information to my personal needs--health, economic, other.

I do not understand opposition to these concepts. The current NIH policy affords corporations 12 months in which to sell their products. If the repeated push to shut down access persists, researchers will find other ways to circumvent corporations altogether and corporations will find themselves worse off than if they accepted this compromise in information access.

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