



**CHORUS comments on Office of Science and Technology Policy RFI: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting from Federally Funded Research**

April 8, 2020

Dear Lisa Nichols, Assistant Director for Academic Engagement, OSTP,

CHORUS, is a US 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public access to peer reviewed publications reporting on federally funded research, related data sets and code. Because we share OSTP's commitment to advancing public access to these research outputs, we would be very interested in lending our support to your efforts and appreciate this opportunity to provide a response to Document 85 FR 9488, *Request for Information (RFI): Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications, Data and Code Resulting from Federally Funded Research*.

Fostering a vibrant scholarly communications ecosystem is critically important to the progress of science and the benefits it can bring to the American public. For that reason, policy decisions and the implementation plans following those decisions are best made with a full understanding of the research publication and data landscape. Estimating the costs and impact of public access policies will benefit from, among other things, a full analysis of the available data on the numbers of papers resulting from US federal funding, as well as current compliance levels. Because CHORUS has been a partner to 10 US agencies in their efforts around the 2013 OSTP memorandum *Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research*, we currently gather such data on an ongoing basis and would be happy to share it with the OSTP in your work to create effective and sustainable policies.

CHORUS has been very active in helping agencies realize the goals of the February 2013 OSTP public access memorandum and now works directly with the National Science Foundation (NSF), US Department of Energy (USDOE), US Department of Defense (USDOD), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Geological Survey (USGS), US Agency for International Development (US-AID), Office of the Department of National Intelligence (ODNI), and Smithsonian Institution. In addition, we track papers reporting on federally funded research for all other agencies covered by the 2013 memorandum.

CHORUS counts over 40 not-for-profit and commercial and scholarly publishers among its members and covers over 11,400 journals; a total equaling 96% of the periodicals listed in the Web of Science Journal Citation Report. CHORUS monitors and audits each publisher member's content record in our system to verify public access, the availability of reuse license terms, relevant datasets and code, and long-term archival and preservation arrangements. We currently track over 700,000 US agency funded articles published by CHORUS member

publishers. This count increases daily as existing and new members add their content to CHORUS.

This year, CHORUS added the tracking of related data sets and code to our service to help funders, academic institutions, and publishers monitor and increase their rate of compliance with federal public access plans. Through this addition we aim to develop better interoperability between funder, publisher and university systems, and ultimately to further advance the discovery of and access to funded research.

We believe the need to develop and evolve data standards is critical to support researchers with their data management plans and help funding bodies with compliance tracking. We strongly encourage OSTP to actively partner with organizations which are already overseeing the development of standards that deploy existing tools (e.g., Enabling FAIR Data Repositories, DataCite, Research Data Alliance, Crossref Open Funder Registry, and ORCID).

In moving ahead, we urge OSTP to continue to develop and expand public-private partnerships. Such efforts will help the US agencies contain costs, reduce the burden on researchers and their institutions, and ensure sustainable, broad public access to scholarly communication. The RFI voices a welcome commitment to ongoing consultation and collaboration with the diverse array of stakeholders in the scholarly communications community. That commitment has been evident in CHORUS' discussions with the OSTP and the US agencies over the past seven years and we hope that we can open a new chapter in our work with the OSTP and other stakeholders to achieve our shared goal of advancing public access to peer-reviewed publications, data, and code, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how our data, analysis, and support can help OSTP with the development of policies that will drive further progress.

Sincerely,

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