



## Journal Editorial: “UO Libraries Supports New U.S. Policy Making Research Results Available Immediately”

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The letter below was written to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in response to its August 2022 memorandum establishing new federal policy on public access to the products of publicly funded research. At the University of Oregon, our students benefit from access to the widest possible range of newly published scholarly information through our Library’s subscriptions and e-resource collections. This access costs millions of dollars annually, much of it paid to the private, for-profit companies who collect and publish research. Many members of the public—including students at less well-funded institutions; high school students and K12 teachers; and curious learners unaffiliated with any university—lack the ability to read and learn from the latest scientific and medical information because the subscriptions are so unaffordable. This lack of access hinders scientific progress and is particularly unfair when considering that the public funds the underlying research activity through their tax dollars. The OSTP’s updated policy will ensure that when the government funds research—by providing grants to buy equipment, materials, hire researchers, run analyses, and more—that the findings from that research are immediately returned to the public for their benefit. We hope that this policy also means that the UO Library will be able to spend less every year on paying for these subscriptions, which will enable us to invest more directly in our students, faculty, and their important teaching and research work. We are proud to support the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal as an open scholarly communications forum that undergraduates everywhere can read without cost. The UO and its Libraries will continue to advocate strongly for a fair and inclusive research communications system that everyone can afford to participate in.

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Dear President Biden and Dr. Nelson,

On behalf of University of Oregon Libraries, I write today to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the updated policy guidance issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) that will make taxpayer-funded research immediately available for the public to freely access and fully use. We applaud the administration for eliminating the current 12-month embargo on access to critical research outputs—both articles and data.

\*Alicia M. Salaz was appointed Vice Provost and University Librarian for the University of Oregon in 2021. From 2013–2021, she held faculty roles at Carnegie Mellon University, culminating in an administrative appointment as Associate Dean for Research and Academic Services within the University Libraries. Her research and professional interests lie in the area of adult learning and reading formats, whether print or digital, as well as transnational higher education, international library and information practice and scholarly communications infrastructure. She has engaged in global research partnerships pertaining to reading format preference and worked for over ten years in the Arab Gulf at both a public institution in the United Arab Emirates and at Carnegie Mellon’s international branch campus in Doha, Qatar. During her time abroad, she served as chair of the board of directors for the Information Literacy Network of the Gulf and remains passionate about information education and capacity-building in this area for information practitioners around the globe.



At the University of Oregon, a public R1, AAU institution, our scholars rely on access to the latest published and publicly funded research and data in critical areas such as climate, human performance, and children's health, to produce 2,000 publications and petabytes of research data every year. Our Library spends millions of dollars of Oregon state tax dollars and student tuition dollars every year to buy back access to the research that our own faculty produce with federal dollars, because until now, we have had little choice.

With this action, OSTP advances a fairer, more equitable system of research that will benefit UO, our faculty, students, Oregon taxpayers, our country, and the world. Instead of buying back access to research that was already produced with public money, we will be able to invest more of our limited resources in ways that directly accelerate the research enterprise at the UO. The result will be faster progress toward solving behavioral health crises, mitigating climate and wildfire risks, and improving the human condition.

This policy guidance is the culmination of more than 15 years of steady progress. It provides a much-needed update to strengthen U.S. policy that will bring our country to equal footing with governments across the world that have established strong open access policies to promote their national innovation agendas.

We thank you for your steadfast leadership on this issue and stand ready to work with our community and your administration to support and implement this important policy guidance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alicia M. Salaz