

Blaise R. Simqu
President and Chief Executive Officer



January 12, 2012

Office of Science and Technology Policy
Re: Federal Register Document 2011-28623

Dear Sir or Madam,

As the CEO of SAGE Publications, Inc., I am writing to respond to OSTP's November 3, 2011 "Request for Information" (RFI) regarding "Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting from Federally Funded Research."

Founded in 1965, SAGE Publications is the world's leading publisher of social and behavioral research journals and books. Located in Thousand Oaks, CA, SAGE directly employs more than 500 people in the U.S., and more than 1,000 people around the world. Last year, the company supported more than 56,000 authors, publishing more than 670 scholarly journals and 800 books.

SAGE currently participates in and strongly supports the free and open dissemination of its published works through Research4Life, the Journals Donation Project, and we also participate in PERii/INASP (Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information/International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications).

Through our participation in CrossRef, we are able to provide interlinking and cross-linking to all published journal articles and thus its references and metadata, allowing for easy access to bibliographic and must-have research related information.

In order to ensure the availability and access to our published archive and to protect the Version of Record (VoR), SAGE supports CLOCKSS (Controlled Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) and Portico.

As a scholarly publisher, SAGE is uniquely positioned to help the federal government in expanding public access to publications that describe and interpret federally funded research, ensuring the long-term stewardship of these publications, and supporting innovation and economic development derived from scholarly discovery. For example, last year SAGE launched *SAGE Open*, a unique Open Access Journal for social science authors. The response to *SAGE Open* has been very positive with 966 submissions in 2011. *SAGE Open* published 47 articles of the submissions, with many others in various stages of production.

For both traditional published journals and books, and *SAGE Open* products, our company makes a significant investment in the continued integrity and reliability of the scholarly record, formatting this content to make it accessible to users worldwide and preserving the scholarly record for future generations. Access policies that do not take these investments into account could potentially damage the private institutions on which the Federal Government and its scientific enterprise depend.

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SAGE Publications fully supports and will enthusiastically participate in a federal agency public access policy that is sustainable in the long-term and maximizes benefits to researchers and the public at large. Such a policy, however, must maintain a proper balance between access and fundamental intellectual property rights; and respect proprietary contributions of added-value to ensure sustained private investment in innovation. This approach meets the needs of the scientific community by relying on evidence-based assessments and providing access to taxpayer-funded research results through both public and private channels.

We also believe it is essential for federal agencies that provide public access to private-sector published materials to ensure that copyrighted materials are protected from unauthorized dissemination and piracy. Copyright is an essential ingredient in promoting creativity, innovation, and the continued integrity and reliability of the scholarly record. The publishing industry has seen copies of copyrighted material on the National Institutes of Health's PubMedCentral appear on rogue sites, contributing to millions of dollars in annual losses to U.S. publishers.

SAGE Publications strongly supports the view that the Federal Government should be guided by "principles of transparency, participation and collaboration" as noted in the Transparency and Open Government Memorandum and Open Government Directive. We stand ready to work in collaboration with all partners to ensure the continued success, vibrancy, and innovation of the U.S. scientific community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blaise R. Simqu', written in a cursive style.

Blaise R. Simqu
President & C.E.O.

cc: S. Eden
C. Richman