

**From:** Meghan Duffy  
**Subject:** **RFI: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications  
Resulting From Federally Funded Research**  
**Date:** January 11, 2012 2:43:31 PM EST  
**To:** [publicaccess@ostp.gov](mailto:publicaccess@ostp.gov)

Dear Science and Technology Policy Office,

Thank you for extending the deadline for comments on the Research Works Act. I only recently became aware of this act, and am very glad to have the opportunity to comment. As a scientist, I know that the free exchange of information is crucial. As a citizen, I know that I frequently would like access to articles that are not available to the general public, when looking for information to enable me to make informed decisions (e.g., regarding my own medical care).

The argument from the publishers that they add substantial value to the study via peer-review and copy-editing is simply wrong. Most handling editors and peer reviewers provide their services to the journals for free. Moreover, most of us do so while being paid off of public funds (e.g., via my salary at a public institution). Thus, the additional value provided by peer review (which I believe is important) actually serves as further argument AGAINST the Research Works Act.

Thus, the publishers contributions are quite minor, and this Act serves only to benefit them, at a great cost to society as a whole.

Sincerely,  
Meghan Duffy

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