



American Association  
of Law Libraries



Association of Academic  
Health Sciences Libraries



Association of  
Research Libraries



Greater Western  
Library Alliance



SPARC



Special Libraries  
Association

April 8, 2008

The Honorable Congressman Mike Doyle  
401 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via fax: 202-225-3084

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Yesterday, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) took a vital and long-anticipated step to increase the return on our nation's substantial investment in scientific research. With your visionary support and encouragement, the agency has implemented the first U.S. federal policy requiring free online access to the peer-reviewed findings of publicly funded research.

On behalf of six national organizations that believe expanded sharing of scientific research findings is necessary and in the public interest, we thank and congratulate you for ensuring the interests of science and taxpayers are advanced via the NIH public access requirement.

Among those who offer our gratitude are: the American Association of Law Libraries, the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, the Association of Research Libraries, the Greater Western Library Alliance, SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), and the Special Libraries Association.

At a time when the challenges facing biomedical investigators are increasingly complex and time-sensitive, the NIH policy makes good sense. It enables broad, collaborative, and interdisciplinary approaches to research. It opens the door to emerging computational research strategies and techniques. And, it is a cost-effective means to accelerate scientific advancement in a period of budgetary restraint.

Thank you for your leadership, which has brought the NIH Public Access Policy and its many scientific and public benefits to fruition.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries

[www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org)

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Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

[www.aahsl.org](http://www.aahsl.org)

Contact: Karen Butter (415) 476-8293

NIH Public Access Policy Implementation

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Association of Research Libraries

[www.arl.org](http://www.arl.org)

Contact: Prudence Adler (202-296-2296)

Greater Western Library Alliance

[www.gwla.org](http://www.gwla.org)

Contact: Joni Blake (816-926-8765)

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition)

[www.arl.org/sparc](http://www.arl.org/sparc)

Contact: Heather Joseph (202-296-2296)

Special Libraries Association

[www.sla.org](http://www.sla.org)

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CC: Kenneth DeGraffe